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 identify 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) 471-5908 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 region. 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) 471-5908 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."
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.

Darlene Abel
JoAnn Adams
J.J. Airell
James H. Alexander and family
Alle-Kiski Valley Historical Society
M. Giora Anderson
Nancy Armstrong
Katherine Artoo
Dr. Wilton B. Barbour
M. & Mrs. Alfred D. Barber
Judy and Byron Baird
Karen and Jay E. Bank and family
Jen Besl and family
Mrs. Maria Blaisdell
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Brennan and family
Adam B. Bundle
Carolyn Byham
Charleroi Senior High School
Mrs. James F. Compton
Christine Z. Cooly
Marian W. Cook and family
Barbara J. Cope
John J. Crowley
Dolores Cypher
Robert A. Davis
Judith A. Dieterle
Jane Downing
Cathy Dressler
Joel S. Dodds
Mrs. J. Murray Egan
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Evans City School
Donald J. Fiala
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Ferrey
Dr. & Mrs. George M. Fitting
Keith Forrest and family
Mary Fstrom
Franklin Elementary School
Elenor H. Friedland
Janet Ghibbus
Jennie Gallitzer
Glenn and Rose Gier
Dr. Elaine Gerz and family
John and Eve Gibbs
Bernadette P. Grabowski
Stephen C. Graffan
Pat Grobb
Suzanne and Terry Grunneberg
Edward H. Hartman
Franklin C. and Marlene Rae Hensel
The Historical Society of Indiana County
The Holsinger Family

Welcome Corporate Members

Benefactors
Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania
Ellwood Group, Inc.
National City Bank
Oxford & Baldwin Deposit Company
PNC Bank, N.A.

Patrons
Alpen, Rosenthal & Company

Partners
Bruce Plastics, Inc.
Dick Enterprises, Inc.

The Brashhear Fund is Established

David and Janet Brashhear 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. Brashhear’s employer, the Federal National Mortgage Association, through the Fannie Mae Foundation. The Brashhears have pledged additional grants to Landmarks that will enable the Fund to grow significantly through the years. Mr. and Mrs. Brashhear 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 Brashhear Fund. “The Brashhears would like the focus of their fund to vary from time to time. Initially, at their request, the Brashhear Fund will support our efforts to preserve and restore historic buildings in the Golden Triangle area, a program under study for some time. The Brashhear’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 Brashhear 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) 471-5908. 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 Hofstott.
• 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 post-card (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. Center, for a donation to the Neville House in memory of Frank E. Richardson, Jr.
• Daniel Holtzland, for donating a membership in Landmarks to a student participating in the Peabody High School Attendance Improvement program.

The Zoo at Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa.
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.

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 Boward B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, for further details: (412) 471-5008.

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.

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 Allegheny 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

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.

Kenneth 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 Landmarks, is leading a campaign 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 combating 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 Historical 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 Muncie, and the W. A. Young machine shop in Greensburg, 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.

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 freeze 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.

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.

The Committee is soliciting help from citizens throughout the Commonwealth, and is asking for all 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

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 studies. 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 salvaging 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 duly 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 venturersome local architects Kiehnel & Elliott, and affords to both the Arts and Crafts movement and the Prairie School in its brick, terra-cotta, and wood desiring. 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 682-5085. 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 Old Airport Terminal
Proposals come and go for the old airport terminal of 1939 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 Giglia. The exterior view has in the foreground the jets and floodlights of the axial fountain. The interior is of the main terminal building.

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
Landmark Architecture: On the Road

Walter C. Kidney

In 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, 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.
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 Malos McKenna Foundation, Inc.
The Walden Trust
G. Whitney Snyder Charitable Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Leopold Adler II
Charles Coventry Anderson, in memory of Gay Hays Arenberg
Nancy and Paul Beck
Virginia P. Beagley
Jeanne and Richard Berdik
Mr. & Mrs. Allen H. Berkman
Sherley T. Blaxter
Mr. & Mrs. William Block, Sr.
Ms. & Mrs. Kenneth S. Boreel
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Bookman
Chains H. Booth, Jr.
Susan S. Brandt
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Brobeck
Carl Wood Brown
Catherine and Stuart Burstein
C. Dana Chalfant
Harvey Childs, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Davis, Jr.
Patricia J. Denhart
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Propst

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 1991. 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

For almost all its history, Frederick Law Olmsted’s Boston metropolitan park 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 Plain 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 hither-sleeker 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 diversion, 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.

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 if 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 1899 and recorded that public land already surrounding the reservoirs at Heron 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 price-lying 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 stated 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. Plans books of around 1900 indicate an extension of Beechwood across Fifth, but the continuation of the Boulevard is left unspecified. For a time, fee section of Beechwood Boulevard between the Greentree Bridge and Forbes Avenue was renamed in honor of William Pitt.

In that same report for 1899, 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...
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.
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.

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 panoramas 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.
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.

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 5

iron 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, emerging 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 display the ideas about the treatment of important sites in the public landscape. The nineteen or so acres that made 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 Donon 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, depressive trappings of Bigelow's older standard of design. Olmsted may also have been responding to the increased urbanity of the Belt 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 redesigning of the ravine. Significant, 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 sensations. When new, the necklace provided a continuous 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 intimacy with neighborhoods and buildings of the district, 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 report to close Bigelow Boulevard for the block between Forbes and Fifth transends our normal American indifference to history and achieves pious barbarism. The closure is not a new idea, 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 remedial step short of the unacceptable closing of the Boulevard might be found. Establishing different and separate routes for various kinds of traffic has, in the past, been found to be a reasonable technique at least since it was used by the estate Olmsted in Central Park. Would a bridge or a tunnel linking the Pitt Union 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 give Oakland and the University another distinguishing landmark and would provide a valuable example of the knowledge and reconciliation of past achievement and present need.
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 longest 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 arm 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?

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.

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

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Call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808 for details.
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 Kentuck Knob, 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 grandeur of the Yough gorge. The arching glance of that far-ranging bird above suggests the depths of sky that stretch above those high places known locally as knobs.

From Tharp's 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 gorges lie.

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 sense the hilltop house grew out of Fallingwater, which was known to Mr. and Mrs. Hagan through their friendship with the Kaufmanns. The Hagens 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 to 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 sedulously 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

The Hagan house

By James D. Van Trump

PHLF News • August 1996

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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)

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.

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- Life Benefactor $5,000 (one-time gift)

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A detail of the eaves, Kentuck Knob

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 sarsacament; 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 narrows 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 masonry, 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 carpets 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 southwest from the house into woodland or rise 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, focused 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.

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 whose 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 planes 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 coagulated staircases provide enclosures 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 debranch 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 graphs, 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 avant-garde modern design, but one that sets the building apart. For some 400 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.

Philip Johnson, the architect of PPG Place, saucis 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 kick 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.
A “Downtown Dragons” family walking tour.

**August 4**
2:00 to 4:00 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 5:30 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 lecture and tour 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 Wilkinsburg.

**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**
Saturday, 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**

**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

**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.

**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 Eroq, Annie Fareull, Bill Garrett, Frances Finkle, Sam Levine, Carol Lewis, John Linden, Bob Loos, Judy McIntyre, Audrey Menke, Rachel Meyers, Myrna Prince, Marion B. Schorr, Helen Simpson, Mayjorie 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 DeBout, Rose DeGout, 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 Preservation Department. Thank you, volunteers! 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.

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 3,200 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 Neighbors

Our 1996 membership tour season is well underway. In spite of the rain, 113 people attended the downtown weekdays walking tour 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 Hannagen; and 83 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.

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

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 1916 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 Kierwan Heights exit 12. Turn left on Route 56 (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. 1829 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.
$20 CAN HELP

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- Save your town
- Save downtown

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Please mail this completed form to:
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Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
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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

A New Resource

We have noted before that in our Hopkins real estate and Sunbeam 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 E. 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 Pennsylvania and the county follow, 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, Wilkinsburg 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 autumn's 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 & Burchfield.

A 250-acre development called Wildwood exists, on paper at least, a few miles down the Allegheny from Verona. Its extremely fancy street plan, whatever those are, is claimed, is the work of "skillful engineers, added by a landscape gardener of the first ability" (unnamed). In the Allegheny County of 1876, industry is a small-scale affair, formidable masonry in the clustering of small plants in Pittsburgh and Allegheny and the sporadic nuisances of coke ovens elsewhere. The integrated plants, miles long, are uncontemplated, 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.

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 Wiedersehen! We hope for his return next spring.
PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE: 
House of Indecision
Walter C. Kidney

Travellers 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.

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.

If we are able to raise funds to support the publication of the book, we can prize 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(s) 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 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement, as required by PA Act 2001.
From the Library:

Directory Advertising Art

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.