

Address Correction Requested

# PH LE NEWS

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 143

August 1996

- Pittsburgh's Emerald Necklace
- Caught in a Hawk's Eye:  
The House of I. N. Hagan  
at Kentuck Knob
- Pittsburgh Architecture:  
House of Indecision

## Grassroots Lobbying Network

### *Add Your Name to Our List of Concerned Preservationists*

The time to complain about anti-preservation legislation is *before* it becomes law. Conversely, pro-preservation legislation must be actively and vocally supported in order for a bill or local ordinance to garner enough political support to be passed into law. But all too often, pending legislation slips through at the local, State, and Federal levels because for one reason or another we are unaware of its existence. For this reason, Preservation Pennsylvania has started a state-wide grassroots lobbying network.



Grassroots lobbying involves constituents contacting their elected representatives in Congress, the State Legislature, and local governments in order to educate them and, we hope, influence their decisions on issues important to the future of our nation, our Commonwealth, and our local communities. Preservation Pennsylvania's lobbying network will link interested people and organizations so that they may inform elected officials about specific legislative initiatives and issues important to the preservation community.

*If you would like to be notified of pending legislation or initiatives that impact preservation and are willing to respond to a "call to action" preservation alert, please contact Elisa Cavalier at Landmarks by telephone (412) 471-5808 or by fax (412) 471-1633.*

To implement the lobbying network, Preservation Pennsylvania has divided the Commonwealth into seven regions. Allegheny, Washington, Greene, Beaver, Butler, and Armstrong Counties form the Southwest Region. Landmarks' general counsel Elisa Cavalier has been appointed the coordinator for this. Preservation Pennsylvania, which is located in Harrisburg, will act as a central agency. When issues arise or legislation affecting historic preservation is proposed, Preservation Pennsylvania will contact the regional coordinators and provide timely information. The regional coordinators will be responsible for disseminating the information to individuals and organizations willing to respond quickly by writing letters, calling, sending telegrams, or transmitting faxes to elected officials and their staff.

Although the grassroots lobbying network will provide a valuable service, certain organizations should be aware of

limitations and prohibitions on lobbying activities. For example, an Internal Revenue Service rule provides that no "substantial" part of a section 501(c)(3) organization's activities may be spent influencing legislation (the word "substantial," however, is not defined). In addition, the "Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995," which became effective January 1, 1996, imposes registration and disclosure obligations only on organizations that engage in lobbying activities at the Federal level. Registration under the new Act is required if the organization (i) employs or retains on a paid basis an individual who spends at least 20% of his or her time in lobbying activities, and (ii) spends over \$20,000 in a semi-annual period on lobbying activities. The Act also prohibits organizations exempt under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code from receiving Federal monies if they lobby at all, and imposes registration requirements on certain individual lobbyists as well.

In a time of budget cuts, tax reform, property reassessments, and the like, the power of hundreds, or let us hope thousands, of letters to an elected official cannot be emphasized enough. Therefore, even if you or your organization has never been politically active before, we are urging local preservation organizations, neighborhood groups, historical societies, museums, owners of historic properties, and concerned citizens in the Southwest Region to join our grassroots lobbying effort. If you would like to be notified of pending legislation or initiatives that impact preservation and are willing to respond to a "call to action" preservation alert, please contact Elisa Cavalier at Landmarks by telephone (412) 471-5808 or by fax (412) 471-1633. Your name will immediately be added to our list of concerned preservationists.

Sheffield Street in Manchester

## Eden Hall Foundation Augments Preservation Loan Fund

Eden Hall Foundation has awarded a grant to Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund. Through this Fund, Landmarks provides short-term loans and technical assistance to Allegheny County community-based organizations and preservation groups who propose feasible restoration projects for historic properties in their communities.

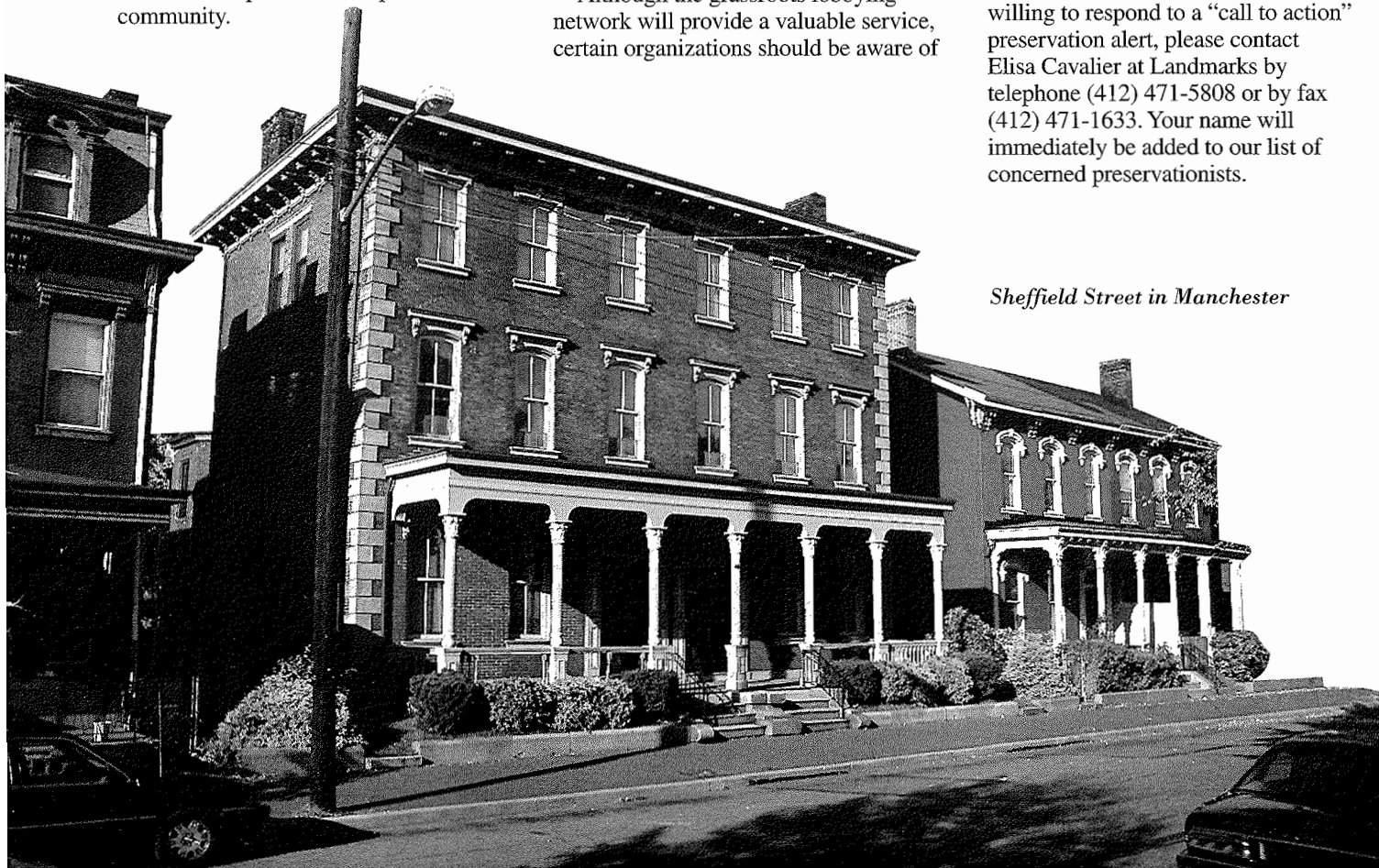
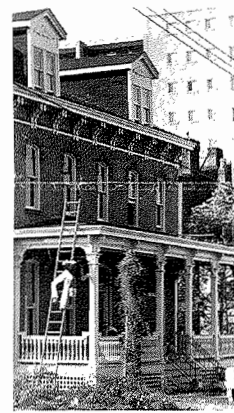
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks, said: "We are pleased that Eden Hall Foundation has joined with the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the PNC Bank Foundation to support our Preservation Loan Fund. As a result we will be able to fulfill more requests and accomplish more preservation work in Pittsburgh's historic neighborhoods."

In the past few months, the Preservation Loan Fund has been used to assist the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation, the Manchester Citizens Corporation, the Hill Community Development Corporation, and the Garfield Jubilee Association.

Loans made by Landmarks through the "Working in Neighborhoods" program (see page 3) also are made through the Preservation Loan Fund.

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, said that "We are most grateful to the Trustees of Eden Hall Foundation for their generous vote of confidence in the work of the Preservation Loan Fund."

Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



# PHLF NEWS

## Welcome New Members

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

Darlane Abel  
Joann Adams  
J. Aiello  
James H. Alexander and family  
Alle-Kiski Valley Historical Society  
M. Gloria Anderson  
Nancy Armstrong  
Katherine Arturo  
Dr. Wilton L. Barber  
Mr. & Mrs. Alfred D. Barbour  
Judy and Byron Bardy  
Karen and Jay E. Barrett and family  
Jen Baselj and family  
Mrs. Merle Berger  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Brennan and family  
Adam B. Burau  
Carolyn Byham  
Charleroi Senior High School  
Mrs. James F. Compton  
Christine Z. Conly  
Marian W. Cook and family  
Barbara J. Cope  
John J. Crowley  
Dolores Cyphers  
Robert A. Davis  
Judith A. Dimeo  
Jane Downing  
Cathy Dressler  
Joel S. Dzodin  
Mrs. J. Murray Egan  
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh  
Evans City School  
Donald J. Fails  
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Feeney  
Dr. & Mrs. George M. Fitting  
Keith Forrest and family  
Mary Frank  
Franklin Elementary School  
Elmer H. Fuehr  
Janet Gabauer  
Jennie Galluze  
Glenn and Rose Geer  
Dr. Elaine Geris and family  
John and Eve Gibbs  
Bernadette P. Grabowski  
Stephen C. Graffam  
Pat Grubb  
Suzanne and Terry Gruneberg  
Edward H. Harrell  
Franklin C. and Marlene Rae Hensel  
The Historical Society of Indiana County  
The Holsinger Family

Angela G. Honchar and family  
David and Margaret Janco and family  
Gay Kowal  
Joseph A. Kurtak  
Joseph Lesnick  
Richard A. Liberto  
Carie Logan  
Angela Marvin  
Herman J. McClain  
James T. McVey and family  
Mary Nagel  
Eileen K. Narvin and family  
Mary Navarro  
Donald H. Newman and family  
Mrs. Mildred S. Noble  
North Hills Christian School  
Janis A. O'Brien  
Cathy Orcutt and family  
Osborne Elementary School  
Marina Pantazidou  
Mrs. Patricia B. Pelkofer  
Cliff Perry  
Pittsburgh Trolley Tours, Inc.  
Susan Prevoznak and family  
Ellen W. Price  
Mark and Jennie Purnell and family  
Deirdre Ralph  
Robert Hayes Raymond III  
Dr. & Mrs. Nicholas Rescher  
Ringgold High School  
S. A. Robbins and family  
Robert T. Scott  
Patricia A. Sedley  
Brian J. Sesack  
Mel and Fran Skindzier  
Sandra A. Smith  
W. W. Sommerfeld  
Ruth A. Stauffer and family  
Jack Strosser  
Richard Suttner  
Kathy & Lou Testoni and family  
Patrick and Catherine Trimble and family  
Beth Anne Vucic  
Patrick J. Walsh  
George R. Wazenegger  
Sandra L. Whittingstall  
Susan Wilcher  
Roberta Goodwin Willenkin  
Glenn Worgan and family  
David L. Worrell  
Kathleen A. Zirkel  
Yetta Zoffer

## The Brashear Family Fund Is Established

David and Janet Brashear have established an endowed Family Fund at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The Fund was launched with a generous grant of \$5,000 matched by Mr. Brashear's employer, the Federal National Mortgage Association, through the Fannie Mae Foundation. The Brashears have pledged additional grants to Landmarks that will enable the Fund to grow significantly through the years. Mr. and Mrs. Brashear have been members of Landmarks since 1987. Although they now live in McLean, Virginia, where David works for Fannie Mae and Janet for Marriott International, they have continued their membership with us and have followed our work primarily through the *PHLF News*.

"The variety and the depth of Landmarks' programs have impressed us through the years," said David, "and we want to do our part to help the Foundation expand its good work." The Named Funds at Landmarks enable a donor to establish a fund in a family name, to honor an individual or to provide a memorial. The donation serves as an endowment for a specific program or a variety of programs that may change from year to year. Only the income from the invested endowment fund is used to underwrite the annual cost of the designated program.

Albert C. Van Dusen, chairman of Landmarks, expressed the deep appreciation of PHLF for the establishment of the Brashear Fund: "The Brashears would like the focus of their fund to vary from time to time. Initially, at their request, the Brashear Fund will support our efforts to preserve and restore historic buildings in the Golden Triangle area, a program under study for some time. The Brashear's gift enables us now to move forward with the specific implementation of that program." Landmarks works with the donors of endowed funds to ensure that their wishes are honored and to protect and grow the corpus of the funds for continuing use. Landmarks' long history of sound fiscal management is attractive to donors who would like to have their gifts at work for historic preservation on a permanent basis.

## Endowing Historic Preservation in Allegheny County

Three Family Funds have been established at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in addition to the Brashear Family Fund. They are the Chester LeMaistre Fund; Patricia Thauer Fund; and DeWinter Ziegler Fund.

You can continue your commitment to historic preservation through Landmarks Family Endowment Fund. Such funds can be established with gifts totaling \$5,000 or more in monetary donations, appreciated securities, real estate, or other assets. The principal of the fund is retained and invested as a permanent endowment. The income on the fund can be applied to preservation activities that reflect your interests: the restoration and maintenance of churches, houses, parks and gardens, or commercial buildings; or the creation of educational programs featuring local history and architecture.

Such a fund can be established during your lifetime or through a bequest. It can reduce your estate taxes and result in many community benefits. Family members can advise on the use of the proceeds each year.

If you are interested in learning more about Landmarks' Family Fund program, please call Cathy Broucek at (412) 471-5808. Help us create an endowment for historic preservation by uniting your personal interests and financial commitment with Landmarks' excellent record of historic preservation programs and sound fiscal management policies.

## Contributions and Memorial Gifts

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

- Mrs. Kenneth S. Boesel, for a contribution in memory of Barbara Drew Hoffstot.
- Carol Bradley and Cam Witherspoon, for donating the *Atlas of the County of Allegheny, Pennsylvania*, published in 1876. (Please see "A New Resource" on page 18.)
- Albert N. Butler and family, for donating a postcard (see below) of the Highland Park Zoo, dated August 9, 1925, to the James D. Van Trump Library.
- Natalie and Mike Friedberg, for a contribution in honor of Mrs. Merle Berger's special birthday.
- Mr. & Mrs. David L. Genter, for a donation to the Neville House in memory of Frank E. Richardson, Jr.
- Daniel Holland, for donating a membership in Landmarks to a student participating in the Peabody High School Attendance Improvement program.

## Welcome Corporate Members

**Benefactors**  
Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania  
Ellwood Group, Inc.  
National City Bank  
Oxford Development Company  
PNC Bank, N.A.

**Patrons**  
Alpern, Rosenthal & Company

**Partners**  
Bruce Plastics, Inc.  
Dick Enterprises, Inc.

Fayette Bank  
The Gateway Engineers, Inc.  
Graham Realty Company  
Great American Federal Savings & Loan Association  
The Gustine Company, Inc.  
Frank P. Hess & Company, Inc.  
Johnson & Higgins  
Horty Springer & Mattern, P.C.

**Associates**  
American States Insurance

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.

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





# Entrepreneurs Benefit from the "Working in Neighborhoods" Initiative

Diane I. Daniels



Owner Nancy Eshelman (center), Mayor Tom Murphy (right) and members of the South Side Local Development Corporation and Landmarks celebrate the opening of the Morning Glory Inn.

The "WIN" initiative is a collaborative effort between Landmarks and the Community Development Lending Group, a consortium of eleven local savings banks. The program is designed to provide loans to small businesses located in or moving to low- and moderate-income or historic neighborhoods throughout Allegheny County.

## Morning Glory Inn Opens

Nancy Eshelman and Mayor Tom Murphy formally opened the Morning Glory Inn at 2119 Sarah Street on April 22. The bed-and-breakfast is located in an historic red brick house of 1845.



Louis T. Alexander and Marlene Byars-Moore

## Byars and Alexander Financial Group

Owners Marlene Byars-Moore and Louis T. Alexander describe their eight-year-old business as a financial group/employee benefit brokerage consulting firm. Located in Commerce Court at Station Square, Byars and Alexander Financial Group received approval for a \$15,000 loan through the "WIN" initiative. According to Ms. Byars-Moore, "The money from 'WIN' will enable us to stay up to date, to enhance our serviceability, to provide better marketing tools, and to put more information in the hands of the community."

## How To Apply for a "WIN" Loan

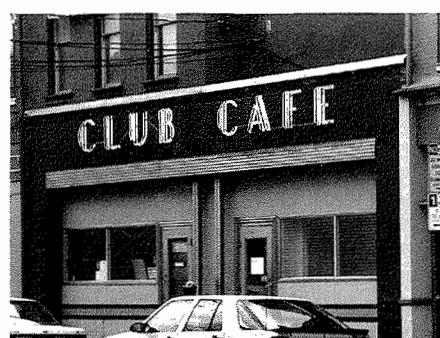
Please call Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, for further details: (412) 471-5808.



Al Dowe

## Club Cafe Youth Music Program

Al Dowe, jazz musician, composer, and owner of the Club Cafe on the South Side, received approval for a \$29,000 loan through the "WIN" initiative. "The funding will allow me to rehabilitate sections of the jazz club into music rooms so I can teach high school students." Currently working with sixteen students, Dowe says the "WIN" loan will enable him to work with more students and provide them with a safe place to go and an enjoyable experience.



Club Cafe at 56-58 South Twelfth Street



John J. Clark

## John J. Clark & Associates Acquires Historic Building

John Clark, president of John J. Clark & Associates, will use a \$66,000 "WIN" loan to acquire a historic building at 5933 Baum Boulevard in East Liberty. "This acquisition demonstrates the growth in Clark & Associates," says Mr. Clark. The marketing and management consulting firm, founded in 1987, currently employs 25 full- and part-time employees. Carla E. Frost, manager of the National City Bank in East Liberty, assisted Mr. Clark in preparing for such a business expansion. Mr. Clark says working with Ms. Frost and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, was a positive experience. The "WIN" loan is the company's first loan.



Darlene Shelton-Lamont stands in front of her new home and office at 911 Western Avenue in Allegheny West.

## State Farm Insurance Agent

Thanks to a \$75,000 loan from the "WIN" initiative, State Farm Insurance agent Darlene Shelton-Lamont purchased and is renovating an historic property in Allegheny West at 911 Western Avenue for her office and apartment.



The Honorable Henry Cisneros signs the Hope VI agreement in the presence of Mayor Tom Murphy, Stanley Lowe, and Manchester residents.



## Manchester Hope VI Agreement Is Signed

On February 28, residents of Manchester, Landmarks, and local officials gathered to witness the signing of the Hope VI agreement. The Honorable Henry Cisneros, secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), signed the document awarding \$7.5 million to the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh so that the poorly designed public housing units in Manchester can be demolished and replaced with new houses that are compatible with the historic character of the neighborhood.

## Landmarks Participates in Black History Month Celebration

Diane I. Daniels

Landmarks and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, in conjunction with Fayette Bank, joined forces with the Allequippa Terrace Residents Council (ATRC) to sponsor a Black History Celebration in February. Representatives from more than ten organizations explained their services. The day-long program helped the ATRC fulfill its mission to inform residents of services available to improve their living condition. Landmarks contributed funds to help organize the event and participated in the program. According to Willa Mae Frazier, president of the ATRC, "The money from Landmarks enabled us to host an informative program that was beneficial to our community."



# Preservation Scene



East Carson and South Eighteenth Streets

## South Side's East Carson Street Honored with National Award

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Edward Jones financial services presented a "Great American Main Street Award" to Pittsburgh's East Carson Street Business District on the South Side in a ceremony in Nashville on April 29 that included local residents and business and civic leaders.

Celebrating economic revitalization in America's downtown, the "Great American Main Street Award" recognizes overall achievement in civic revitalization. Selected out of more than 120 applicants, East Carson Street is the only urban neighborhood to have been so honored and is one of only five awardees nationally.

Kennedy Smith, director of the National Main Street Center, stated that the East Carson Street Business District successfully met several criteria, including having a comprehensive program for the restoration of buildings, improvement of graphics, and development of business and marketing plans for the area. According to Smith, the Carson Street program is so respected that it will serve as a model for a new national program soon to be announced by the National Main Street Center.

Edward Jones financial services co-sponsors the award; many of Edward Jones' more than 3,300 offices are located in historic downtown areas. The company is actively committed to the revitalization of America's Main Streets and awards \$5,000 to each winning community to be used for further revitalization efforts.

According to Landmarks president and former National Trust board member Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., "South Side's Carson Street constitutes the heart of one of Pittsburgh's most historic areas and contains the largest collection of Victorian commercial architecture in Western Pennsylvania. We appreciate the fact that the merchants and the South Side Local Development Company, working hand in hand, matched the commitment that the residents had to their historic buildings, and created such a success in combining economic revitalization and historic preservation."

Today the residents and business executives of this blue-collar neighborhood take pride in an urban Main Street corridor where retired steelworkers live next door to artists, and where beer pubs, beauty parlors, and produce stores can be found near coffee houses, antique stores, and art galleries.

## Rivers of Steel

A gubernatorial proclamation of April 29 designated a chain of industrial installations in Allegheny, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties, known as the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area, as an official Pennsylvania Heritage Park. Sponsored by the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, Rivers of Steel includes both installations literally by the rivers, such as the Carrie Furnaces, the Pinkerton Landing Site at Munhall, and the W. A. Young machine shop in Greene County, and inland installations such as coke-oven batteries near Connellsville. Despite the name, the ferrous metal industry will not be the sole subject: glass and aluminum buildings and artifacts will also be on show. Preservation and marketing will cost about \$100 million.

Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



## The History Center

After a festive weekend, the Senator John Heinz Regional History Center on Smallman Street in the Strip District opened to the public on April 28. Its sheer capacity and its industrial character, ingeniously adapted to the varied types of display, are a statement about the changing scope of the Historical Society's operation.

The 1912 building on Bigelow Boulevard, a work by the tasteful firm Ingham & Boyd, was a conspicuously cultured object, fifteenth-century Italian Renaissance and approached by a monumental stair. The three eighteenth-century flags outside, those that flew over Pittsburgh, gave a hint perhaps of the time that interested the members most. Displays were in glass cases, and space was limited by interior walls



Lobby of the History Center

as well as by the overall volume of the building.

The History Center, on the other hand, is rugged, pragmatic, and accommodating. Frederick John Osterling's warehouse for the Chautauqua Lake Ice Company is not formless, but it is not high-style either. The Society has exchanged white brick and terra cotta for industrial red, with stone, brick, steel, and timber within. Taking advantage of the ample space, the Society has placed an authentic PCC trolley at one end of the lobby; the mere proposal of doing such a thing in the 1912 building could never have been made. The building and its displays announce a new emphasis: populist, concerned with ordinary work and everyday life, encouraging response from the multitudes that pass through the lower floors. Above the display floors is a library, and here the quiet of the Bigelow Boulevard facility will remain as before.

## Documentary Heritage

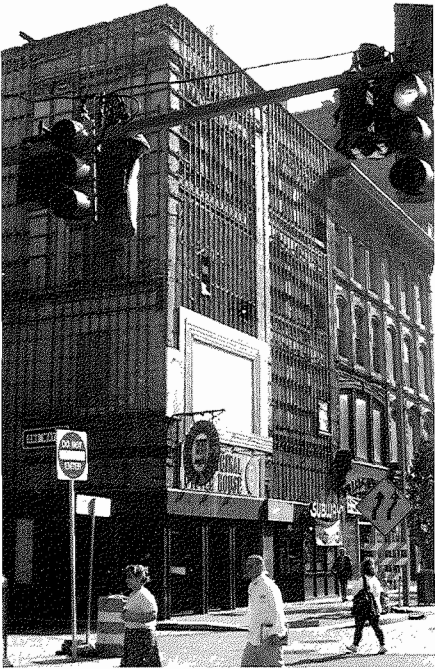
A report has been issued by the Preservation Advisory Committee chaired by Sally A. Buchanan regarding the preservation of Pennsylvania's documentary heritage. The Preservation Advisory Committee, consisting of concerned Pennsylvanians including Landmarks president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., studied the problems of deterioration and loss occurring as the result of natural disasters, neglect, hostile environmental conditions, poor storage, wear and tear, and theft.

The Committee has developed a preservation plan release based on six goals:

1. education about the need for preservation and training.
2. care for individual items and groups of materials, including physical treatment, disaster preparedness, and coping with deteriorated collections.
3. funding from foundations, businesses, federal grants, the legislature, and private donations.
4. environment and storage improvements.
5. deterrence of deterioration by ensuring the highest maintenance and security possible.
6. assessment of collections to identify the treasures of the Commonwealth, ascertain their condition, and set priorities for preservation.
7. access for all to the collections in Pennsylvania by assuring their survival and useability.

The Committee is soliciting help from citizens throughout the Commonwealth, and is asking not only for support in the goals it has defined but is also asking people to preserve family photographs and letters, and to become educated about the importance of preserving historical documents.

For a copy of the report contact: Commonwealth Libraries, P.O. Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1601



## Victorian Fronts Uncovered

A blank sheet-metal front with a big Dimling Candy logo, from the 1950s by the look of it, has been stripped away in the 800 block of Liberty Avenue to reveal two dissimilar Mid-Victorian fronts of brick that share the painted frieze legend DIMLING CANDY FACTORY. These are not great architecture but in scale and period flavor they go well with the rest of the block, especially the cast-iron fronts next door.



The entrance when new

## Buhl Planetarium

Ingham & Boyd's 1939 masterpiece, the Buhl Planetarium, may come back into use. In May the Pittsburgh Board of Education was "very interested" in acquiring the building either for the High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) or its Elementary Gifted Center. The old Planetarium has a 460-seat amphitheater (home of the ant-like Zeiss projector many of us still remember) as well as a library and exhibit space that could serve for studios. With The Pittsburgh Children's Museum on one side and a Carnegie Library on the other, the handsome Classical building is in good company.

## West Commons

Christina Schmidlapp, formerly of Landmarks, is leading a campaign of the Garden Club of Allegheny County to care for the 800 trees in the West Commons of the North Side. The State has made a grant to replace dead trees, and private money has contributed more. In time, the task of tree care will be assumed, it is expected, by neighborhood groups.





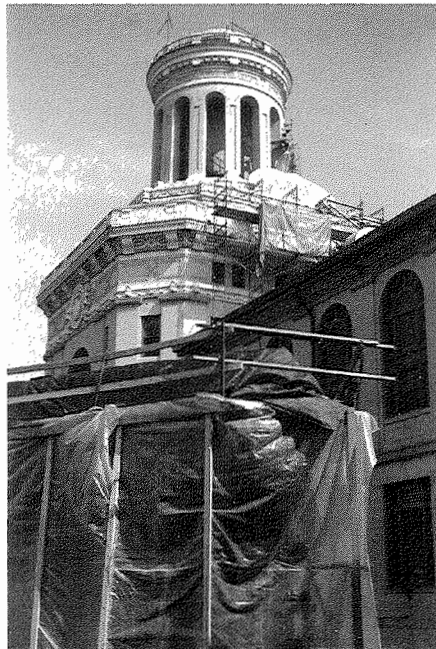
### St. Mary Magdalene, Homestead

This landmark Homestead church, whose continued existence was in doubt two years ago, has been saved. Its retention was conditional on the raising of money to cover basic repairs, and the parishioners have raised \$400,000, more than the needed amount, all from individuals.



### B'Nai Israel

This Conservative synagogue in East Liberty, a massive work of Henry Hornbostel, Philip Friedman, Alexander Sharove, and W. S. Fraser, housed its last service at the end of June. The neighborhood has changed too much for the congregation, which is moving out of the city. The temple and its auxiliary buildings are on sale for \$3.5 million, with no likely buyer.



### Roberts Under Construction

Early this spring, construction of Roberts Hall at Carnegie Mellon University was well under way in Junction Hollow, and a certain amount of shrouding and scaffolding had climbed also onto the chimney tower of Hamerschlag Hall. As to the bronze bow ornament of the 1905 armored cruiser *Pittsburgh* (ex-*Pennsylvania*), letters to business and institutional figures were of no effect. It seems that the ornament, though still Navy property, is to be a dimly perceived trophy on the new building.

### Outdoor Sculpture

The national preservation campaign SOS! (Save Our Sculpture!) continues, and has just published a pamphlet, "Today for Tomorrow," that summarizes the steps that local preservation groups should take for organized sculpture conservation. For this pamphlet, and for other inquiries, write or call the:

National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property  
3299 K Street, N.W., Suite 403  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
The SOS! telephone is 1-800-422-4612.

Pittsburgh has an Adopt-a-Monument program, whose coordinator is Myrna Antonio-Hall of Pittsburgh Partners in Parks, (412) 255-2676.

On the subject of sculpture, the bronze groups at the Highland Avenue and Stanton Avenue gates of Highland Park are to be restored. City Council has appropriated somewhat over \$150,000 for the purpose.

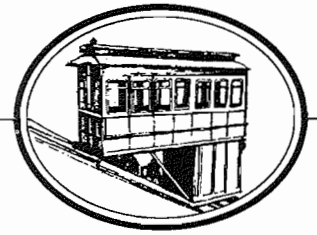


### Stengel House for Sale

The George H. Stengel house at 4136 Bigelow Boulevard, Schenley Farms, is for sale. The house, built in 1913, is by the venturesome local architects Kiehnel & Elliott, and alludes to both the Arts and Crafts movement and the Prairie School in its brick, terra-cotta, and wood detailing. For those who do not know the architects' work, a building at O'Hara and Thackeray Streets, a few blocks to the east, and the more elusive but splendid Greenfield Elementary School will be enlightening. The Stengel house, inside, retains its excellent woodwork, and appears unremodeled apart from its kitchen. Lot size is 65 feet x 170 feet. Showing the house are Loren and Sally Siegel, Howard Hanna Real Estate Company, (412) 361-4000 or 682-5095. Asking price is \$539,000.

### New Director at Rachel Carson Homestead

Mark Tomlinson is the new executive director of the Rachel Carson Homestead. His previous experience has been at Fallingwater, the Carnegie Science Center, and the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Sharon Goldstein is the new educational coordinator at the Homestead.



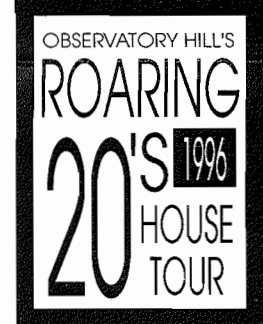
## THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE DUQUESNE INCLINE

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

For a membership  
please phone 381-1665



Are you ready to relive the Jazz Age? What about flappers and speak-easys? If the answer to these questions is yes, then dig out your raccoon coat and come to the 4th annual Observatory Hill Inc.'s Roaring 20's House Tour and Antique Car Show.



SATURDAY,  
SEPT. 21

1:00 - 7:00 PM  
\$10 PRE-SALE  
\$12 DAY OF TOUR

OBSERVATORY HILL,  
INC.  
P.O. BOX 7651  
PGH., PA 15214

231-2887

### Call Us with Preservation News

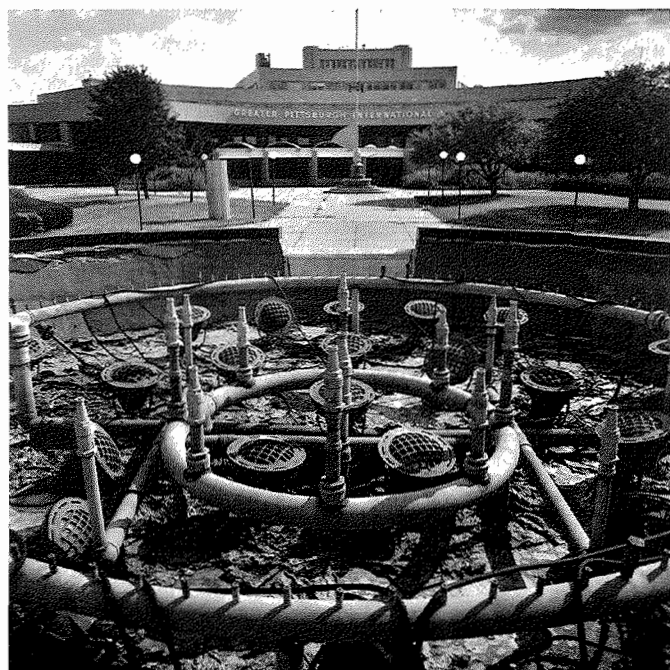
Our staff wants to hear from you if you see or know of any historic buildings that are threatened with demolition or that have recently been demolished. We need your help in covering the County. Please call Walter Kidney (412/471-5808) and report what you know.

### Is Your House Eligible for an Historic Landmark Plaque?

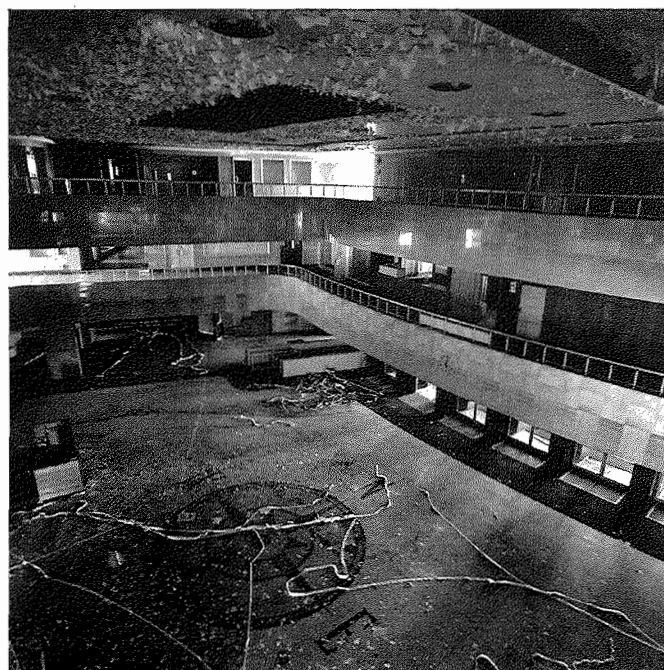
Buildings, structures, and districts may be approved for an Historic Landmark plaque if all of the following conditions are met:

- 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 an Historic Landmark plaque. Call Cathy Broucek for details at (412) 471-5808.



Photos by Harry Giglio



### The Old Airport Terminal

Proposals come and go for the old airport terminal of 1949 in Moon Township, with no solution in sight. The terminal has been closed since the opening of the new Pittsburgh International Airport terminal in 1992. Here are two recent photographs of the old airport by Harry Giglio. The exterior view has in the foreground the jets and floodlights of the axial fountain. The interior is of the main terminal building.





Photos by Jim Judkis

Bedford Avenue on the Hill

# Landmark Architecture: On the Road

Walter C. Kidney

**I**n the last few months, my time has been very largely given to the radical revision of *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County* that is to see publication by the spring of 1997. The 1985 original is out of print and out of date, and a part of the current project is a series of ventures into the field—the 57 square miles of Pittsburgh, the 727 square miles of the county—to see what ought to be added to the book. We are contemplating a more lavishly illustrated book, with more entries in its Guide section, and Louise Sturgess carries a pair of cameras and a bagful of film on these trips as a matter of course. We have been hunting not for individual buildings alone but also for those combinations of construction and terrain that are peculiarly Pittsburgh and are characteristic of its various places.

At the time of writing we have been all over the city and have ventured up the Monongahela and Turtle Creek Valleys, and south and west of Pittsburgh. We have had frustrations—finding your way to Wilmerding is like finding your way to Shangri-la—and while photographing in Edgeworth we were seen off by the police. And we have had rewarding experiences, such as discovering what a splendid work of architecture St. Colman's School in Turtle Creek,



Westminster Place in Shadyside

by Edward Weber, really is, and finding a Queen Anne house on Beaver Street in Sewickley that has a High Baroque extravagance most unexpected.

Two concerns tend to haunt us: we may overlook a building, an engineering work, or some other entity of obvious merit; or, we see a borderline case and dither over whether it is *quite* good

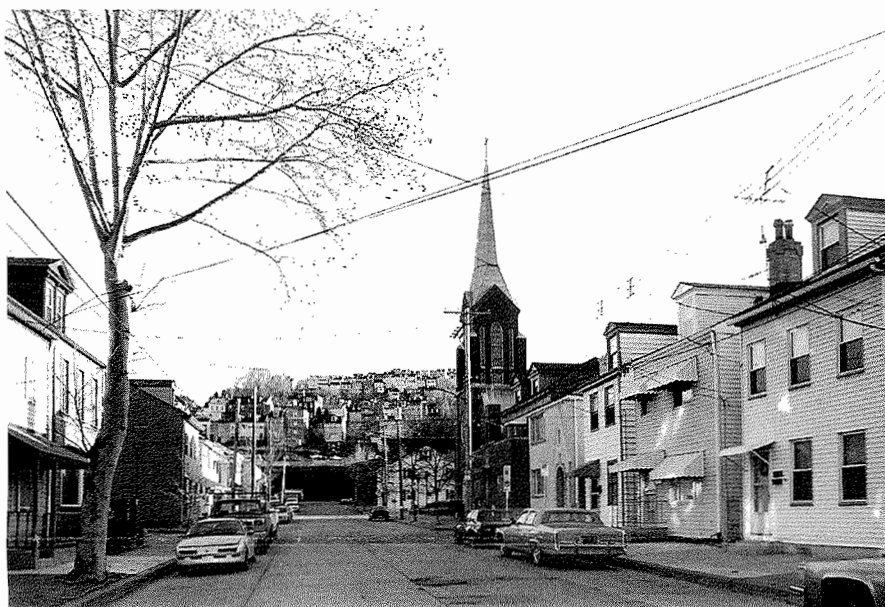
enough to be in.

This summer, we will continue our work in surveying the County, and by the end of the year we will be sending artwork to the printer for a 600-page book. Our photo files will be richer than ever, and our redesigned and revised book will have a pleasant corpulence when it is introduced to the public.

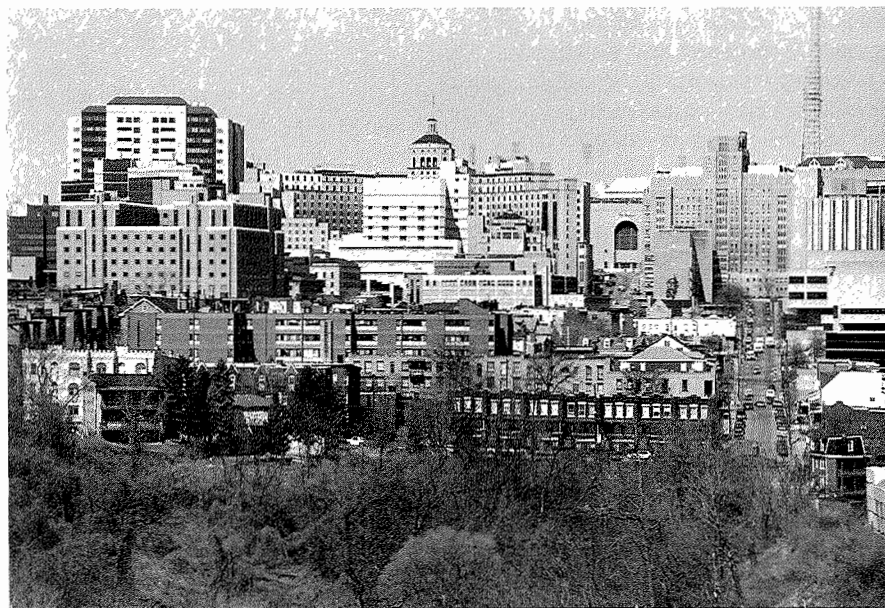




*Fallowfield Avenue in Beechview*

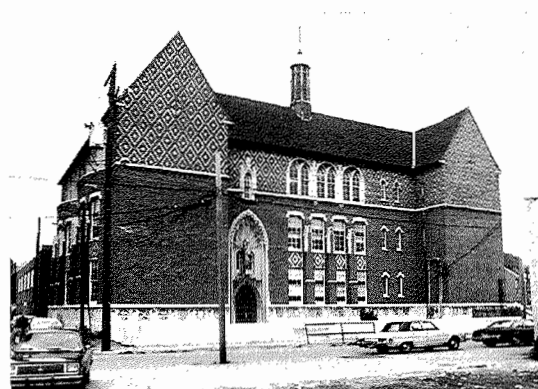


*South Nineteenth Street with the South Side slopes beyond*

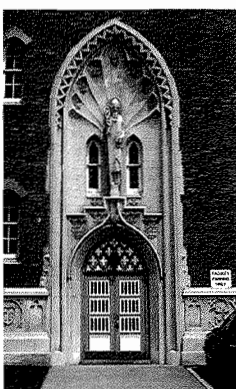


*Oakland from Panther Hollow Bridge*

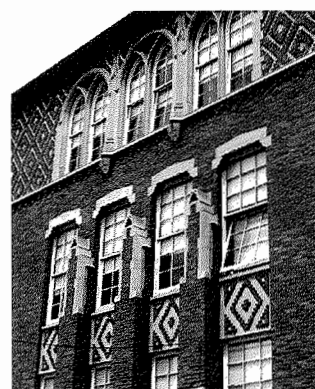
*St. Colman's School in Turtle Creek*



*Entrance front*



*Main doorway*



*Diapering in raised brickwork*

## Thank You for Contributing to *Landmark Architecture*

We are pleased to recognize the following foundations, businesses, and individuals who have contributed to the new edition of *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County*, by Walter C. Kidney. The book will be dedicated in memory of Barbara Drew Hoffstot (1919–1994), a founding trustee and vice-chairman of Landmarks.

R. K. Mellon Family Foundation

The Roy A. Hunt Foundation  
Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, Inc.  
The Walden Trust  
G. Whitney Snyder Charitable Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Leopold Adler II  
Charles Covert Arensberg,  
in memory of Gay Hays Arensberg  
Nancy and Paul Beck  
Virginia P. Beckwith  
Jeanne and Richard Berdik  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H. Berkman  
Sherley T. Blaxter  
Mr. & Mrs. William Block, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Boesel  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bookman  
Charles H. Booth, Jr.  
Susan E. Brandt  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Broucek  
Carl Wood Brown  
Catherine and Stuart Burstein  
C. Dana Chalfant  
Harvey Childs, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Davis, Jr.  
Patricia J. Denhart  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dickey III  
George C. Dorman  
Thayer Hoffstot Drew  
Elizabeth C. Ebbert  
Arthur J. Edmunds  
Richard Dilworth Edwards  
Sarah Evosevich  
Mr. & Mrs. James A. Fisher  
Alan I W Frank  
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Frazer, Jr.  
Frank J. Gaffney  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Donald Gerlach  
Donna W. and Gordon Gordon  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Hepler  
John H. Hill  
Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock  
Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Phipps Hoffstot III  
Howard Hook  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Hurtt  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. David H. Kain  
Monna J. Kidney  
Mr. & Mrs. Bayard T. Kiliani  
Kimicata Brothers, Inc.  
Valerie and James W. Knox  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Christian Lantzsch  
Mr. & Mrs. Alan G. Lehman

George D. Lockhart  
Helen and Drew Mathieson  
Elizabeth F. McCance  
Grant McCargo  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. McGough  
DeCourcy E. McIntosh  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Sherman McLaughlin  
Gertrud A. Mellon  
The Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh  
Bill and Mary Anne Mistick  
Tom Murphy, Mayor of Pittsburgh  
Evelyn and Regis Murrin  
Eleanor Howe Nimick  
Thomas H. Nimick, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. David B. Oliver II  
Constance H. O'Neil  
Edward Parrack  
Evelyn Pearson  
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan W. Pearson  
Pittsburgh Steelers Sports, Inc.  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Propst  
A. & S. Pyzdrowski  
Stanley Pyzdrowski  
Marirose and John Radelet  
Mrs. Cleveland D. Rea  
Mr. & Mrs. William Rea  
Stephen G. Robinson  
William M. Robinson  
Daniel M. Rooney  
Frances G. Scaife  
Christina and Ellis Schmidlapp  
Kelly K. Sinclair  
Patricia O. and Wallace W. Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Templeton Smith  
G. Whitney Snyder  
Mr. & Mrs. Furman South III  
Robert L. Spear  
M. Stahl Plumbing, Heating and  
Air Conditioning  
Teri and Tom Streever  
Louise and Martin Sturgess  
Margaret and Albert C. Van Dusen  
Ellen and James Walton  
Ann Wardrop  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward R. Weidlein, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Joshua C. Whetzel, Jr.  
J. Reid Williamson, Jr.  
Mary Wohleber  
Dwayne Woodruff  
World Federalist Association of Pittsburgh  
Gregory C. Yochum  
Ronald C. Yochum, Jr.  
Vinnie D. and Arthur P. Ziegler  
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

The generous support of these foundations, businesses, and individuals is making possible the publication of a 600-page casebound book, lavishly illustrated with about 80 color photographs and over 600 black and white photos. We had hoped to release the book this fall, but unfortunately will not be able to meet that deadline. *Landmark Architecture* will, however, be available in the spring of 1997. All contributors will be acknowledged in the book itself. If you have not yet contributed to the new edition but would like to do so, please complete the form on page 19 of this newsletter.

# Pittsburgh's Emerald Necklace

Barry Hannegan

How strange and wonderful that we should also have had a parks system that we, too, might fairly celebrate as an emerald necklace. It is still with us, although rather dimmed and bedraggled, but the guiding intention of its creation has been largely lost sight of.

For almost all its history, Frederick Law Olmsted's Boston metropolitan parks system has been called the "Emerald Necklace." The phrase is apt. The design called for a series of essentially linear spaces, almost always irregular and meandering, that occasionally swelled into large, amorphous areas as at Jamaica Pond or the much larger Arnold Arboretum (after 1882) or the vast, concluding spaces of Franklin Park. The structure did indeed suggest a pattern of large green spaces strung together on a ribbon of green, cunningly thrown down on the helter-skelter map of Greater Boston. The term is also superbly evocative, not only of environmental and social values inherent in the project, but of an urban adornment beyond price.

The plan differed from all of Olmsted's other urban park projects, such as those in Buffalo and Rochester, New York, and in Louisville, Kentucky, in which the various constituent parks, however naturalistic and irregular they were, were linked to one another and to the city's plan by straight boulevards, themselves heavily lined with trees but performing as essential elements of the street system. Their function was at least as much to serve traffic needs as to be ornamental, and in that, they surely had their origin in the great network of boulevards instituted in Paris during the reign of Napoleon III. Only Olmsted's Boston system exploited natural topography to provide a richly picturesque lacing of parkways that invited divagation, even though the principal roads, if followed in the right direction, brought one to Commonwealth Avenue and onward to the Public Garden with its view of every Bostonian's proper polestar, the gold dome of the Statehouse.

How strange and wonderful that we should also have had a parks system that we, too, might fairly celebrate as an emerald necklace. It is still with us, although rather dimmed and bedraggled, but the guiding intention of its creation has been largely lost sight of. It is an image worth recovering, and the recent extended debate over the proposed closing of Bigelow Boulevard suggests that such a recovery would be timely and healthy.

### The Necklace Strung

The story of our emerald necklace belongs to the 1890s, the founding years of so much that still defines what is best in Pittsburgh. Since this is a story of parks, it begins, as well, with the name of Edward Bigelow, our first Director of Public Works, to whom the city owes its parks system. If I have mentioned this in writing elsewhere, or you have seen it in print on another occasion, that's all right—it is a historical fact that cannot be acknowledged too often. The annual reports that Mr. Bigelow and the members of his department submitted are a moving testimony to the zeal, often and justifiably prideful, of a group of public servants intent on giving Pittsburgh an entirely new kind of urban experience. The first annual report was for 1889 and recorded that public land already surrounding the reservoirs at Herron Hill and Highland was to be transformed into parks, while in that same year the gift by Mary Schenley of 300 acres provided the nucleus of Schenley Park.

Work on the two major sites progressed at a sufficiently rapid pace to allow Bigelow to write in the report for 1895 about the "Creation of the Parks" as if the project were already completed. In the preceding year various ordinances had been considered and passed that authorized some sort of boulevard system that would link the major parks; this would be the thread on which the parks were to be strung. Beechwood Boulevard appears to have been the first part of the system undertaken; by 1896, Bigelow could report on completion of extensive grading in and near Highland Park, and in the report for 1898, he declared Beechwood Boulevard completed. For Bigelow, Beechwood Boulevard meant a continuous thoroughfare running from the southern edge of Schenley Park all the way to the banks of the Allegheny River at Highland Park; present-day Washington Boulevard is the northern portion of the original Beechwood. There was always a small break in its progress at Point Breeze, where the new Boulevard merged briefly with Fifth Avenue. Plat books of around 1900 indicate an extension of Beechwood across Fifth, but the

continuation of the Boulevard is left unspecified. For a time, the section of Beechwood Boulevard between the Greenfield Bridge and Forbes Avenue was renamed in honor of William Pitt.

In that same report for 1898, Bigelow noted that work was continuing on the other major boulevard now named in his honor but then still called Grant Boulevard since it was seen as an extension of Grant Street. Work moved more slowly on this project because of the complex engineering for the stretch between downtown and Bloomfield, but in Bigelow's report for the following year, 1899, he could write, "... by the first of July [that is, of 1900] our beautiful and picturesque driveways will be open for travel from Grant Street clear to Highland Park." Our emerald necklace was complete.

That the scenic boulevards were considered an integral part of the parks system is clearly indicated by a statement in the report of 1907, which includes them in a list of Pittsburgh parks, while a map of 1911 showing the various parks by a dark shading makes use of the same dark identification to trace the routes of the two boulevards.

The true character of Mr. Bigelow's boulevards is somewhat difficult for us to grasp after a century of changing notions of what a city and its streets should provide. It is essential to remember that they were (and are still) scenic roadways. If the traveler of 1900 wanted quick access between the center of the city and the eastern suburbs, Fifth, Forbes, and Penn Avenues already provided that. The two boulevards were recreational in the same way as were the parks they linked, and their planning may be seen as a late expression of the pastoral ideals that determined so much of public landscape design in the second half of the nineteenth century. This was quite different in motivation and image from the tenets of the City Beautiful Movement that was rapidly developing in the 1890s.

One or two comparisons within our own parks system will make clear this difference and help to define further the particular quality of the boulevards and their relationship to both parks and the terrain. The monumental entrance

Text continues on page 12





Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

*Mr. Bigelow's Boulevards run the gamut of scenic possibilities, from the startling splendor of Pittsburgh's vivid core to the slow, heavy grace of Western Pennsylvania's terrain, seen here along the Monongahela Valley.*

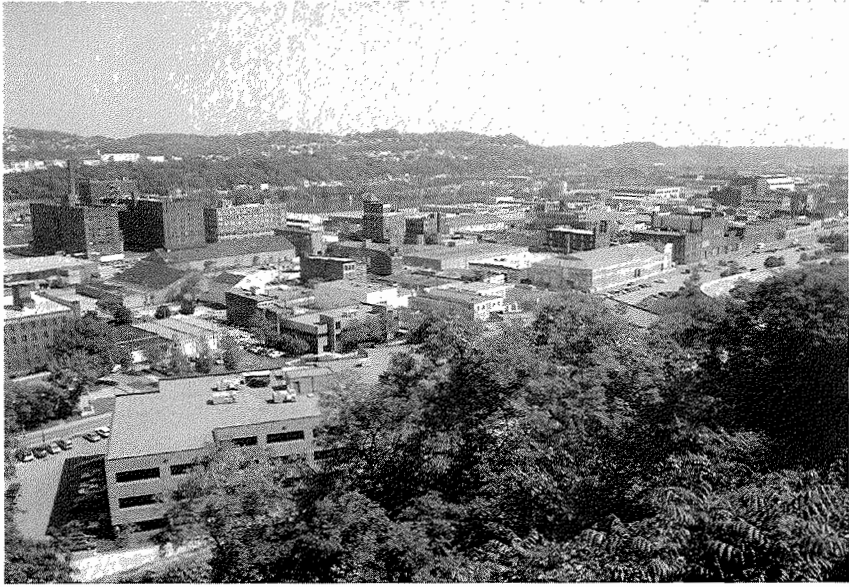






Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

1. The drama of the Boulevards' routes works no matter which way you're headed. Here, Eldorado looms ahead at the inner end of Bigelow Boulevard.



2. A view north and eastward across the Allegheny River Valley. This was taken from Frank Curto Park, a superb vantage point, and so inaccessible that there's not even a litter problem.

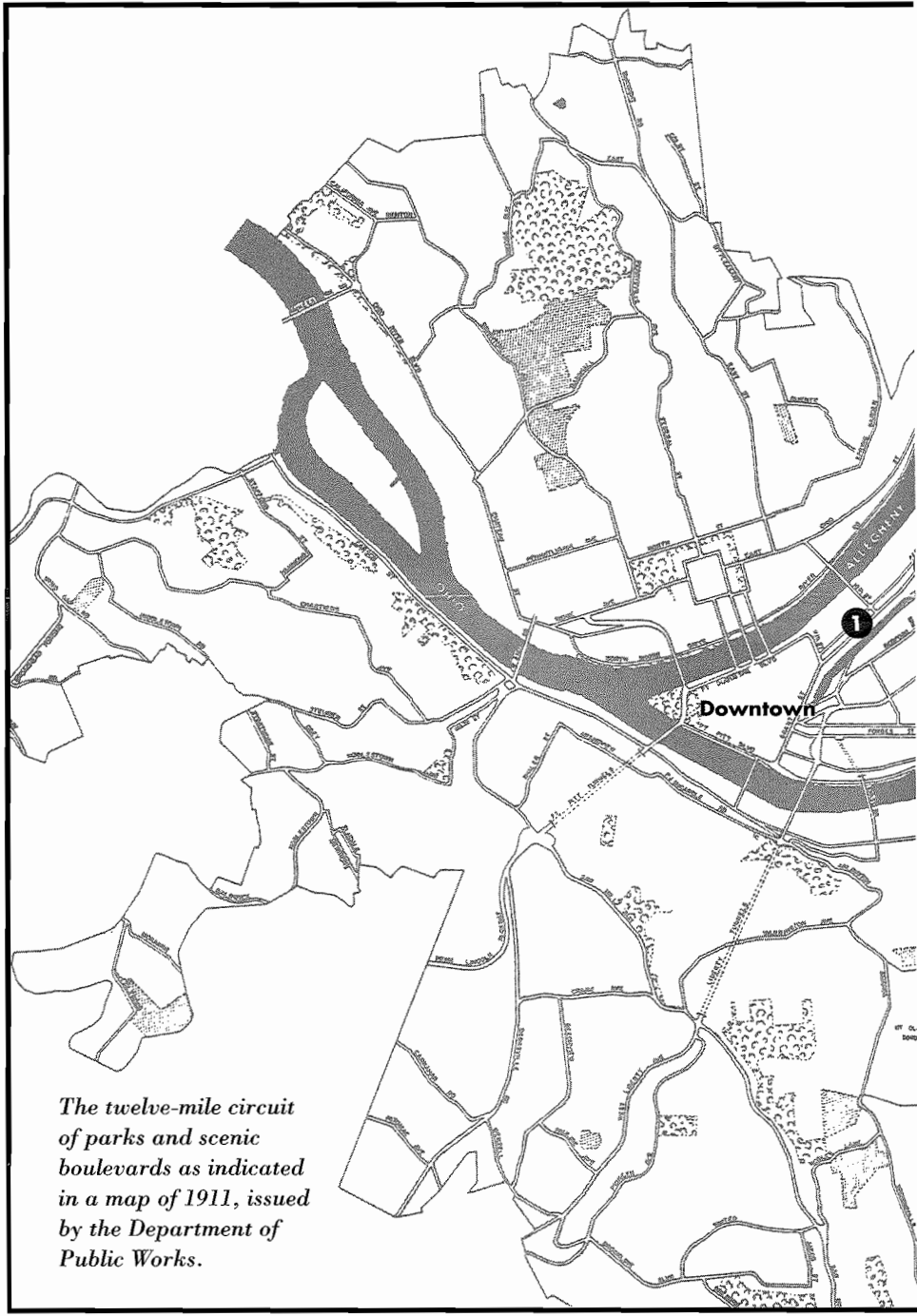


11. Present-day Washington Boulevard, looking away from the Allegheny River (and the city's Asphalt Plant). When this was still Beechwood Boulevard, Highland Park extended away from both sides of the roadway.

## Pittsburgh's Emerald Necklace

✱ The view that can't be photographed. This would have shown the panorama of all the East End from the bend in Bigelow Boulevard at the Bloomfield Bridge. The absence of sidewalks, Jersey barriers, trees, billboards, and also abandoned buildings denied the photographer both a perch and a view. From the car, only a meager hint of this great prospect can be glimpsed.

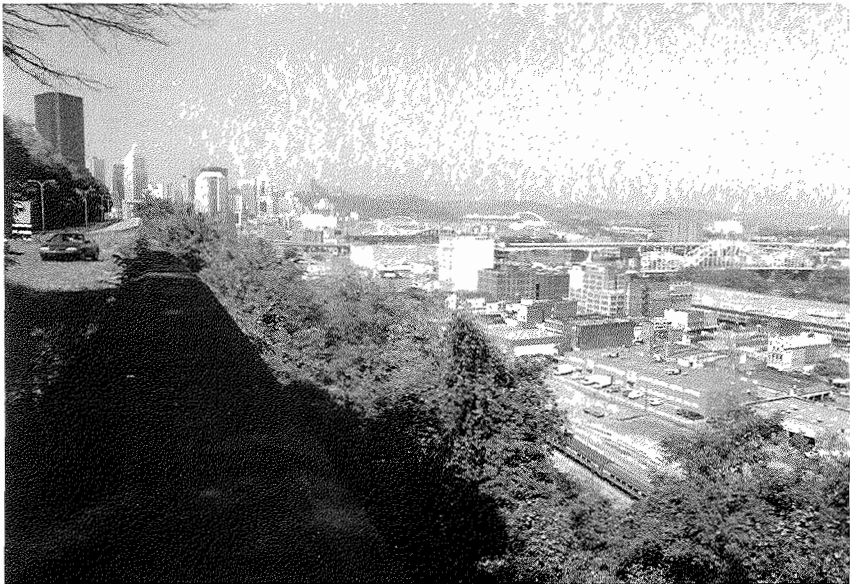
10. Still more state-of-the-art domestic architecture from between the wars, on the long slope of Beechwood between Wilkins and Fifth, at which point the Mellons and the Thaws would look across the street at one another.



9. Frick Park was a worthy addition to the pseudo-suburban expansiveness of Beechwood Boulevard, a mood enhanced by the French Manoir entrance pavilions, works of John Russell Pope, architect of the National Gallery and the Jefferson Memorial.



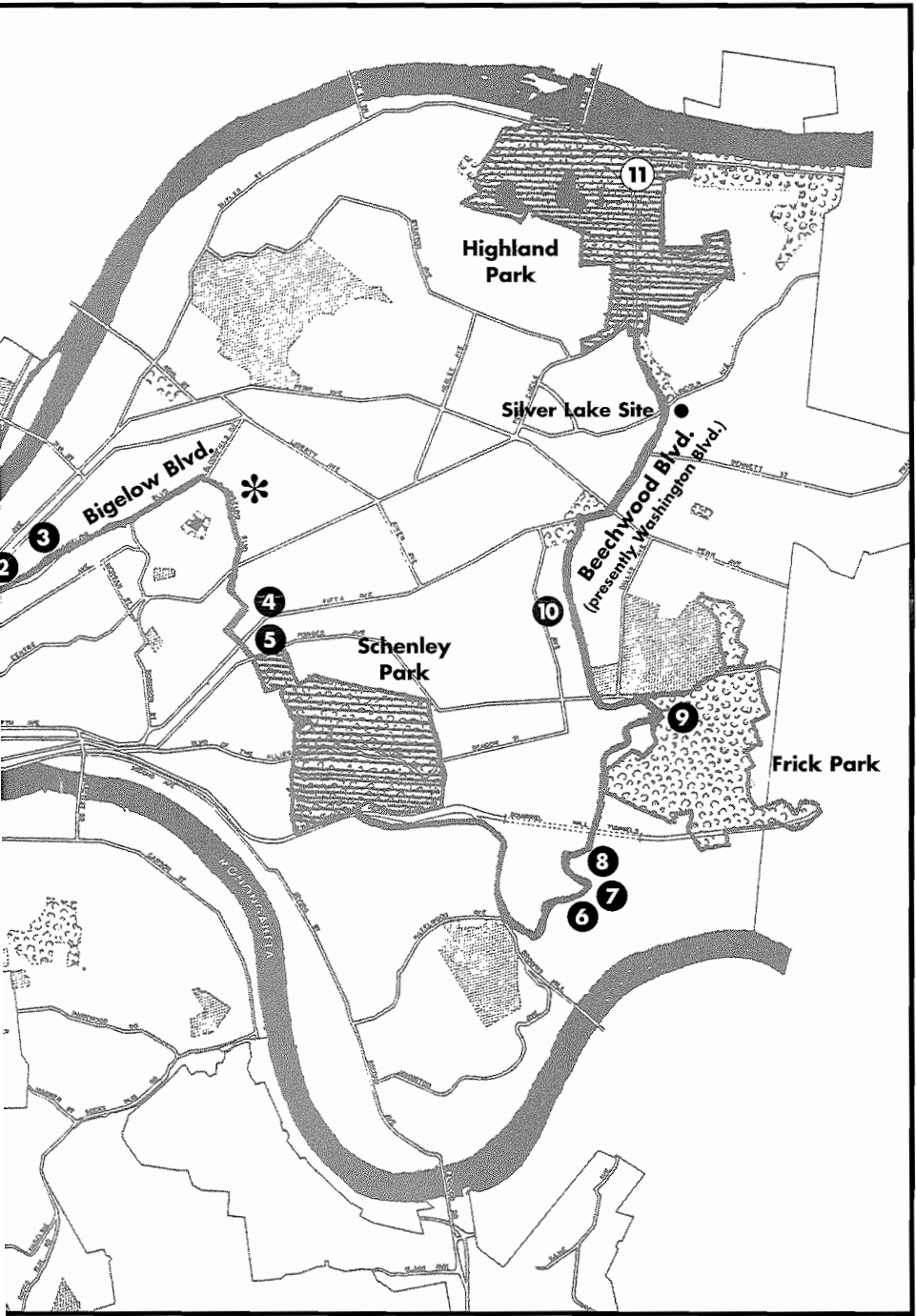




3. Looking toward the Point and the Junction of the Rivers—one of the great topographical moments in the nation.



4. Bigelow Boulevard snakes its way through Schenley Farms, still a first-rate residential area some eighty years after its completion.



8. A typical stretch of Beechwood Boulevard in Squirrel Hill. The pattern of Bigelow Boulevard as a prime residential thoroughfare is resumed here.



5. A significant part of Pittsburgh's monumental Civic Center. This is the block of Bigelow Boulevard that some would close. To see students lolling on grass at this site would be as melancholy as once being able to see cows grazing in the ruins of the Roman Forum. Ironically, while the proposed closing would surely affect vehicular traffic, nearby Phipps Conservatory seeks to build a parking garage that would bring another thousand cars to this area.



6. Here, from Beechwood Boulevard, we can look upstream along the Monongahela River Valley. In this view, but perhaps invisible in the reduction of the photograph, is the George Westinghouse Memorial Bridge—a good five miles away.

7. From the same vantage point on Beechwood, we can see directly across to Homestead, now looking strangely pre-industrial.



## Pittsburgh's Emerald Necklace

Text continues from page 8

On May 9, Landmarks trustee Evelyn Bitner Pearson submitted the following letter to the editor of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. We reprint it now with Mrs. Pearson's permission.

Dear Sir:

On television I saw a handsomely dressed young man say he thought Bigelow Boulevard between Fifth and Forbes should be covered with grass. The Pitt campus has acres of grass on which I rarely see students, and 300 acres of grass in Schenley Park.

Bigelow Boulevard is essential to Edward Bigelow's plan for the beautification of our city. Would the young man grass over the boulevards of Paris, of L'Enfant's Washington?

Pitt is a city school. Part of our youngsters' education is to learn, in their four years here, how to cross streets and how to live in a city where resident taxpayers fund their school and their scholarships.

Yours truly,

Evelyn Bitner Pearson

Evelyn Bitner Pearson

from Highland Avenue into its park would seem to have been a more fitting punctuation for Beechwood Boulevard's entry into the park which, in fact, was achieved without any signal save the sudden, embracing green on the flanking hillsides. Bigelow is credited with the design of the Highland Avenue entrance, where he created a truly urban and urbane conclusion to the slow sweep of the avenue up from East Liberty. He intended that Highland Avenue should become a monumental boulevard, broad, regular, and lined with great and imposing houses, and the seeming goal of the Avenue should enhance that character.

### The Necklace Adjusted

Early stages in the evolution of the area now known as Schenley Plaza also demonstrate different and changing ideas about the treatment of important sites in the public landscape. The nineteen or so acres that make up the Plaza were acquired from Mary Schenley in 1890 as a separate transaction. The importance of the area was seen from the outset of the planning since it would provide the link between the new park and the already existing arteries of Forbes and Fifth Avenues. At the time of its purchase by the City, the future plaza was a valley, St. Pierre Ravine, that sloped downward from the edge of Forbes Avenue into Junction Hollow. When the time came in 1896 to create the connection between the a-building Grant Boulevard and the park, the single, broad stone arch of Bellefield Bridge was thrown across the ravine and approached from both the park and the end of the Boulevard, north of Forbes, by curving roadways. The ravine itself was treated as part of the park landscape. Hence, for anyone coming out Grant to the park, the actual entry was a casual and softly remarked occasion; it was achieved indirectly, with changes of axis and shifting vistas—a fine demonstration of the aesthetic of the picturesque.

When, in 1911, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., produced his splendid study, *Pittsburgh Main Thoroughfares and the Down Town District*, he found fault with this arrangement. He proposed two alternative plans for the regularization of the ravine area; either of his schemes would have given Pittsburgh a much-needed example of the baroque principles of city planning current at the time. His ideas typified the City Beautiful style—part capitalist opulence, part populist majesty, and entirely American in its swagger and ambition. Not for him, nor for his peers, were the easy, digressive transitions of Bigelow's older standard of design. Olmsted may also have been responding to the increased urbanity of the Bellefield area which had begun to acquire its distinguishing collection of public and semi-public buildings. Whatever his concerns, it is clear that his overriding goal was to provide a worthy terminus to Bigelow Boulevard and a correspondingly grand entrance to the park.

It can hardly be a coincidence that in the report of the Department of Public Works for 1911 (issued early in 1912) there is a proposal for a reordering of the ravine. Significantly, the ravine is filled and the Bellefield Bridge buried. Schenley Drive angles across the space, rather awkwardly continuing the Boulevard on the south side of Forbes. However, there is now a true park entry, an arch of an unspecified sort, but a gateway that reflects the more emphatic

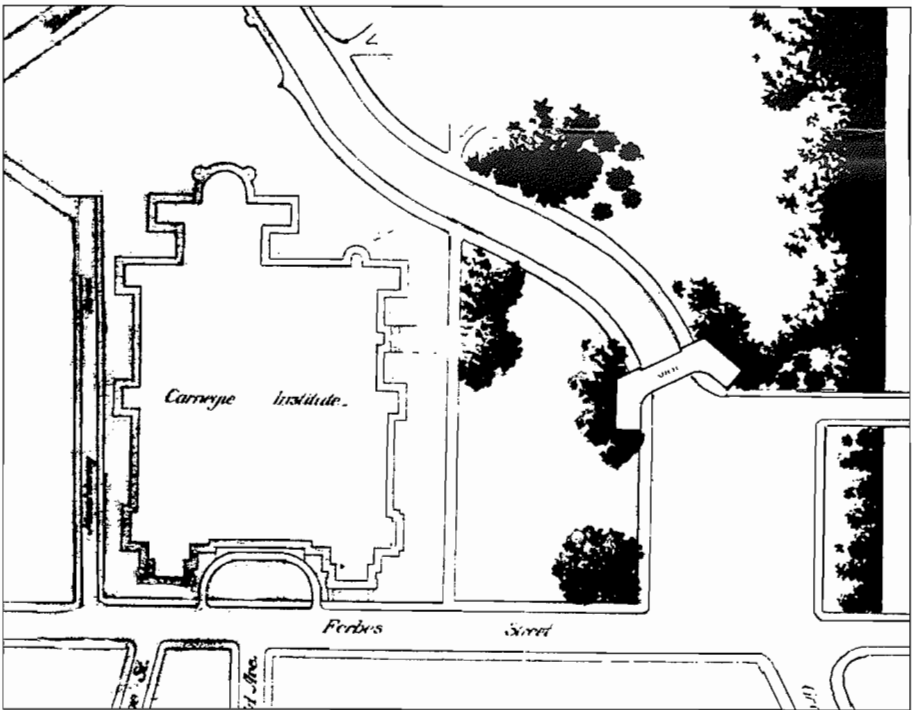
and ceremonial nature of the City Beautiful style. Significantly, however, there is still no great plaza, and the greater part of the area is still treated as park land. This may seem a tepid response to the expectations of Olmsted and of the times, but it does seem to offer a compromise between two contrary philosophies of design.

### The Necklace Enjoyed

The discursive, leisurely character of Bigelow's creation may be difficult for us to approach intellectually; however, the actual experience of traveling the full twelve miles of the route is fully understandable in terms of sensation. When new, the necklace provided a circuitous armature for almost all of what was then the city's territory; it was meant as an ornament, yet it used the terrain through which it passed as an ornament for itself. The excitement of the superb prospects of the Allegheny and Monongahela valleys, the delight of the parks' rich variety, and the exhilarating revelation of the East End plain seen from below Herron Hill were all part of the original scheme. Time has enhanced the itinerary with neighborhoods and buildings of

and it has been floated before, usually on the initiative of the University of Pittsburgh, ever eager to create a more grandiose campus. The need for an urban university to provide a conventional, enclosed campus is not a certain one; both New York University and Boston University have managed very well in much less attractive settings to become truly world-class institutions. As for the argument of pedestrian safety, I would give it more credence if there had been some effort to deal with it by the placement of guards or a better arrangement of traffic lights and pedestrian paths. Such, I have never noticed. What I have repeatedly observed at the intersections of the proposed closing and elsewhere in the area is a complete disregard on the part of pedestrians of crossings and traffic lights and, ultimately, of their own well being.

However, if one were to grant that a problem does exist, perhaps some remedy short of the unacceptable closing of the Boulevard might be found. Establishing different and separate routes for various kinds of traffic has been a recognized planning technique at least since it was used by the senior Olmsted in Central Park. Would a bridge or a tunnel linking the Pitt Union



The proposal for a redesigned entrance to Schenley Park at Forbes Avenue. The then-Grant Boulevard appears at the lower right and Carnegie Institute at the far left. The author of this scheme is unknown, but its publication in the report for 1911 of the Department of Public Works at least implies approval by Edward Bigelow, the Department's Head.

distinction, until now the trip is heavy with much of the history of the city. A significant and unforeseen enrichment was the creation of Frick Park, which appropriately abuts Beechwood Boulevard in Squirrel Hill, becoming the third great emerald on the thread. Considered in the light of the story of its making and considered again in the context of its visual and physical meaning up to the very present, Bigelow's creation is a remarkable achievement not just for Pittsburgh but as a worthy chapter in the history of city planning in this country.

### The Necklace Unstrung?

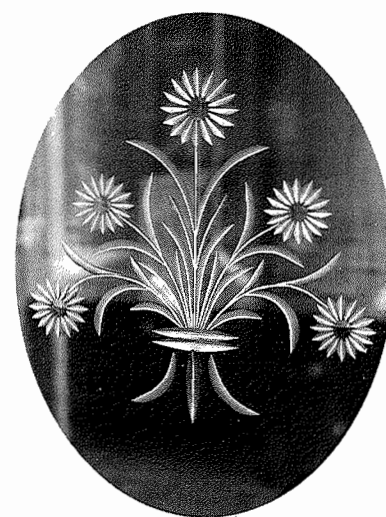
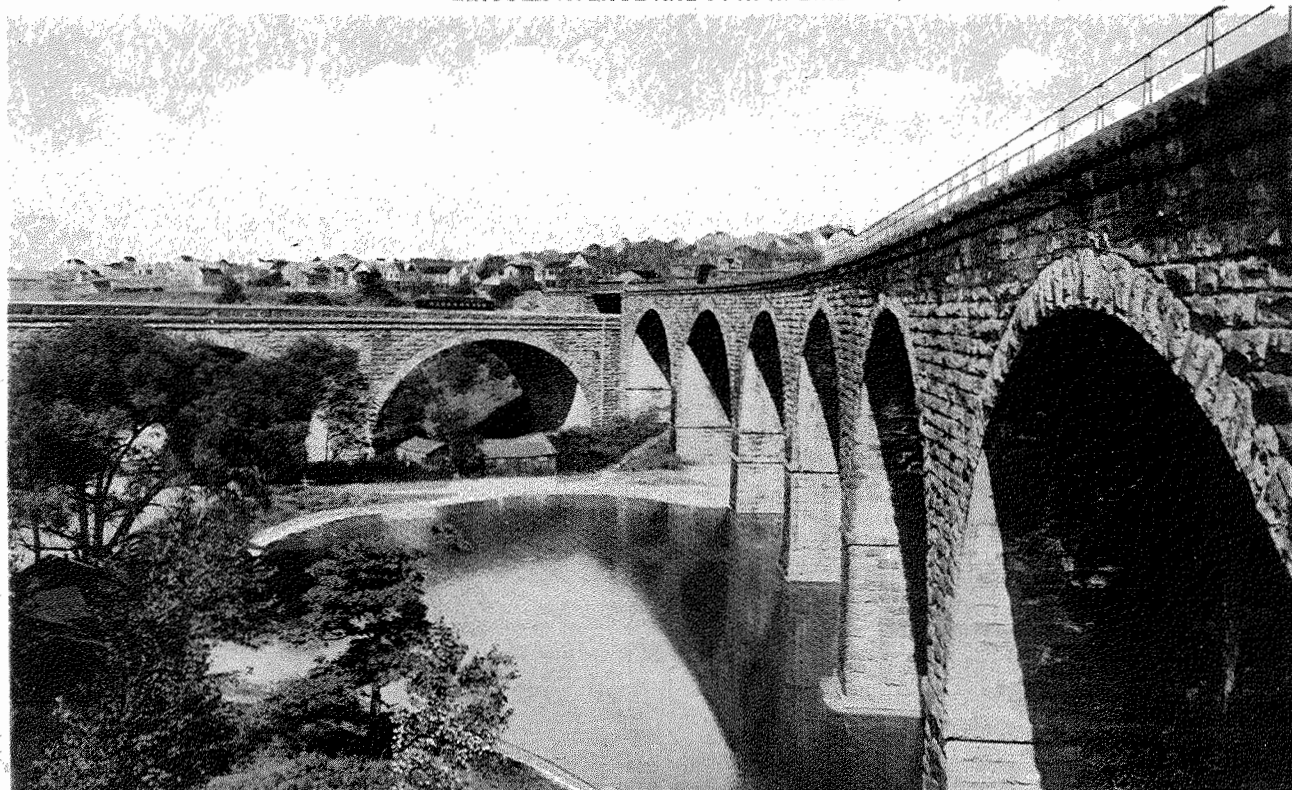
Against such a background, the recent proposal to close Bigelow Boulevard for the block between Forbes and Fifth transcends our normal American indifference to history and achieves impious barbarism. The closing is not a new idea,

and the Cathedral work? In either case, it might be lined by shops; since we are told that students like to spend money, possibly they could be induced to use the pedestrian thoroughfare by making it into some such attractive amenity.

I would like to see Pitt, the City, and Landmarks join forces to hold a design competition for proposals for a solution to this situation, a solution that would respect the integrity of Bigelow Boulevard and yet satisfy drivers and walkers, shop keepers, planners, and preservationists. A successful answer here would do still more. It would give Oakland and the University another distinguishing landmark and would provide a valuable example of the knowledgeable reconciliation of past achievement and present need.



LINCOLN AVENUE AND P. R. R. BRIDGES, SILVER LAKE, PITTSBURGH, PA.



## 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 Cathy Broucek at (412) 471-5808.



Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

## 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.**

## Silver Lake: As It Was and As It Is

Here we see the area of the former Silver Lake, on the east side of present-day Washington Boulevard, as it looked in a picture postcard of the 1920s or 30s and as it appears now. In the borderland between West Homewood and Lincoln-Lemington stand the two great stone viaducts constructed in the early years of the century. To the right is the longer Six Arch Stone Bridge that was erected in 1902-03 to carry the Pennsylvania Railroad's Brilliant Cut Off. The shorter viaduct is the Lincoln Avenue Bridge, opened in 1906, and designed to conform to the railroad viaduct.

The earlier view preserves the memory of Silver Lake, a place of resort for Eastenders who boated and skated here well before the turn of the century. The lake, hence, was a feature of this stretch of Beechwood Boulevard, and survived into the post World War II era when it was replaced by a drive-in movie theater.

The great bridges, long recognized as evocations of Roman aqueducts in the manner of Piranesi, provide sudden drama for the Boulevard traveler, the sort of experience that is the very essence of Pittsburgh and its terrain. When the lake was still in place, the effect was magical.

Could not this area somehow be reclaimed to re-create a scenic shot in the area to a sadly deteriorated neighborhood, and to restore for the local residents a much needed focus for recreation? Would some sort of community garden/park be feasible? Would it serve to spark a redevelopment of Washington Boulevard that would be worthy of its original name?

# 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**

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



The Hagan house

Photos by Robert P. Ruschak, courtesy of Kentuck Knob

## Caught in a Hawk's Eye: The House of I. N. Hagan at Kentuck Knob

James D. Van Trump

*On May 1, 1996,  
Frank Lloyd Wright's  
1954 I. N. Hagan  
house at Chalk Hill,  
Fayette County, near  
Fallingwater, opened to  
the public. To mark the  
occasion, we reprint  
an essay on the Hagan  
house, written by  
James D. Van Trump  
in 1964.*

Caught in a hawk's eye, reflections of the westward hills reveal the wide perspectives of those mountain crests which command the muted grandeurs of the Yough gorge. The arching glance of that far-ranging bird alone suggests the depths of sky that stretch above those high places known locally as knobs.

From Tharpe Knob, which overlooks an eastward view of the Youghiogheny, the human eye can see almost as much as a hawk's, and perhaps the same might be said of the man's eye view from Kentuck Knob. From the latter eminence (some 2,080 feet above sea level), the river cannot be seen, only the marching wooded mountains colored by a certain salience of shadow to indicate where the gorge lies.

At the top of Kentuck Knob is western Pennsylvania's other Frank Lloyd Wright house, which was commissioned in 1954 by I. N. Hagan, a Uniontown businessman, and his artist wife. In a sense the hilltop house grew out of Fallingwater, which was known to Mr. and Mrs. Hagan through their friendship with the Kaufmanns. The Hagans became very interested in Wright's work, and when they wanted to build a house of their own, it was to him that they applied for their design. Consequently, Wright's two houses lie at no great distance from each other, and on a clear day one can see from Kentuck Knob the Kaufmann barn in the upland fields on the other side of the Yough valley.

Despite their geographical nearness, the two houses are completely different in site, outlook and construction, and the two varying aspects of Wright's genius make an interesting study in comparison and contrast.

One of the most memorable characteristics of nineteenth-century Romanticism was a love for high places. Mountain climbing, another facet of the Romantic spirit, first became widely popular after 1800, and the seduously cultivated passion for remote eyries and castled crags found its last maniacal expression in Hitler's Berchtesgaden. The castle image is almost indissolubly connected with heights, and even today so persistent is the theme that any house built upon a hill may well retain some vestigial remnants of castled walls. Wright was intensely the Romantic, and something of the ancient walled vision remains in the Hagan house despite the general modernity of the design.

The way to the house is something of an adventure in itself. The road climbs steadily up from the river gorge, through solemnly wooded steeps, across a narrow bridge over Cucumber Falls, to emerge among windswept upland pastures. Here we pass into the gravel drive of the Kentuck Knob estate, and again we climb steadily among small plantations of conifers. Suddenly the drive swings widely outward onto a stone balustraded causeway, like a narrow bridge, which would seem to indicate the approach to a castle. Far off to the south the mountains lie splendidly in the afternoon light.

The drive ends in a spacious gravel courtyard which is partially surrounded by the long, low masses of the house and the carport. The walls are constructed of a local field stone, golden brown in color, all exposed woodwork—whether exterior or interior—is Tidewater red cypress, and the roofs are sheathed in copper which has oxidized to a silvery tone. The castle image is much fortified



by the polygonal, tower-like structure in the center and the great wall of the podium which supports the living room wing.

The glass front door of the house lies beneath the central tower at the point where the two wings join. As one enters the long living room to the right of the entry, one finds himself beside the fireplace, whose chimney is attached to the side of the tower structure. Here again the hearth with its symbolic fire lies close to the center of Wright's domestic composition; to provide the element of water, there is a pool in the garden outside the bedroom wing.

The living room wing, which is one long unbroken space, is furnished along the court wall with a long continuous sofa, which faces the plate glass expanses of the southern side. Here glass doors open upon the terrace, which is shielded by a cantilevered overhang finished in red cypress. At the far end of the room, opposite the fireplace, is a large built-in "planter" where seasonal displays of plants and flowers can be arranged. The furniture is mostly Danish, but there is a large coffee table by George Nakashima and a wooden screen designed by Wright's secretary. The chief ornament of this elegantly proportioned space is the superb view of the mountains to the south, which forms a kind of vast mural and which emphasizes the Romantic conception of the isolated High Place.

Around the corner from the fireplace is the dining room, which also faces the south and which has an interesting angled table that can be arranged so as to accommodate a number of guests.

Opening into this brightly lit terrace room is the kitchen, which has no exterior windows—only a skylight which consists of a plastic dome like a great eye, the hawk's eye, which seems to stare upward into the limitless sky. The intensity of the admitted light is tempered by a screen of fine metal mesh.

The kitchen, which occupies the central "keep," is the heart of the house and another instance of Wright's philosophy of domestic construction. The polygonal form reinforces the impression of the sacrosanct, and one remembers early Christian baptisteries or even small churches. With the very latest innovations in kitchen equipment and large green plants ranged against its walls, the stone tower seems to be a place sacred to some immemorial god of the hearth.

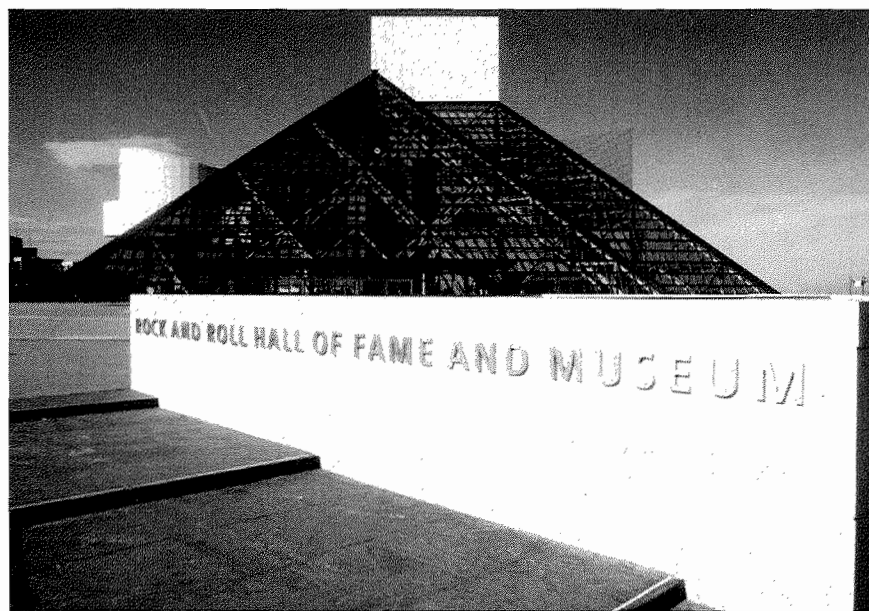
Attached to the tower is another wing (containing three bedrooms and three baths) which burrows into a slight rise in the hill (the very top of the knob), so that anyone standing in the master bedroom, in the end of the wing, looks out through a long narrow ribbon window upon plants and flowers growing at eye level. This garden mound, into which the building locks as if to illustrate Wright's theory of organic growth, balances the lofty stone podium which carries the living room at the other end of the house.

As at Fallingwater, the carports resemble neatly graveled caves. At the end of this range of openings is Mrs. Hagan's studio and a room for pumping machinery. The gardens, pleasantly informal, stretch southward from the house into woodland or rise to the west to overlook the copper roof and the tower.

By day, the view of sky and mountain caught in the hawk's eye seemingly stretches to infinity; by night the stars create a universe of patterned light above the sleeping hills. In this high place there is nothing of the mystery, the intricate, fecund density of Fallingwater; here everything is open, everything serene. Kentuck Knob is a document of the mountains and the sky, as well as another profound and valid Wrightian statement of the life of man in nature.

*For information about visiting the I. N. Hagan house call (412) 329-1901.*

*A detail of the eaves, Kentuck Knob*



*Piet van Lier Photography  
Photos from the collection of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.*

## Rock and Roll

*Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.*

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, designed by I. M. Pei, is a building where form certainly does not follow function. The forms are a sophisticated marriage of those that Pei has become known for: sharp edges and crisp triangles, in this case dramatized by sloping them upward to a pinnacle and sheathing them in panes of glass.

But the function is a museum of Rock and Roll, in which one might expect the forms to suggest the exuberance, the passion, the intensity of feeling, the color, and the personalities associated with Rock and Roll. That does not exist. Pei's monument on the shores of Lake Erie is cool, calculated, and frigid. Moreover, although much of the building is a glass pyramid, the portion facing the lake is a solid V-shaped wall, and the fabulous vistas of the lake that one expects as one enters never appear.

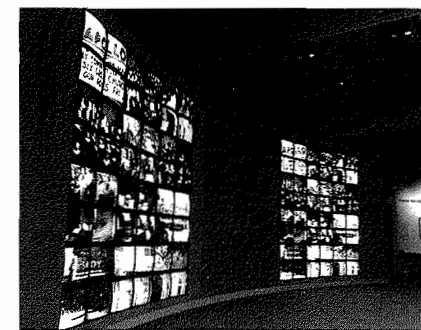
The building consists primarily of a basement with theaters and exhibits, and then a series of irregularly sized floors (triangles) with elusive connections to one another. The circulation "plan" is baffling, and it is difficult to retrace your steps if you wish to return to an area that you had previously visited. By making a spectacle of the pyramidal glassed interior space, an architectural drama occurs that overwhelms the modest exhibits on the upper floors. Some escalators and staircases provide excitement in themselves as they extend out over the great spaces, fun for those who enjoy roller coasters, terrifying for the acrophobe.

In the main gallery area at the lower level, several theaters show nostalgic films, but the gallery is an exercise in frustration. Long lines await the movies and no effort is made to tell you how long the wait may be. After finally seeing the twelve-minute films, you debouch into a gallery area, rich with artifacts including costumes of the great Rock and Roll artists, musical instruments, autographed documents, and a fabulous collection of graphics, but the displays are overwhelmed by television monitors with rapidly changing film clips. The frustration of the movie line-

up is reinforced, since in many cases you cannot enjoy an exhibit without putting on earphones or punching a TV screen, and only one person at a time can do that.

Outside, a large empty plaza confronts the approaching and departing visitor: an expected piece of vacuous modern design, but one that sets the building apart.

For some \$90 million Cleveland has acquired a crisp and outstanding sculptural piece of modern architecture by I. M. Pei. With it, Cleveland has acquired what one visitor called a "glorified scrap book" of the Rock and Roll era. Both engage the mind and Cleveland is lucky to have them, but it is not a true marriage.



*Hal Sata Photography*

Philip Johnson, the architect of PPG Place, said to me recently that in the twenty-first century there will be no sharp corners, and there will be a great deal of color in architecture, as the new visitor center at his glass house in Connecticut (now owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation) indicates. Would that he had bestowed that message on Cleveland because color and curvilinear shapes would have been just the ticket for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. It would have greatly enhanced the vibrancy and the potency of the museum.

## Tours and Special Events

Call Mary Lu Denny, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at (412) 471-5808, for more information on the following tours and special events. Members will be mailed invitations to each event containing detailed information—so sort through your mail carefully! Mark these dates on your calendar now, so you can tour the Pittsburgh area and neighboring cities with Landmarks.

August 3 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
August 4 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
A “Downtown Dragons” family walking tour.

August 11 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
A bus tour of several historic homes in Pittsburgh’s East End.

September 6-8  
A weekend bus tour to Buffalo, New York.

September 29 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
A neighborhood walking tour of the West End.

October 6 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
A walking tour through Allegheny Cemetery in Lawrenceville.

October 26 Noon to 3:00 p.m.  
A luncheon and lecture concerning the preservation of the National Cathedral and grounds in Washington, D.C.

November 18 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.  
1996 Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation by F. Blair Reeves, F.A.I.A. His topic will be “Preservation Issues in Nantucket.”

December 15 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.  
A holiday ethnic church tour to Homestead and Wilksburg.

## Education Classes

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

**Pittsburgh’s Architectural Treasures, Part 1**  
Thursday, October 3 and Saturday, October 5

Offered through Pitt’s Informal Program. Please call (412) 648-2560 to register.

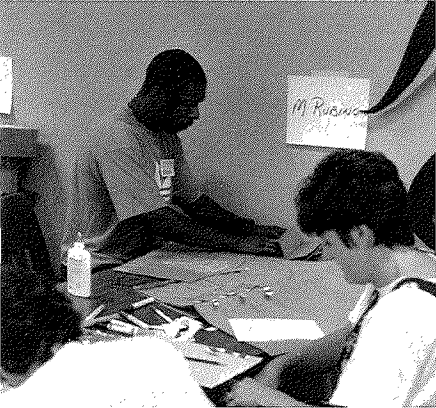
**Caring for Your Historic Home**  
Saturdays, October 19 and October 26  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Offered through Pitt’s Informal Program. Please call (412) 648-2560 to register.

## Education News

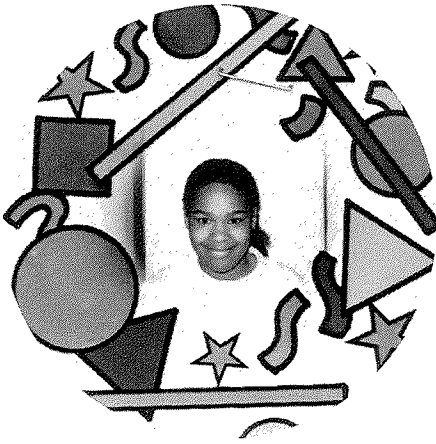


Gateway to Music inservice teachers construct paper-bag buildings.



### Five Teacher Inservices Offered by Landmarks in June and July

About 150 teachers participated in inservice classes offered this summer by Landmarks through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and Gateway to Music and the Performing Arts. In each class, teachers learned about local history and architecture and discussed how the built environment could be used to enrich traditional classroom curricula.



### Howard Slaughter Participates in the Extra Mile Education Foundation Program

Camille Brooks, a sixth-grade student at St. Agnes School, wrote the following thank-you letter to Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks.

*I would like to thank you for donating money to St. Agnes School for books and supplies. I work very hard to get good grades and I try to stay out of trouble, and if someone needs help I help them. You are a very generous person. I know you had to sacrifice a lot for St. Agnes and I thank you.*

Sincerely,

Camille Brooks

Camille Brooks

### Pittsburgh Selected as Pilot Site for National Literacy Program

The Adult Literacy Media Alliance (ALMA), based in New York City, has selected Pittsburgh as one of four cities where it will develop and pilot a television- and video-based adult learning service. The other three cities are El Paso, New York City, and Seattle. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. and Louise Sturgess of Landmarks were part of a group of individuals and organizations that encouraged ALMA to select Pittsburgh as a site for its literacy program. Landmarks looks forward to continuing its involvement with ALMA as the program develops in the coming months.

### Finance Training Seminars Held in May and July

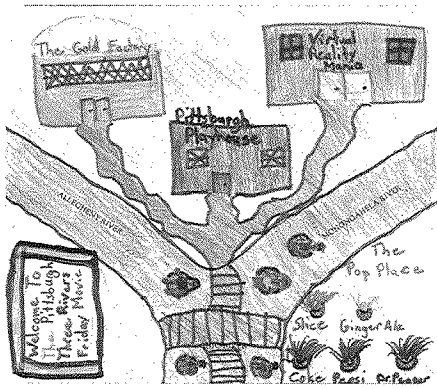
The Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) and Landmarks once again co-sponsored Economic Development Finance Training and Professional Certification Programs (see PHLF News October 1995). These seminars offer professional financial and business courses to representatives from community-based organizations and interested individuals throughout Pittsburgh and surrounding counties. The first seminar this year was held on May 20-24, 1996; the second on July 8-12 at the Sheraton Hotel, Station Square. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, is president of the CTAC board and was pleased to bring these seminars to Pittsburgh.

### Landmarks Docents and Volunteers Continue to Contribute

In April, Landmarks completed a ten-week training session for tour and lecture docents which included classroom sessions, slide shows, bus and walking tours, and rehearsals, rehearsals, rehearsals. We now have a staff of twenty-four docents who are able to lead private group tours of downtown Pittsburgh and surrounding neighborhoods, present illustrated lectures, and conduct field trips for elementary and secondary students interested in Pittsburgh’s history and architecture. The docents are: Bob Bennett, Kathy Brennan, Marian Cook, Mary Eror, Annie Futrell, Bill Garrett, Frances Hardie, Sam Levine, Carol Lewis, John Linden, Bob Loos, Judy McIntyre, Audrey Menke, Rachel Meyers, Myrna Prince, Marion B. Schorr, Helen Simpson, Marjorie Smuts, Ted Soens, Ruth Stauffer, Nancy Stewart, Kathy Testoni, Peg Volkman, and Jack Zierden.

In addition Landmarks has five volunteers who regularly assist the staff with bulk mailings and computer work. They are Katherine Arturo, Dan DeStout, Rose DeStout, Sam Levine, and Dom Magasano.

Landmarks sincerely appreciates the loyal efforts of all volunteers. Without their assistance and hard work we would never be able to accomplish all that we do in our education department. Thank you, volunteers!



After learning about Pittsburgh’s history, students are asked to imagine what the city will be like in fifty years. Rachel Schmitz of McKeesport Central Catholic predicts that Pittsburgh will be called the “Progressive City,” with a gold factory, playhouse, virtual reality mania, movie theater, and pop place.

### Another Successful Year for Portable Pittsburgh

During the 1995-96 school year, *Portable Pittsburgh* was presented in forty-eight elementary schools in Allegheny County. The program reached over 2,800 children in grades three through eight. In addition, nine adult groups requested the *Portable Pittsburgh* program. Attendees of the Duquesne Light Supervisory Association education night on February 6 said they had an “excellent evening” and the “artifacts made a huge impression on everyone.” Two hundred people attended the meeting!

Currently, there are sixteen docents who willingly pack up—and unpack—dozens of historic Pittsburgh photos and artifacts to tell the story of our city’s history and architecture to school children and adults. We greatly appreciate the tireless efforts of our docents.

If you would like to reserve *Portable Pittsburgh* for your class or group, please call Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808.

### Membership Tours Feature Pittsburgh and Its Neighborhoods

Our 1996 membership tour season is well underway. In spite of the rain, 115 people attended the downtown weekday walking tours sponsored in May by Landmarks during National Preservation Week. Office workers from the downtown area joined our docents, as well as residents from the suburbs, and out-of-towners from as far away as Singapore!

Forty-one members toured Garfield on May 19; Margaret Henderson Floyd led 27 people on a bus tour of Carnegie Libraries designed by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow on June 1; a full bus load of 47 members toured six private gardens in the East End on June 11 with Barry Hannegan; and 85 members and friends toured the South Side on June 19. In July and early August, tour groups visited Old Economy and The Merrick Art Gallery; Woodland Road and Chatham College; and downtown Pittsburgh on a family walking tour.

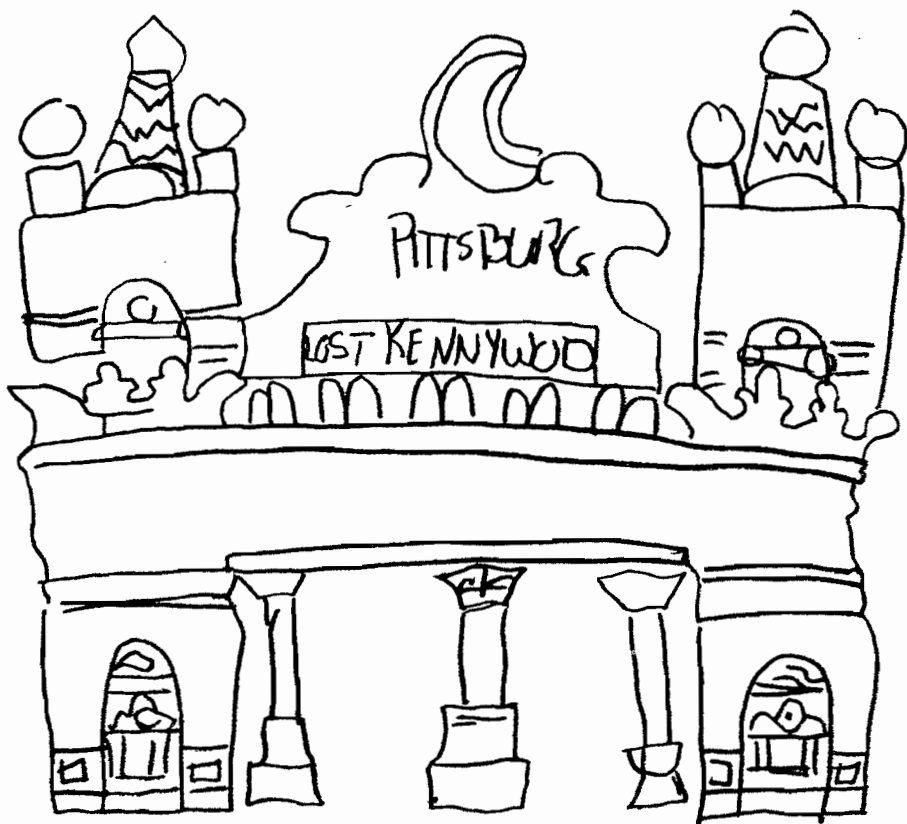
If you haven’t yet attended a tour offered by Landmarks, sign up for one of our fall events.

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

Published by Landmarks in 1995 through the support of Dollar Bank, copies of *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar* have been given to U.S. Embassies in Africa.



## “Architects” at Kennywood Park



Sixteen schools—and more than 200 students—participated in Landmarks’ “30-Minute Kennywood Architect” program on May 9. The students completed a series of worksheets designed by architect David Roth and Louise Sturgess of Landmarks that required them to read a site plan, draw building details, and design new buildings or amusement rides for Lost Kennywood.

Several students were intrigued by the decorative fish ornament on the fountain (as evidenced by the drawings above)

and many wild ideas for new attractions were proposed. Among them: a mechanically inclined swing for the elderly, allowing them a slow and comfortable ride; a contraption that would slingshot you onto a trampoline; a cannon that would shoot a person onto a net; a “Big Claw” that would hold you, rotate you, and squirt you with water; and a ride that would take you past a 100-year-old building that would demolish itself right before your eyes and rebuild itself before the next people arrived, only to crumble again.

### LANDMARKS Welcomes

BLUE CROSS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
ELLWOOD GROUP, INC.  
NATIONAL CITY BANK  
OXFORD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY  
PNC BANK, N.A.

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

*Landmarks appreciates the  
commitment of these corporate members  
in helping us create a future for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.*



Docents Gene Gianni (left) and Charles Specht welcome visitors to the Neville House.

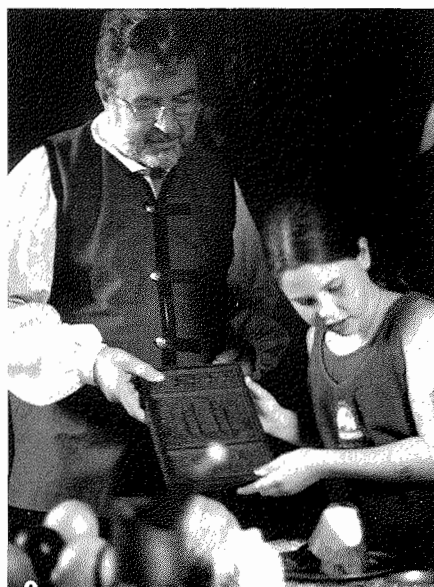
## Summer Sundays at the Neville House

Throughout the summer, the historic Neville House in Collier Township is open to the public Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you have not yet had a chance to visit this National Historic Landmark, plan on doing so any Sunday through September. Volunteer guides, dressed in costumes, escort visitors through the house and tell about the Neville, Wrenshall, and Faucet families who lived there from c. 1785 to 1976 when the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation acquired the endangered house.

The Neville House is about twenty minutes southwest of Pittsburgh. Follow the Parkway West (Route 279) to Route 79 South, and take Kirwan Heights exit 12. Turn left on Route 50 (Washington Pike), and the Neville House is within one half-mile on the left.



*In April and May, a new foundation was installed under the rear section of the Neville House. Workmen had to dig under the c. 1820 addition to the original house where only a very crude foundation had existed, repair damaged wood, and add concrete block, stone, insulation, and a vapor barrier. The house was also made handicap accessible, with the addition of ramps on the back porch.*



Docent Gene Gianni and Dru Sturgess, in the Neville House kitchen.

\$20

CAN HELP

- Save small towns
- Save your town
- Save downtown

Give a friend a membership in the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

- ☐ Yes, I would like to give the gift of a membership, at the level indicated below:
- ☐ Individual \$20 or more
- ☐ Family \$25 or more
- ☐ Schools and Non-profits \$25 or more
- ☐ Senior Citizen \$10 or more
- ☐ Corporate \$250 or more
- ☐ Life Benefactor \$5,000 or more
- ☐ My check is enclosed, payable to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.
- Please charge the credit card indicated:
- ☐ Visa    ☐ MasterCard
- ☐ Discover    ☐ American Express

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please write the name and address of the person to whom you would like us to send this membership gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form to:

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

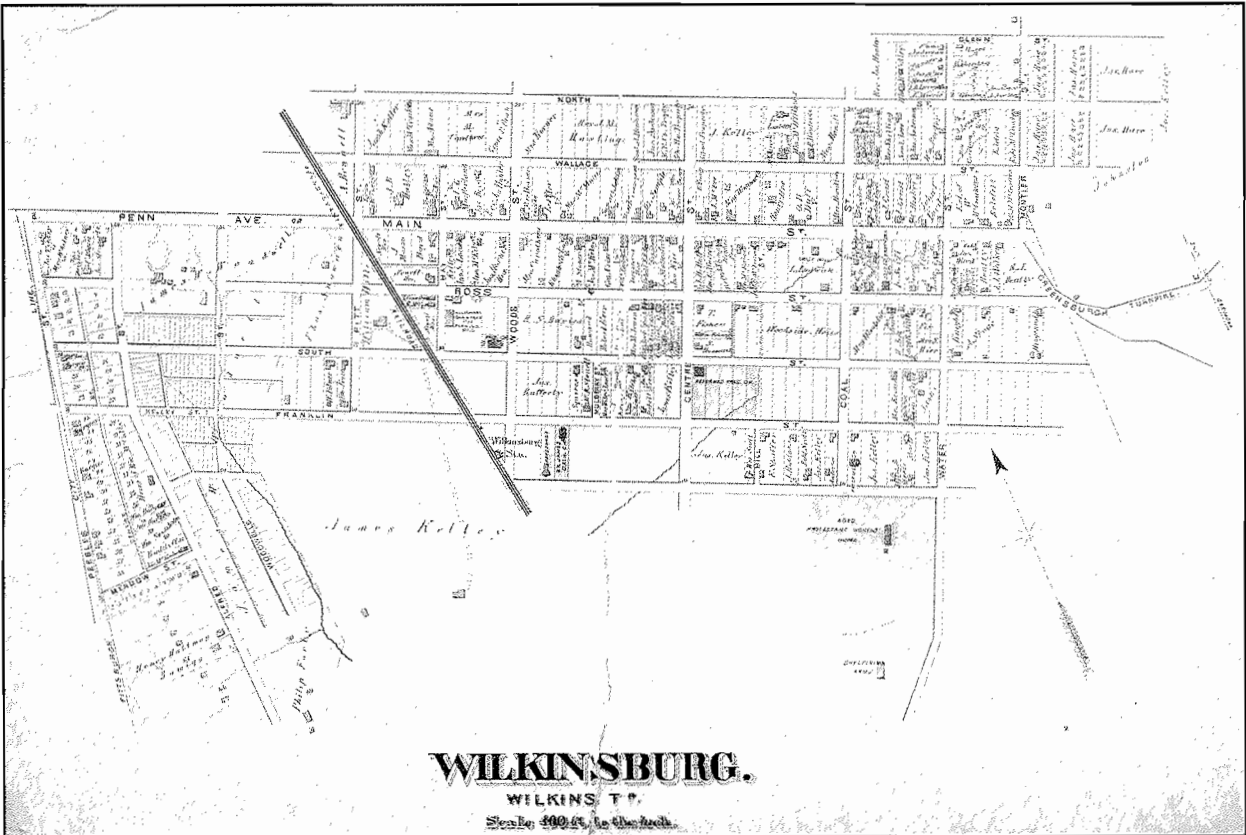
Do You Own an Historic House?

If so, then consider nominating your home for the **Great American Home Award**. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Kohler Co., a leading manufacturer of fine plumbing fixtures, the award is the major contest that specifically recognizes the very best achievements in home rehabilitation across the country.

- Your house must be at least 50 years old.
- It must be designed and still serve as a single-family home or bed and breakfast.
- Categories are: interior, exterior, sympathetic addition, landscape, bed and breakfast.
- Deadline: September 30, 1996.

For further information call or write:

Great American Home Awards  
National Trust  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202/673-4283



Wilksburg in 1876

A New Resource

We have noted before that in our Hopkins real-estate and Sanborn fire-insurance atlases we have magnificent resources for historical research, though their virtue is hidden under the honorable scars of up to a century of office experience. Recently we were given another such veteran, its cover faded, its binding absolutely shot, not all its maps present. And yet G. M. Hopkins' *Atlas of the County of Allegheny, Penna.*, published in 1876, affords probes into the past of our architecture and development that we have heretofore not been able to make. The book begins with a map of the United States in which Oklahoma is Indian Territory and there is only one Dakota. Then follows a

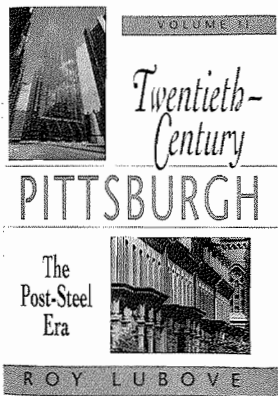
general account of the county and its communities. General maps of Pennsylvania and the county follow, and "warrant plans" whatever those are. The cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny follow, all streets and railroad stations shown, names familiar and unfamiliar to us moderns in strange juxtaposition. Then follow the township maps. In Wilkins Township, Wilksburg has a "proposed" city line, and the Edgar Thomson works, one year in operation, is clearly shown. East Pittsburgh does not exist, but Turtle Creek does. McKeesport has a few small industrial plants but is not yet the Tube City. At Verona, the austere map-only format is interrupted by a line cut of the Second Empire town hall. Homestead is an irregular area of small lots, and where we might expect the Homestead Works to be is an almost featureless property belonging to Dickson & Birchfield.

A 250-acre development called Wildwood exists, on paper at least, a few miles down the Allegheny from Verona. Its extremely fancy street plan, it is claimed, is the work of "skillful engineers, aided by a landscape gardener of the first ability [unnamed]."

In the Allegheny County of 1876, industry is a small-scale affair, formidable mainly in the clustering of little plants in Pittsburgh and Allegheny and the sporadic nuisances of coke ovens elsewhere. The integrated plants, miles long, are un contemplated, and the industrial towns are still villages when they exist at all. It is a different world, from our modern perspective largely a blank waiting to be filled in.

The *Atlas of Allegheny County* is a generous gift of Carol Bradley and Landmarks docent Cam Witherspoon.

Book Reviews



**Twentieth-Century Pittsburgh**  
Roy Lubove. Volume 1: *Government, Business, and Environmental Change*. 1969. ix + 189 pp., illus. Volume 2: *The Post-Steel Era*. 1996. xiii + 413 pp., illus. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press. \$19.95 each.

These two books are intensively detailed summaries of the history of the Pittsburgh area, especially as affected by the mechanisms of business, philanthropy, and government that have been in operation here for the past century. The overall story is one of a groggy climb out of chaos in the first half of this century to the visible triumphs of the second, though with warnings to us of the latter days that quality can be

endangered by sweeping urbanistic decisions. Lubove's treatment of Landmarks in this regard is prolonged and friendly. A remarkable aspect, almost uncanny at this time, is how contemporary much of Volume 2 is. Lubove died only recently, and he must have been revising to the end of his strength. To sum up, this is the book about twentieth-century Pittsburgh.

The Penny in the Steel City: 150 Years of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Pittsburgh

Ken Kobus and Jack Consoli. Published by the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society, P.O. Box 389, Upper Darby, Pa. 19082. 86 pp. \$18.00.

This is a very good little book on its subject, the octopus-like Pennsylvania Railroad and its subsidiaries operating out of Pittsburgh: the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railway; the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad; the Pittsburgh, Virginia & Charleston Railway; the Western Pennsylvania Railroad; and the Allegheny Valley Railway. The historic text is brief, but about 300 well-captioned historic photographs of stations, yards, switch and signal towers, locomotives, and rolling stock are the real meat of the book.

Jan Kallensee



During April and May, Landmarks served as host to Jan Kallensee from Potsdam, Germany. Jan and his father are master craftsmen who restore and rebuild architectural elements and

furniture. Their work can be seen in palaces in the Berlin area such as the Sanssouci Palace (1745-47) built by Frederick the Great as well as in various European art museums. Currently they are restoring furniture of the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl.

During his two months at Landmarks, Jan improved his English while volunteering to repair and restore some of our antique furniture. He stayed at the historic Allegheny West home of education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks, visited the Conservation Department at The Carnegie Museum of Art, and traveled to Cleveland, New York, and Washington, D.C.

His engaging personality and prodigious skill and discipline impressed us all. Jan now has many American friends who say *Auf Wiedersehn!* We hope for his return next spring.



# PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE:

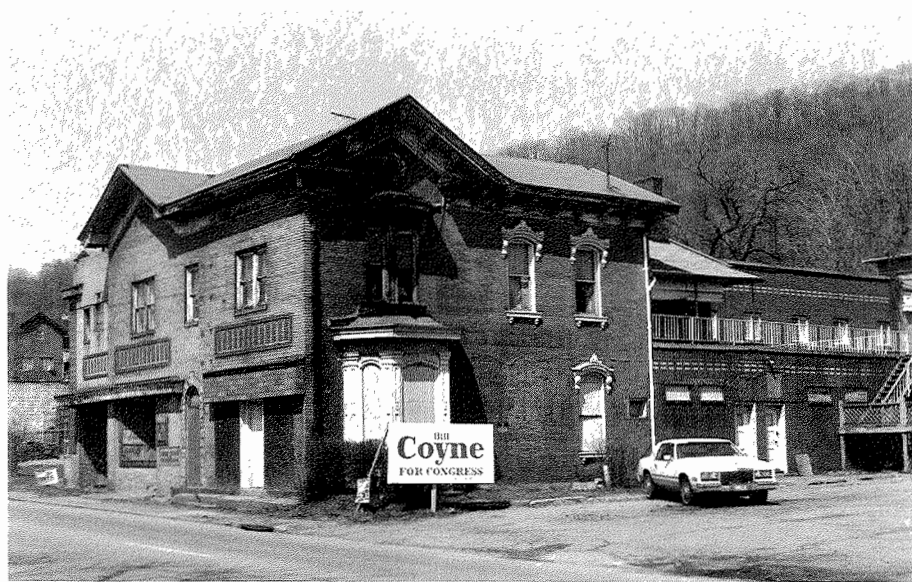
## *House of Indecision*

Walter C. Kidney

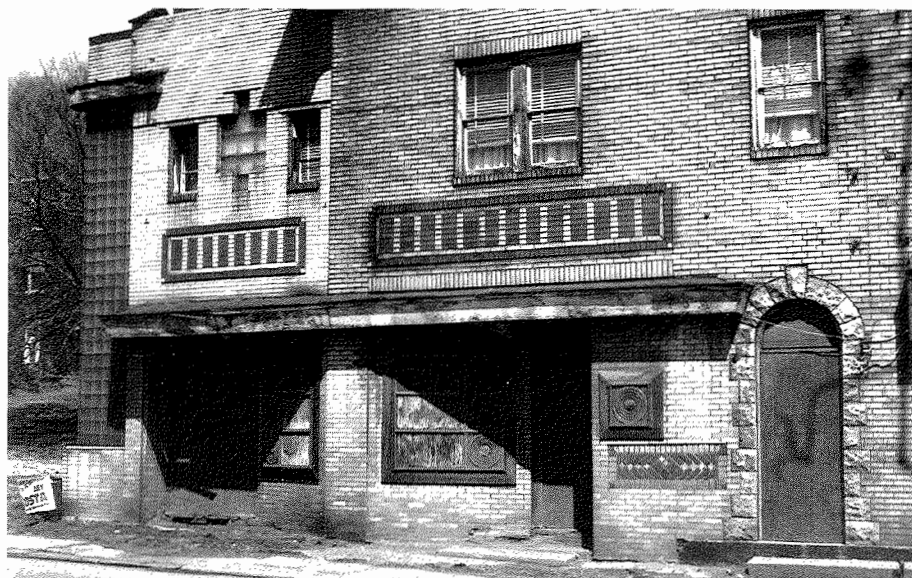


Second Avenue front: Italianate struggling to escape from Modernistic.

Travelers along Second Avenue near the Hazelwood Coke Plant may have been bemused now and then by what started out around 1870 as a decent, ordinary red-brick Second Empire house: then underwent a confused conversion experience, around 1940 perhaps, that involved yellow brick, tawny brick, red brick, white brick, and glass block into a sort of Modernistic refacing from which the Victorian roofline struggled to escape. Then, more recently, had some of its woodwork painted cream and pale blue. At some point, too, a rock-faced masonry arch was let into the road front. Nothing much seems to have happened lately, and the house just sits there looking exhausted.



Victorian origins exposed.



The rock-faced doorway: a Romanesque episode?

CONTRIBUTE  
to the publication of 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 now for several years but is still much in demand. Our staff is now updating the contents of the original publication and commissioning new color and black-and-white photographs. Upon publication in the spring of 1997, *Landmark Architecture* will be the most comprehensive account of the architecture of this region and will identify more than 600 historic sites worthy of preservation.

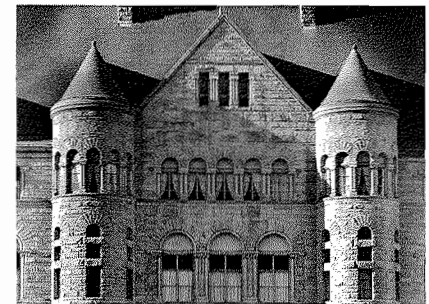


Photo by Clyde Hare

If we are able to raise funds to support the publication of the book, we can price the book at about \$45.

All contributors will be acknowledged in the book itself and invited to the book release party. Your contribution will ensure a quality publication with hundreds of handsome photographs. Please contribute by filling out the form below:

- ☐ Yes, I am (we are) making a contribution to *Landmark Architecture* in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_. My (our) check is enclosed, payable to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and referenced to "LA Book."

I (we) understand that this contribution will be used to support the book's publication and does not entitle me (us) to a free copy of the book upon publication.

I (we) would like my (our) name(s) to be printed in the contributor's list in the book as follows:

(please print your name clearly)

Please mail this completed form with your contribution to:

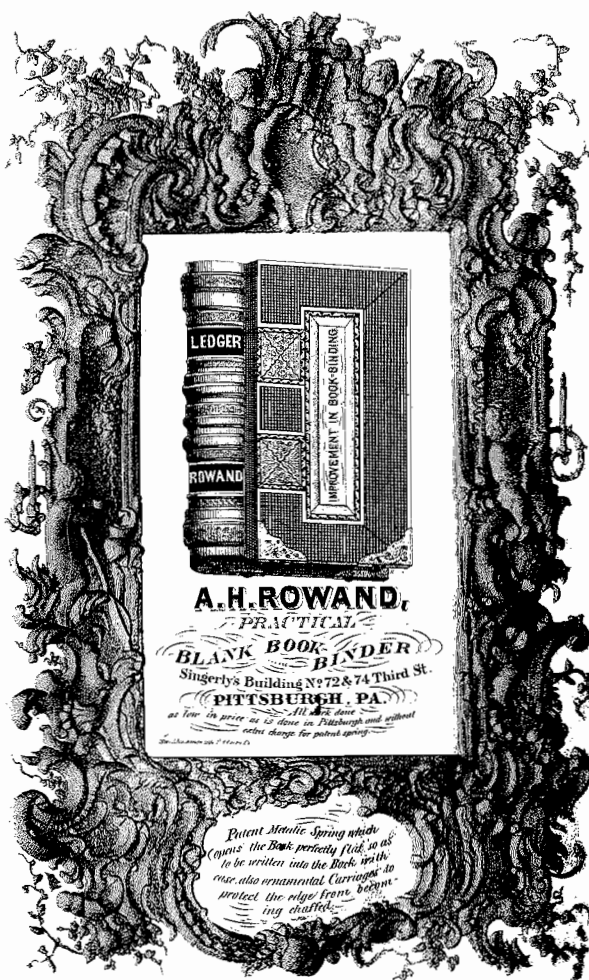
Louise Sturgess  
Pittsburgh History &  
Landmarks Foundation  
One Station Square, Suite 450  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

*Thank you very much for  
your contribution!*

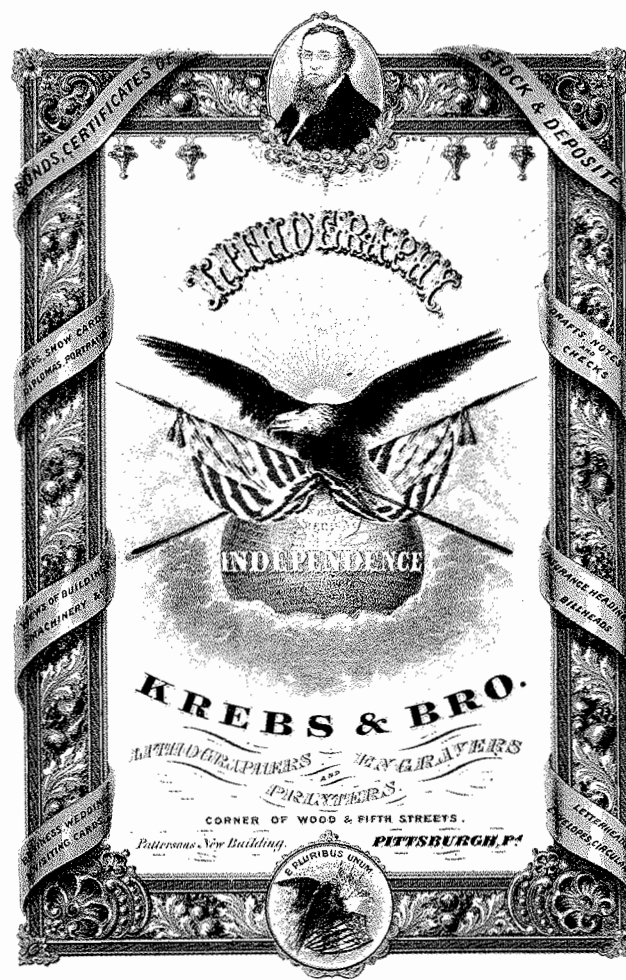
"A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement." (as required by PA Act 202)



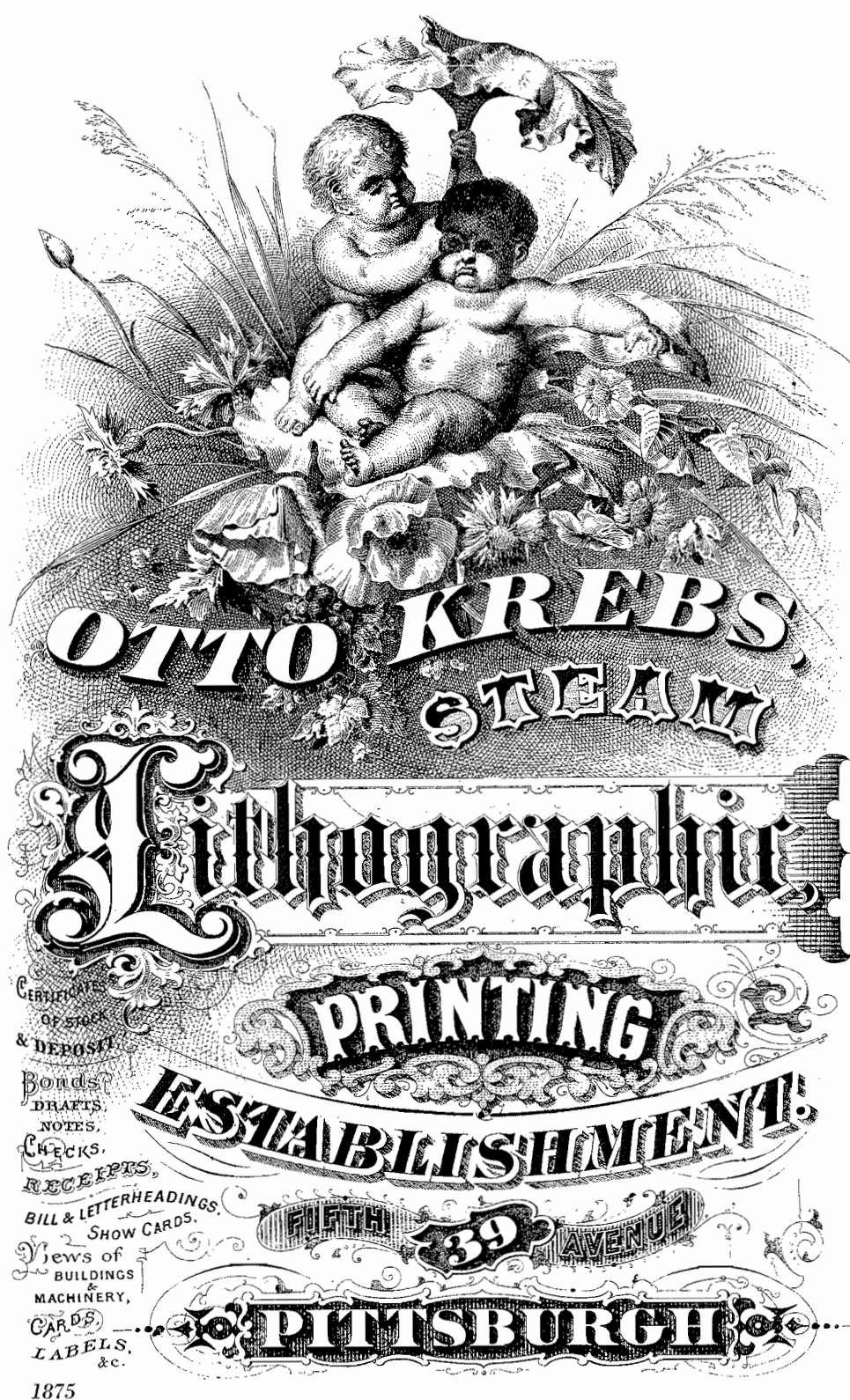
Landmarks has a virtually complete run of Pittsburgh city directories from 1857 through 1970, as well as a facsimile edition of the 1815 directory, the 1837 directory, and Fahnestock's Directory of 1850. All this is basic research material, as are our Hopkins real-estate and Sanborn fire-insurance atlases. A fringe benefit of the directories, too often brushed past in the search for names, is the Victorian advertising art scattered through the pages: fantastic display type in abundance, occasional figurative art. Halftone, coming in around 1890, effectively killed all this Victorian ingenuity.



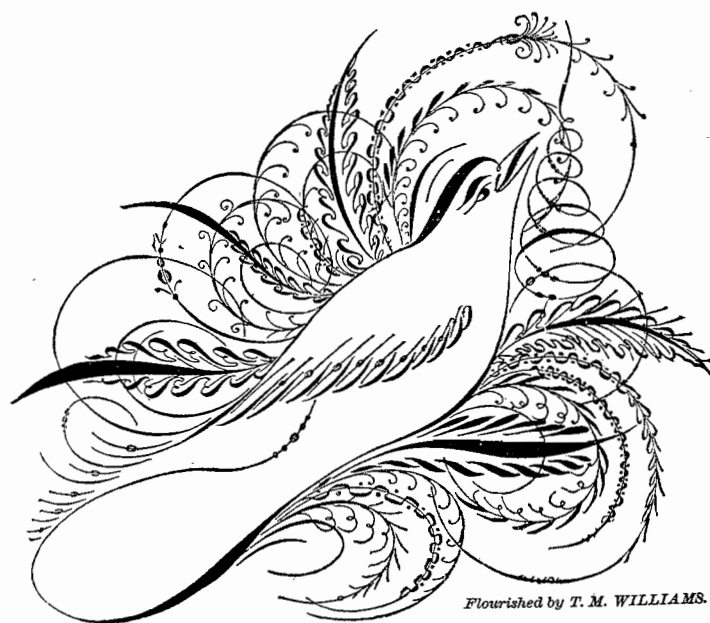
1863



1858



1875



1881



1899