

PHLF NEWS

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 144

November 1996

- The Clarion Report
- Schenley Plaza: Place of Dreams
- Pittsburgh Architecture: A Few Finds

Firstside Preservation Council Forms

A group of property owners and business people from the Firstside area along Fort Pitt Boulevard and downtown Pittsburgh have united in forming the Firstside Preservation Council to oppose the location near by of the proposed Wabash Bridge of the Port Authority.

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has been opposing the development of this bridge and in fact the entire transit mode associated with it, which is buses. We have steadily recommended rail transit that would utilize the existing light-rail system downtown and abandoned rail lines toward the Airport, with a stop at Station Square and stops in the appropriate towns along the way. (See *PHLF News*, December 1993, for a complete evaluation of the bridge.)

The Firstside Council feels that it may be impossible to oppose the transit plan that is dependent on buses, but feels that the bridge should be relocated either to Grant Street or Stanwix Street. Both locations were seriously evaluated by the Port Authority Transit, the City, and Landmarks, and rejected for a variety of reasons.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of this enormous bridge (as tall as the Sheraton Hotel) landing near the delicate historic architecture along Fort Pitt Boulevard, and around Market Street and First Avenue. We are concerned, too, about preserving the great view of Pittsburgh from the Fort Pitt Bridge. But the answer is not to relocate the bridge where it creates other unfortunate results. The answer is to develop light rail from downtown to the Airport using the existing transit bridges, namely the Smithfield Street and Panhandle Bridges.

It is tragic that as much as \$500 million may be spent on upgrading existing roads, the Fort Pitt Bridge, and the busway, and that when all is said and done there will not be one more highway lane in or out of the city and there will be no transit connection directly from downtown to the Airport. We're spending a half-billion dollars in order to stay put.

Regional Transit Group Formed

Under the direction of the Allegheny County Commissioners, the Port Authority has just established a "Planning and Technology Group" composed of members of the Board of the Port Authority and organizational and citizen representatives. The group will divide into committees and produce recommendations for a regional transit plan including routes that will tie the outlying areas to the city and city residents to job growth areas, and that will also make recommendations about technology. After reviewing all of the possibilities, it will develop a funding and implementation plan. This wise move will, for the first time, take a comprehensive look at all of the possibilities of transit planning, its possible contribution to our region's growth, and the significance of linking jobs, neighborhoods, shopping, and attractions on a totally modern system. Ronald J. Tarquinio of the Port Authority Board chairs the group. Arthur Ziegler of Landmarks will serve on the Route Planning Committee, and Cathy Broucek will serve on the Technology Committee.

Fort Pitt Boulevard, from Station Square.



Photo by Clyde Hare

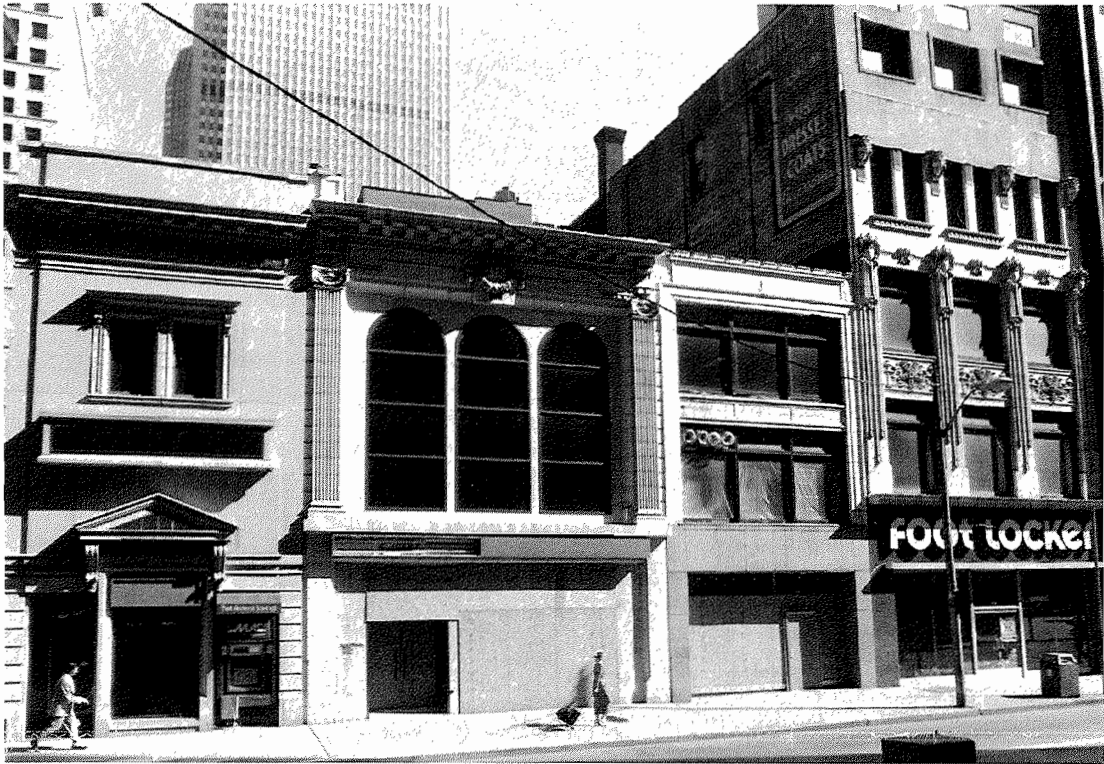


Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

Left to right: the Third National Bank of 1904, by D. H. Burnham & Co. and/or Alden & Harlow; 520 and 518 Wood Street, from early in this century; and 514 Wood Street, Art Nouveau of 1903, crudely heightened. At the far right, the slipcovered Farmers Bank Building.

Lazarus Arising

In "Preservation Scene" in the January issue of *PHLF News* we announced the impending demolition of downtown buildings on Fifth Avenue, Wood Street, and Oliver Avenue designed by notable architects Alden & Harlow and D. H. Burnham & Company among others to make way for a new Lazarus department store. Lazarus' parent company, Federated Department Stores, Inc., has approved a design for its Pittsburgh store and demolition is under way. For the record, we present some details of the building fronts yielding place to the new Lazarus store and assess the proposed design.

The Lazarus Site

The primary material in the unremodeled portions of these commercial fronts, which date from the early years of this century, is white or cream terra cotta, though gray granite and red brick figure to some extent. At the end of September, the architects of the new Lazarus department store were preparing estimates to see whether some of this decorative detailing could be applied to major interior spaces of the new store.

Two buildings to come down are visually extinct even now. The Farmers Deposit National Bank of 1902, a work of Alden & Harlow, was never a very unified composition, but it was vivid in its red-and-white coloring and lavish in its ornamentation that included marble caryatids by John Massey Rhind. Annexed to this on Oliver Avenue was a very different work, the White Dog Cafe, again by Alden & Harlow, tile-hung and Anglophile. The Farmers Bank Building was slipcovered in gray-brown sheet metal around 1970 and is now known as 301 Fifth Avenue; the White Dog Cafe building, at 308 Oliver Avenue, was refronted twice.

(continued on page 20)



The Farmers Bank Building when new.



The White Dog Cafe.

PH 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.

- Athena Ansevin
Baldwin-Whitehall School District
Jane A. Bauer
Denton Beal
Roger Beal
Linda M. Romito Bobich
Pat Boes
Joan Bollinger
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence F. Booth
and family
David Boulos
Arthur J. Brickner
J. Curtis Brown and son
Cynthia Carrow and James R. Kyper
Mr. & Mrs. Jarvis B. Cecil
Claire A. Conaway
Bridget Conway
Marlene Cornelius
Sean Corrigan
Marion Dammock
John J. Donovan III and family
Steve Dora and family
Aurora J. Duhon
East Hills ISA
Doris B. Ely
David T. Fraley
Tessa Frank
Elizabeth Gallman
Robert R. Garvey, Jr.
Gateway Senior High School
Geoffrey H. Goldberg
Dr. & Mrs. Louis Goldszer
Cathy R. Gordon

Mr. & Mrs. David Herr
Mrs. Patricia F. Hetrick
Sandra Hienz
Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo A. Hill and family
Hill Community Development Corporation
Historical Society of Brentwood
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Hopkins
and family
Marcus Jackson
Lora H. Jenkins
Frank Kaptein
Peter and Maria Kern
B. J. Leber
David Levy
Gretchen Lewis
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Likavec
and family
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Markowitz
Melinda McGee
Dennis McGeehan
Elizabeth P. McLean
Harold D. Miller
Sarah Mischelovich
Richard Montana
Betty and John Moraca
Gregory J. Mucha
Mary K. Narvin
Jessica Nathans
John Nedley
Marilyn Newman
Bonnie Opsal
Marilyn Painter
Shirley Pajak
Robert Pasquarelli
Pittsburgh Sports & Festival Federation
Preservation Press
Rosalia Procyk
Ward Ranson
Patricia E. Raschiatore
Donald Reed and Marjorie Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. Keith S. Reisinger
Mr. & Mrs. E. F. Rodgers
Henriette Rougraff
Rick St. John
Faye Schwartz
Seneca Valley School District
Lori Shaw
Jon Shimm
Masato Sugiura
Elinor Szuch
Mrs. Dale Tahtinen
Mr. & Mrs. Louis M. Tarasi, Jr.
Elizabeth Taylor
Mary Ann and Lee Templeton
Mildred Thorwart
Douglas Trumpower
Shirley Tucker
Greg Turczyn
Karen and Eric Vidra
Joyce and James Walsh
Johnetta Webb
Jocelyn White
Dolores Wilson
Wilda J. Wilson
Dewi Wong

“...It is refreshing to see the Pittsburgh I grew up in being preserved for future generations. I live in Florida ...where ‘old’ means just worn out. Some buildings are worth preserving and are being saved but nothing on the order of Pittsburgh’s past—thank you for your efforts!...”

Sincerely,

Frank Mahoney

Frank Mahoney, August 3, 1996
A member of Landmarks since 1994

- Mary R. Goyette
Robert D. Graham
Diane C. Greco
Marian V. Gremba
Sol N. Gross
Vivien S. Gross
Kai Gutschow and Diane Shaw
Clara Guzik
Don Hammonds
Harrison Middle School
Annie E. Harvey
Elbert Hatley

Welcome Corporate Members

- Benefactor**
The Galbreath Company

Patron
Beckwith Machinery Company

Partners
Allegheny Valley Bank of Pittsburgh
Armstrong Developers & Associates
Bell Atlantic
Burrell Group, Inc.
- Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
Duquesne Light Company
Ferry Electric Company
MBI/McGaughey Buses, Inc.
Sargent Electric Company
A. J. Vater & Company, Inc.
Weinman Pump & Supply Company, Inc.
Westin William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh

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 Pytlík Designer



Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

Inside the Pennsylvanian apartment house, the former Union Station: this was the passenger waiting room.

Thank You for Contributing to Landmark Architecture

We are pleased to acknowledge a recent grant from The Mary Hillman Jennings Foundation to support the publication of a new edition of *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County*, by Walter C. Kidney.

The following members also have contributed recently to the publication of a new edition and we are most appreciative of their support. These contributions will be combined with over 100 others received in the past year from generous members, foundations, and businesses.

- Claire Ashkin
Sanford Baskind
Janet M. and David Brashear

- Renee Marks Cohen
Ann Connelly—O/P/U/S, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. William S. Garrett
Bernard Kent Markwell, Ph.D.
Thomas D. Mullins
Frank L. Stanley
Frederick J. Stevenson, Jr.
Professor Franklin Toker
Lyda Jo B. Trower
David J. Vater

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 6 of this newsletter. This is our final call for contributions!

Contributions

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks Natalie and Mike Friedberg for contributions in honor of Mrs. Elizabeth Gallman’s special birthday and in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Goldszer’s anniversary.

Gifts Donated to the Neville House

Robert E. Cotten of New Brighton, PA recently donated a handsomely framed eighteenth-century map of America to Landmarks. The map will be hung in the Neville House, a historic property of c. 1785 owned by Landmarks.

Mrs. Dale S. Mudge of Camden, ME recently donated a Georgian looking glass to Landmarks. The looking glass will be hung in the dining room of the Neville House.



Allegheny Park, early 1900s.

- W. J. Dixon of Sarasota, FL, for articles from *Engineering News* on the Larimer Avenue Bridge (December 19, 1912), and on a Pennsylvania Railroad freight warehouse on the North Side (September 9, 1915);

• Harry Goldby of Carlisle, PA, for a postcard from the early 1900s of the lake in Allegheny Park on the North Side.

Library Donations

We thank the following people for their recent donations to the James D. Van Trump Library:

- Charles A. Birnbaum, for three publications he recently edited on the history of landscape design; these include two bibliographies and the most recent edition of the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards*.

1996 Award of Merit Recipients

On October 28, members and friends of Landmarks applauded the efforts of 20 individuals and organizations at a reception on the North Side in Pittsburgh's Grand Hall (formerly St. Mary's German Catholic Church). The following people and organizations are to be commended for furthering the cause of historic preservation in Allegheny County and/or educating the public about our local history and architecture:

Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



- **Braddock's Field Historical Society:** for two decades' effort in saving and rehabilitating the Braddock Carnegie Library;



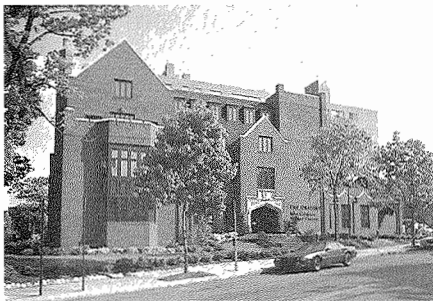
- **Mr. & Mrs. Vincent J. Carton, Jr.** for renovating their historic home at 620 Maple Lane in Sewickley;

- **Chatham Village Homes, Inc.:** for preserving the landscape setting of a distinguished neighborhood on Mt. Washington;
- **Bruce and Cheryl Cobb:** for restoring the garden at "Elm Cottage" in Sewickley Heights;
- **Community Development Lending Group, a partnership of 11 local savings banks:** for establishing the "Working in Neighborhoods" program;
- **Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Dickson:** for repairing the art glass and maintaining 920 North Sheridan Avenue in Highland Park;
- **The Graf Family:** for adaptive use of St. Mary's German Catholic Church in Deutschtown as Pittsburgh's Grand Hall;
- **Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania:** for adaptive use of the Chautauqua Lake Ice Company warehouse in the Strip District as the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center;

- **Mr. & Mrs. James D. Lawrence:** for adaptive use of the Ben Avon United Methodist Church at 220 Breeding Avenue;
- **The Family of Roy Lubove:** for *Twentieth-Century Pittsburgh*, written by the late Roy Lubove;
- **Monroeville Historical Society:** for saving and restoring the McCully Log House;
- **The Pittsburgh Children's Museum:** for establishing its Museum in the Old Post Office and maintaining the historic North Side landmark;
- **Point Park College:** for acquiring the historic Bank Center buildings downtown and establishing a library;
- **Mr. & Mrs. Ben Sampson, and in memory of Leo Harter, M.D. and Eva R. Harter:** for saving and restoring the Gwinner-Harter house in Shadyside;
- **Sewickley Borough Tree Commission:** for replanting the streets of Sewickley;
- **Mr. & Mrs. David Snuffer:** for restoring the interior of 837 North Highland Avenue in Highland Park;



- **David and Mary Anne Spence:** for rehabilitating the Darlington house at 721 Brighton Road in Allegheny West;



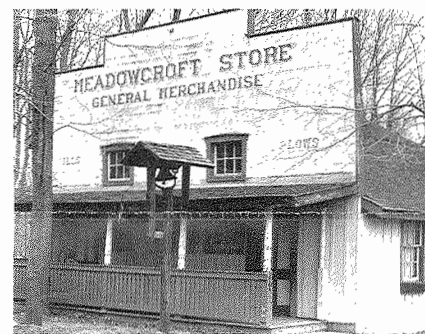
- **David J. Vater:** for designing the Oratory/Ryan Catholic Newman Center in Oakland to be compatible with its historic neighborhood;
- **Borough of Wilmerding:** for its sustained and largely successful effort to preserve both the historic character and attractive image of Wilmerding.

In Memoriam: Delvin Miller

Our region lost a fine sportsman, a man devoted to historic preservation, and a warm-hearted leader who exhibited the highest ethics when Delvin Miller died on August 19.

Delvin was known worldwide for his harness racing, which he carried on until only a few years before his death at the age of 83. He raced for the last time in May 1991.

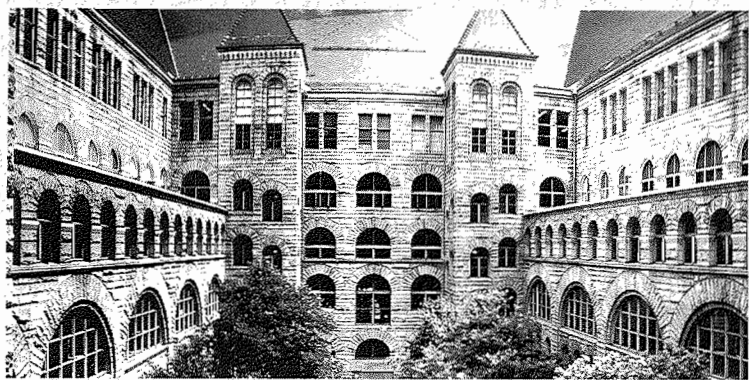
Delvin and his brother Albert created Meadowcroft Village, a major accomplishment in preserving historic buildings in the Washington County area. The buildings would have been demolished had they not been moved to the Miller farm near Avella. There they developed a fine collection of buildings that creates the impression of a rural village and also contains a museum of horse racing-related artifacts that Delvin preserved through the decades of his career.



Our organization enjoyed a long association with the Millers. At one point, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was appointed by Meadowcroft to develop a comprehensive improvement program for maintaining the buildings and more clearly delineating its focus and operations.

Although Delvin moved in circles of notable sportsmen around the world, he maintained a keen interest in Meadowcroft and provided substantial funding for it. He always described the activities there, particularly those with school children, with a wonderful smile that showed how happy the success of Meadowcroft made him.

Delvin was a man who, together with his wife Mary Lib, deeply enjoyed life, established ever-greater challenges for himself, and achieved enormous success, but used the monetary results of that success to create a notable complex of preserved buildings in a natural setting that will be enjoyed for generations to come. He is part of a permanent hall of fame of sportspeople, and at the same time has created a permanent treasure of our local past for all people to experience and enjoy. Meadowcroft is open to the public May through October, and for private group tours and special events thereafter by reservation. For further information please call (412) 587-3412.



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A gift of your appreciated securities or real estate can be used to create a lifetime income for you—and provide the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation with much-needed resources to restore our historic houses, churches, schools, parks and gardens. You can help revitalize a main street in one of our neighborhoods, provide restored housing for low-to moderate-income residents, or put

YOUR GIFT CAN RESTORE OUR HERITAGE

an empty church or school back into use. Landmarks can put your securities and property to good work while bringing you: Lifetime income from your gift Public acknowledgement of your gift Federal and state tax savings Avoidance of probate cost and estate taxes Disposition of real estate and elimination of ownership costs and liability The satisfaction of making a significant gift to preserving our Western Pennsylvania heritage Honorary life membership Call Cathy Broucek to discuss these donor options. 412-471-5808.



CREATING A FUTURE FOR PITTSBURGH BY PRESERVING ITS PAST
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
One Station Square Suite 450 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1170



Photos by Diane I. Daniels

August 22, 1996

Dear Mr. Slaughter:

Thank you again for the information you provided us on your organization's low-interest loan programs. Due in part to your examples, we have successfully established the National Road Community and Building Revitalization Program, in partnership with several local banks. . . .

We have just launched the program in mid-July and have already received numerous requests for application materials. We look forward to the many quality projects to come.

Once again, we appreciate the strong example that Pittsburgh History & Landmarks sets for the region.

Sincerely,

Adam Baacke
National Road Heritage Park

Editor's note: Fayette Bank, National City Bank, and Washington Federal Savings Bank are sponsoring the "Community and Building Revitalization Program" to encourage the rehabilitation of historic properties and enhancement of commercial activity in the National Road Heritage Park Corridor, thereby increasing the desirability and viability of the National Road as a tourist destination. For further information call (412) 329-1560.

Preservation Loan Fund Revitalizes Homewood Store

Diane I. Daniels

A restructuring of an existing loan from Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund to the Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation (HBRDC) is enabling a 22-year-old business in the Homewood area to expand its operation and continue to serve the community.

Farouk Salik, owner of Salik's Hardware, is leasing and has refurbished 603-07 North Homewood Avenue and relocated his business there. Mr. Salik's lease also provides for an option to purchase the building outright. According to Mr. Salik, Salik's Hardware is a family owned business and the only hardware store in Homewood. Founded by his father and uncle, the store originated at 613 North Homewood Avenue. Today Mr. Salik, his son, uncles, and cousins operate the business. "This store is a pillar in the community," says Mr. Salik. "Without the assistance from Landmarks, we would not have the option to purchase the building and continue the family legacy."

Roosevelt Norfleet, executive director of HBRDC, noted that: "With the assistance of the Preservation Loan Fund, we were able to stabilize a major corridor in the business section of Homewood. Landmarks' assistance is helping us accomplish our mission to serve as a conduit for rehabilitation of historic property and to assist in the development of businesses."

National Trust Honors Manchester Citizen's Corporation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation presented its 1996 Trustees Award for Organizational Excellence to the Manchester Citizen's Corporation for its success in spearheading the community-based revitalization efforts in Pittsburgh's largest historic district. The award was presented on October 17 in Chicago, Illinois at the National Trust's fiftieth Preservation Conference.

Community Technical Assistance Center Progress Report

Diane I. Daniels

The Honorable Tom Murphy, Mayor, Stanley A. Lowe, executive director of the City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority, State Representative William Robinson, and Jane Downing, program officer for The Pittsburgh Foundation,



Harold Blye (left), a board member of the Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation, and Roosevelt Norfleet (right), executive director of HBRDC, stand with Farouk Salik (center).

are just a few of the city and state leaders who have been affiliated with the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC).

This year, CTAC is celebrating 15 years of progress, growth, and development. The non-profit organization provides technical assistance to neighborhood groups, tenant councils, community-based organizations, and community development corporations.

CTAC's current mission, according to Board chairman Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., is to serve as the primary source of technical assistance for Pittsburgh's community-based organizations by providing educational and professional programs, financial systems assessment, an extensive consultant network, and an information center for community development resources. CTAC offices are located in the Allegheny Court Building at 901 Western Avenue. The office includes a conference room/training center and resource library. The group's philosophy has changed from "do for" to "do for self." A major fund-raising campaign occurred and the Economic Development Finance professional certification series was co-sponsored by CTAC and the National Development Council based in Covington, KY.

CTAC funders include the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Community Savings Bank, Dollar Bank, Fidelity Savings Bank, Mellon Bank, National City Bank of Pittsburgh, Parkvale Savings Bank, PNC Bank, Duquesne Light, and the Beaver County Foundation. Mark T. Fatla, Esq. is executive director. Call (412) 231-CTAC for assistance.

Washington Housing Officials Visit Pittsburgh

Diane I. Daniels

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) hosted a Pittsburgh visit from representatives of a Washington, D.C.-based housing group. Robert Jenkins, Jr., Esq., director of the Mid-Atlantic District of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NRC), and Maggie Hammer, a field service representative for NRC, were in Pittsburgh on September 4 and 5 studying the relationships among Neighborhood Housing Services, city housing officials, and community development groups.

They were escorted on a city tour by Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., Board chairman of NHS and director of Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund, Dr. Harry Clark, executive director of NHS, and NHS board and staff members. Meetings were held with The Honorable Tom Murphy, Mayor, Stanley A. Lowe, executive director of the City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority, Dr. Mulugetta Birru, executive director of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and Sandra Phillips, executive director of the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development. Tours were also conducted in the Hill District, Garfield, Homewood, and Manchester neighborhoods. Mellon Bank held a reception for all participants.

Mr. Jenkins called his Pittsburgh stay an overwhelming success. After viewing many opportunities for partnerships in Pittsburgh, he pledged his support in assisting NHS in its quest to help city residents obtain their dream of home ownership. NHS is a 28-year-old non-profit organization—the first NHS in the country—that provides training and some financial assistance to individuals who are interested in buying and maintaining their own home.

Landmarks Helps Make Possible \$1.8 Million Housing Renovation in Garfield

Through its Preservation Loan Fund, Landmarks has extended a \$267,000 loan to the Garfield Jubilee Revitalization Partnership so that 18 homes, to be developed as rental units, can be completed for low-income families. The buildings to be renovated are on Black Street (numbers 5552, 5407, 5437, 5480 and 5442), North Fairmont Street (number 112), Rosetta Street (numbers 5331, 5317 and 5319), Broad Street (number 5451), and Hillcrest Street (number 5150). According to Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, "this is the largest loan Landmarks has ever made to a community-based organization."

Garfield Jubilee Association (GJA) is the non-profit neighborhood organization which spearheaded the project in 1994. GJA will be the general partner in Garfield Jubilee Revitalization Partnership, recently formed for the purpose of owning, rehabilitating, and operating housing for occupancy by low-income families. The rents will be affordable to families with incomes of between 50 percent and 60 percent of the area's median income. According to Joann Monroe, executive director, "GJA is implementing its mission by providing decent, affordable housing to low-income families."

Some of the renovation work will be performed by unemployed, out-of-school youth. The construction work will be a part of a year-round program of combined classroom and on-site training in construction skills which GJA conducts. Construction began in September and will be completed by December 1997.

The total project budget is about \$1.8 million. Financing is being provided by Mellon Bank, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, other foundations, and equity that is raised through the sale of low-income housing tax credits by the Enterprise Social Investment Corporation.

"Closing this deal was a labor of love," said Landmarks' general counsel Elisa Cavalier, "requiring the coordinated efforts of parties in New York, Maryland, and Pittsburgh." All parties worked round the clock through the Labor Day weekend, Elisa recalls. In order to meet the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency's (PHFA) September 3 deadline, Thea Young of the Garfield Jubilee Association drove the completed documents to the PHFA's offices in Harrisburg to ensure their safe delivery.

Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative Spurs Economic Development

Diane I. Daniels

The Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative (CNDI), sponsored by Mellon Bank and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, has leveraged an estimated \$6 million in community development loans in the last two years. As a result, new housing and business opportunities are being created in East Liberty, Garfield, and Lawrenceville.

CNDI offers both financial and technical assistance to community organizations. Rick Savido, president of community investment at Mellon Bank, and Scott Brown, vice-president, said that they have met with approximately 20 organizations since the program's inception in May 1994. (See the July 1994 issue of *PHLF News*.) They would like to see more activity in the outlining areas of Pittsburgh, and therefore are planning to conduct a marketing campaign throughout the Mon Valley. Interested community organization leaders may call them at (412) 236-4299, or they may contact Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. at Landmarks (412) 471-5808.

CNDI provides loans and pre-development financing to community-based, non-profit Allegheny County organizations to assist with economic development projects. Unlike other lending programs that assist the individual homeowner or the single-project developer, CNDI offers assistance for *comprehensive* development programs. It encourages neighborhood organizations to prepare long-range plans and look at the long-term needs of entire neighborhoods.

Garfield

Thanks to CNDI, the Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc. has purchased and is renovating three houses on Black Street that will consist of rental units. GJA spokesperson Thea Young said the funding support was "invaluable to the community."

The Black Street project is a scattered site rehabilitation project involving 11 buildings in a half-mile radius. The total project cost is about \$1.8 million.



East Liberty

127 units of low-income housing in East Liberty Gardens are being renovated by East Liberty Housing, Inc., thanks to a \$40,000 pre-development loan from Landmarks and additional CNDI financing. The total project cost is about \$2.28 million.

Lawrenceville

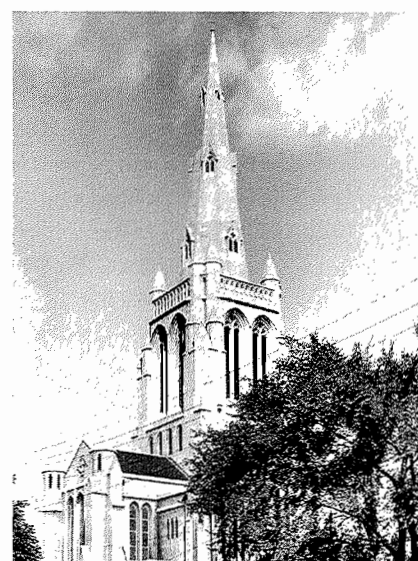
Through the support of the Lawrenceville Development Corporation, Steve Catranel Construction Company is rehabilitating two buildings at 3708 and 3710 Penn Avenue and constructing two four-unit townhouse buildings across the street on Penn Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets, thanks in part to a loan from CNDI. The total project cost is expected to be around \$2 million. The row-houses at 3708 and 3710 Penn Avenue were targeted for demolition before Catranel Construction Company bought them last spring. They will be restored as close as possible to their original historical appearance and sold to buyers by the end of this year.



3710 and 3708 Penn Avenue



Penn Avenue between 37th and 38th Streets.



Emergency Planning Seminar for Religious Properties

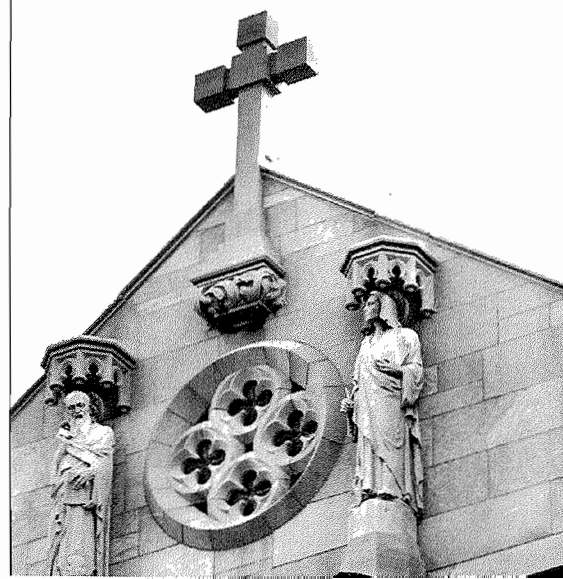
On Wednesday, November 6, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and the Church Restoration Group will host an Emergency Planning and Disaster Recovery Seminar for religious properties. The seminar will take place at Calvary Episcopal Church at Shady Avenue and Walnut Street in Shadyside, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The seminar will be of particular interest to stewards of historic religious properties, although it is open to administrators and building committee members responsible for religious properties from any era.

It will include sessions on "Understanding Your Property Insurance," "The Critical 24 Hours After an Emergency," and "Preventative Maintenance vs. Crisis Management." Participants will learn real-life lessons from case studies of water damage and other common problems. The day will end with round table discussions.

The Church Restoration Group is an affiliate of Mistick's Insurance Restoration Services division. It specializes in assisting religious properties recover from fire, flooding, and other disasters.

The registration fee for the seminar (including lunch) is \$15 per person, payable to the Church Restoration Group. For more information call Colleen C. Derda at the Church Restoration Group, (1 800) 322-3520, extension 302, or call Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. at Landmarks at (412) 471-5808.



Last Chance to CONTRIBUTE

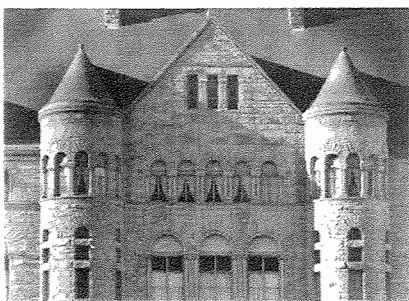
to the publication of a new edition of

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 has updated the contents of the original publication and commissioned 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 over 1,500 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.

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Photo by Jim Judkis

The Pittsburgh region

The Clarion Report

October 1991 was marked, at least in retrospect, by the delivery of a report by the Chicago consultants Clarion Associates to Pittsburgh's Planning Department regarding a revision of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The same month saw a reconsideration by the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of *United Artists Theater Circuit, Inc. v. City of Philadelphia*—the notorious Boyd Theater Case that threatened to weaken historic preservation law most seriously. It took until November 1993 before the Court reversed its original decision that the Philadelphia Historical Commission's designation of the Boyd Theater—inside as well as out, be it noted—was an unconstitutional taking. The Pittsburgh ordinance, which allows designation only of exteriors, seemed safe, and the Clarion report thus relevant once more. Yet it was only this July when it was released for public comment.

Here are portions of Clarion's draft ordinance, with our comments:

SECTION 513.1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

513.1(a) The history of the built environment in Pittsburgh began with the construction of Fort Duquesne at the Point in 1754. Since that time, Pittsburgh has accumulated a rich and diverse architectural heritage of buildings. . . . Pittsburgh is also fortunate to have many buildings designed by architects who were in the vanguard of their profession. Some areas of the City and some specific buildings are also important as sites where historic events occurred. In addition, there are a number of areas of the City where concentrations of a certain style or building type predominate. . . .

Many of these structures are in danger of being lost forever. The need to maintain and strengthen the City's residential and commercial usage of its land area mandates that the City of Pittsburgh take all necessary steps to preserve and restore the historic structures, landmarks, sites and districts within the City.

This seems a little vague as an argument for a preservation law. It seems to assume certain values as self-evident, and a miniature essay, partly subjective, partly detailed in its linkages of ends and means, would explain the purpose of this ordinance more clearly.

513.1(b) gives legal backup for the ordinance. It also lists every City Historic District through 1990—a list of ephemeral completeness of course—and gives an anticipatory history of the adoption of this draft law.

513.1(c)(1) through (10) attempt to articulate the purpose of the ordinance:

513.1(c) The purpose of this ordinance is to promote the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the City of Pittsburgh by:

513.1(c)(1) Identifying, preserving, protecting, enhancing, and encouraging the continued utilization and the rehabilitation of such areas, districts, properties, sites, structures, and objects having a special historical, cultural, architectural, archaeological or aesthetic interest or value to the City of Pittsburgh and its citizens;

513.1(c)(2) Safeguarding the City of Pittsburgh's historic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such areas [etc.] determined eligible for designation by ordinance as Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Historic Conservation Districts;

513.1(c)(3) Fostering civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past as represented in such Landmarks and Districts;

513.1(c)(4) Protecting and enhancing the attractiveness of the City of Pittsburgh to homeowners, home buyers, tourists, visitors, businesses, and shoppers, and thereby supporting and promoting business, commerce, industry, and tourism, and providing economic benefit to the City of Pittsburgh;

513.1(c)(5) Fostering and encouraging preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of areas [etc.], including entire neighborhoods, and thereby preventing future urban blight and in some cases reversing current urban deterioration;

513.1(c)(6) Fostering the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of Pittsburgh through the designation of Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Historic Conservation Districts;

513.1(c)(7) Encouraging orderly and efficient development that recognizes the special value to the City of Pittsburgh of the protection of areas [etc.] as Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Historic Conservation Districts;

513.1(c)(8) Encouraging the continuation of surveys and studies of Pittsburgh's historical, cultural and architectural resources and the maintenance and updating of a register of areas [etc.] that may be worthy of designation as Landmarks, Historic Districts, and Historic Conservation Districts;

513.1(c)(9) Encouraging public participation in identifying and preserving historical, cultural, archaeological and architectural resources through public hearings on proposed designations, work applications, and economic hardship variances; and

513.1(c)(10) Fostering and encouraging preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of areas [etc.], including entire neighborhoods, and thereby stabilizing and improving values of designated areas [etc.].

It seems to us that there is still an underlying philosophy waiting to be stated. Owners are being compelled not to do things, and there is not quite an explanation of why this is so.

Another absence to be noted at this point is the lack of allusion to landscape, to the preservation of views, slopes, skylines in our city of natural and spatial drama.

Finally, there should perhaps be a greater distinction between true historic preservation, which looks to the specific past of a place, and aesthetic preservation, which is less bound to place and time. In preserving a certain building of course you may be engaging in both, but so many "historic" buildings, when you come right down to it, seem to be beautiful old buildings in which nothing special has ever happened.

Section 513.2 gives definitions. You might want to watch some of these:

513.2(l) "Contributing Significance" A classification applied to a property, site, structure, or object within a District signifying that it generally shares, along with most of the other properties [etc.] in the qualities that give the District cultural, historic, architectural or archaeological significance as embodied in the criteria for designating a District. . . .

This seems to suggest that a *dominating* structure, such as the Cathedral of Learning, cannot contribute. Nor can a modest non-conforming masterpiece in a pleasant but stylistically different architectural matrix.

513.2(t) "Historic Conservation District" An identifiable area . . . in which a significant number of the properties, sites, structures, or objects are at least seventy (70) years old and have cultural, historic, architectural or archaeological significance to the City. Many of the included properties [etc.] may have undergone alteration . . . so that their individual significance may have been reduced, or the area may include a number of non-contributing structures, so that the cultural, historic or architectural integrity of the district as a whole is not strong enough to meet the criteria for designation as a Historic District. Within a designated Historic Conservation District:

513.2(t)(1) At least fifty (50) percent of the main structures. . . but not more than seventy-five (75) percent, must have been constructed at least seventy (70) years prior to the date that the nomination is submitted to the Commission; and

513.2(t)(2) At least fifty (50) percent of the main structures. . . but not more than seventy-five (75) percent, must be of contributing significance to the District.

513.2(u) "Historic District" An identifiable area . . . in which a significant number of the properties [etc.] are at least seventy (70) years old and have a high degree of cultural, historic, architectural, or archaeological significance and integrity. . . Within a designated Historic District:

513.2(u)(1) At least seventy-five (75) percent of the main structures. . . must have been constructed at least seventy (70) years prior to the date that the nomination is submitted to the Commission; and

513.2(u)(2) At least seventy-five (75) percent of the main structures. . . must be of contributing significance to the District.

513.2(u)(3) A Historic District may be comprised of properties [etc.] less than seventy (70) years old, if the properties [etc.] are of exceptional significance or are unique within the City of Pittsburgh.

This last clause is something of a relief. With a 70-year-ago cutoff date the Cathedral of Learning, begun in 1926, might be allowed to slip in, but the Foster Memorial and Heinz Chapel would be out in the cold until about A.D. 2008. We see no reason for a 70-year wait; 50 years seems long ago enough for us.

Section 513.3 regards "Composition, Powers and Duties of the Commission"

513.3(a)(1) At least one (1) shall be a professional preservationist or an architectural historian active with a broad-based local organization involved with historic preservation and/or history;

Shouldn't the person be from an historic preservation organization? "And/or history" could mean that someone from an organization devoted to world history would be put on the Commission rather than a preservationist or someone from a preservation organization.

513.3(a)(6) At least two (2) members shall reside in or own a designated Pittsburgh Landmark or shall reside in or own property in a designated Pittsburgh District. Every effort shall be made to comply with this provision as terms of commissioners expire. In no event shall compliance with this provision exceed a period of three years following adoption of Ordinance _____ of 1992.

Is this realistic? People are being selected for knowledge and interest, and this residence requirement is then added to narrow the range still further. The last sentence is confusing; We suspect that "noncompliance" is the word they want.

Section 513.3(g) deals with "Powers and Duties:

513.3(g)(5) To advise and assist owners of Landmarks and property, sites, structures or objects within Districts on physical and financial aspects of preservation, renovation, rehabilitation, and reuse, and for procedures for listing in other registers of significant areas, properties, sites, structures, and objects, including the National Register of Historic Places.

Why this when it can be done by private organizations and non-profit organizations that exist?

513.3(g)(7) To participate in the "certified local government" program of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; and carry out any responsibilities delegated to the Commission under that program, including review and comment on any National Register nominations submitted to the Commission upon request of the Council, attend informational and educational programs sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and prepare an annual report of the activities of the Commission.

Why only PHMC conferences?

513.3(g)(8) To inform and educate the citizens of Pittsburgh concerning the cultural, historic, architectural and archaeological heritage of the city by publishing appropriate maps, newsletters, brochures, and pamphlets, and by sponsoring programs and seminars.

Why do this when it is already being accommodated by non-profits?

Section 513.4 concerns "Categories and Criteria for Designation." Here, once again, we would recommend criteria for designating landscape: view, space, foliage, skyline. The basic terrain rather than architectural entourage.

Section 513.5 deals with nominations:

513.5(a) Initiation of nomination:

Nomination of an area, property, site structure, or object for consideration and designation as a Landmark, Historic District, or Historic Conservation District shall be submitted to the Commission on a form prepared by the Commission, and may be submitted by any of the following:

- A. A member of the Commission*
- B. A member of the City Planning Commission.*
- C. A member of the Pittsburgh City Council.*

D. In the case of a nomination as a Landmark, by the owner of record.

E. In the case of a nomination as a Historic District or Historic Conservation District, by a petition signed by the owners of record of twenty-five (25) percent of the properties within the boundaries of the proposed District, or by any of the persons named in paragraphs A through D of this sub-section.

Why cannot a concerned person or organization nominate? The process is totally dependent on the political community rather than the preservation community.

Section 513.6 establishes a role for the City Planning Commission:

513.6(a) Criteria for review.

Upon receipt of a nomination by the Commission, a copy shall be sent to the City Planning Commission. After review of the nomination, the City Planning Commission shall make a recommendation to the Council concerning designation, and shall base its recommendation only upon the following criteria.

A. Relationship of the proposed designation to the Long-Range General Land Use Plan of the City of Pittsburgh;

B. The effect of the proposed designation on the surrounding neighborhood; and

C. The effect of the proposed designation on established development patterns.

The Planning Commission is making a recommendation that is based on three criteria, none of which relates to the intrinsic architectural or historical significance of the structure or district. Also, the criteria imply that if the nomination in any way would be interpreted as disruptive to existing patterns or to the existing long-range general plan, it should be disqualified rather than the plan and patterns be altered. If that were adopted, almost every major early preservation district in the U.S. would have been disqualified because many of them were developed because of concerns about long-range plans of cities that did not regard existing architecture and neighborhoods highly.

The Historic Review Commission, by the way, would now be called the Pittsburgh Historic Preservation Commission. As we said before, we suspect that a lot of preservation effort is crypto-aesthetic, history being not all that significant.

An Afterthought

Criticism of the Clarion report implies that a historic preservation ordinance is a good thing in the first place. An element of compulsion is present, and those who advocate or approve of the ordinance should articulate their beliefs. In the February 1992 issue of *PHLF News*, at a time when litigation threatened to weaken preservation ordinances seriously, we published "Landmarks: Our Principles." Here are two excerpts:

Whom Landmarks Serves


People react to their physical environments with varying amounts of appreciation and concern. Landmarks exists for those who feel genuinely at home in a community of Allegheny County, and for whom the appearance of a house, a street, an open area, a public building, a prominent engineering work, any or all, calls up a strong impression of beauty or power, or evokes a fond sense of familiarity. Landmarks is interested in the elements that create the conceptually evasive thing called the character of a community; in its architectural and scenic beauty; and in whatever gives a perspective back into its past history.

and toward the conclusion:

Property Rights

Landmarks believes that the people of a neighborhood have a legitimate interest in the beauty and character of the neighborhood, and that the citizens of a community have a legitimate interest in the beauty and character of places visible to or often visited by people from all over the community. Some public control over demolition and construction to promote amenity and culture in such places seems fair. [But Landmarks] will seek increasingly to bring preservationists and owners into a relationship of trust and respect that makes possible a joint search that may result in a type of preservation satisfactory to both.

Compulsory landmarking, as an extension of legal zoning, by communities may prove [in 1992, remember] to be constitutional in some or every form. Yet preservationists, Landmarks believes, should use any legal powers with a light touch.



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Preservation Scene

Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

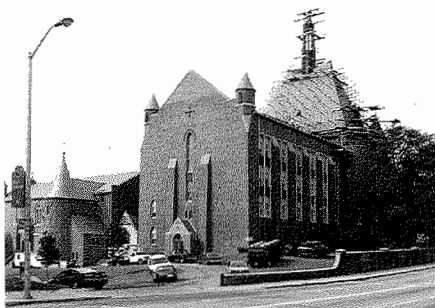


Sellers-Carnahan house, Walnut Street and Shady Avenue: full restoration.



Pleasant Sights Around Town

Here are some restorations in progress, photographed in mid-September. It is good to see the rejuvenation of these landmarks.



Central Catholic High School, 4720 Fifth Avenue: slate roof restoration.

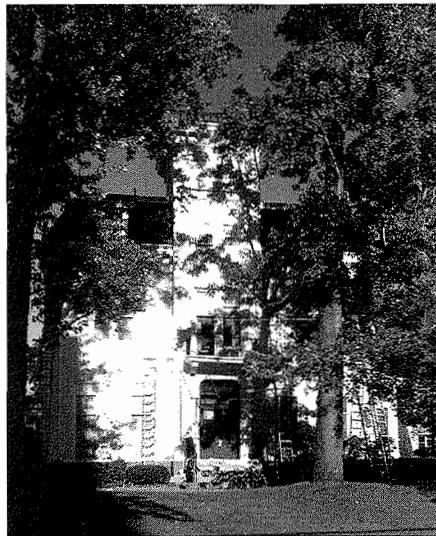


First United Methodist Church, Baum Boulevard and Aiken Avenue: tile roof restoration.

Landmarks Members Invited to Tour South Side Presbyterian Church



On Sunday, November 3, at 2:00 p.m., members of Landmarks are invited to a special worship celebration at the South Side Presbyterian Church in recognition of the congregation's 145th anniversary and recent renovation accomplishments. The church is located at the corner of South Twentieth and Sarah Streets. Major renovations have just been completed at the church, including facade and sanctuary restorations, to designs by Gerald Lee Morosco Architects. There will be a reception following the worship celebration and the church will be open for tours. If you wish to attend, please call (412) 431-0118.



Neville Street Restoration
H. Samson Inc., the funeral home at 537 Neville Street in Shadyside, is finishing up a restoration of its building exteriors and gardening. The Shadyside firm Seigle • Salow • Horne, Architects is in charge of the work.

Break in the Necklace

On September 16, Bigelow Boulevard between Fifth and Forbes Avenue closed, thus beginning a 30-day experiment intended to benefit University of Pittsburgh students. About 15,000 vehicles will be diverted by the closing, and 90 parking spaces removed. Landmarks opposed the closing and articulated its position in a major article in the August 1996 issue of *PHLF News*, "Pittsburgh's Emerald Necklace."



Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

Reviving a Mansion

A 20-room house, built around 1900 for James Scott, a steel executive, is being reclaimed from an abject condition by a collaboration of the Highland Park Community Development Corporation and the Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation. The house and the adjoining carriage house will contain 11 apartments for low-income tenants. National Register status for the Highland Park area is expected, and the exterior will be fully restored in a campaign that includes reconstruction of a large porch. The cost will be \$1.4 million, and rentals will vary from \$300 to \$410 a month. Interest in the apartments is great, with four times as many applications as there are vacancies as of the middle of July.

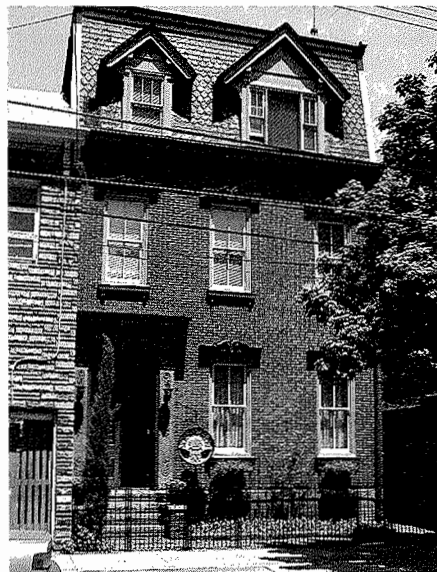


Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



"Willow Cottage"

On May 21, the State Supreme Court reaffirmed the right of the City of Pittsburgh's Historic Review Commission to block a demolition permit for "Willow Cottage," the 1860-period Howe-Childs gatehouse on Woodland Road. The house has been a City Historic Structure since 1986, and has been in its present hands since 1988. The owners have claimed that there is no viable economic use of the house and that to retain it creates an economic hardship. The Supreme Court has decided that this is not the case.



Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON

The Ornament: Success

For a long time it seemed that nothing could save the leafy bronze bow ornament of the armored cruiser *Pittsburgh* (ex-*Pennsylvania*) from becoming a roof decoration on CMU's new Roberts Hall. However, public protest has led to an interesting compromise for the CMU administration and success for us preservationists. The real Ornament of 1905 will be once again in Navy hands, mounted in a suitable place—quite possibly in Pittsburgh—and restored. A reproduction will go on top of the Roberts Hall conference room. A local committee has been formed to work with the Naval Historical Center in Washington, D.C. to work out the details. Professor Wilfred Rouleau credits *PHLF News* and the *Naval Engineers Journal* for rallying the protesters.



Davis Farm House

We have reported that the possibility exists that the Brentwood Fire Department might want to demolish the historic Davis Farm House of c. 1880 for a new fire hall. It is located at 3423 Brownsville Road on a beautiful tract of land in the residential section of Brentwood.

We are relieved that the solicitor for Brentwood has written to us indicating that the Davis Farm House is not under consideration for a site, but that if it does come under consideration the Borough will welcome Landmarks' input. We will remain active in this matter.

The Morning Glory Inn

On April 22 a new Bed and Breakfast Inn opened on the South Side. Located at 2119 Sarah Street, The Morning Glory Inn is quickly gaining a reputation as a great place to not only visit, but to live for a while.

With years of experience in marketing Station Square to visitors, Landmarks staff member Cathy Broucek has been working with innkeeper Nancy Eshelman to spread the word about the quiet elegance and comfortable surroundings of the historic structure.

Nancy reports that business is taking off and the inn has been full on many weekends. Nancy is working with local meeting and event planners to promote the inn to corporate clients as well.

Several special events are being planned for The Morning Glory Inn including a holiday trolley tour of the city's four bed-and-breakfasts, benefiting the Children's Home of Pittsburgh, on November 24. For more information call Nancy Eshelman at (412) 431-1707.



House Loss in Bridgeville

Our July 1995 issue announced that the Middleswart-Murray house in Bridgeville, a six-bay frame building from c. 1828, had to be removed from its site. The owners, Bob and David Fryer of the Fryer Funeral Home, were reluctant simply to tear it down for their new building project, so offered it for sale. No prospective buyers could put together a workable scheme for moving however, and the house came down this September.



Discoveries at the Neville House

Digging beneath the rear section of the Neville House in Collier Township this summer to install a proper foundation was painstaking work, but it did result in some interesting discoveries: a metal ice skate blade, a spoon, and fragments of tools, ceramic plates, bottles, and glass.

No prehistoric material was discovered, and most everything found dates from the nineteenth century, but the ice skate blade does remind us that the nearby Chartiers Creek and mill pond would have frozen over in the winter.



PHMC Marker at "Bower Hill"

The burning of General John Neville's mansion "Bower Hill" was a dramatic event of the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. In time, the precise location of the house was forgotten, yet it was an obvious location for one of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's historical markers. The incentive of Robert Podurgiel of Bridgeville, the research of Canon R. W. Davies (Old St. Luke's), Hazel Peters (the Neville House), and Paul Durbin (Scott Conservancy), and the sponsorship of the commissioners of Scott Township led to the placement of the marker this August.



The Schoolhouse Arts Center at 2600 South Park Road, Bethel Park

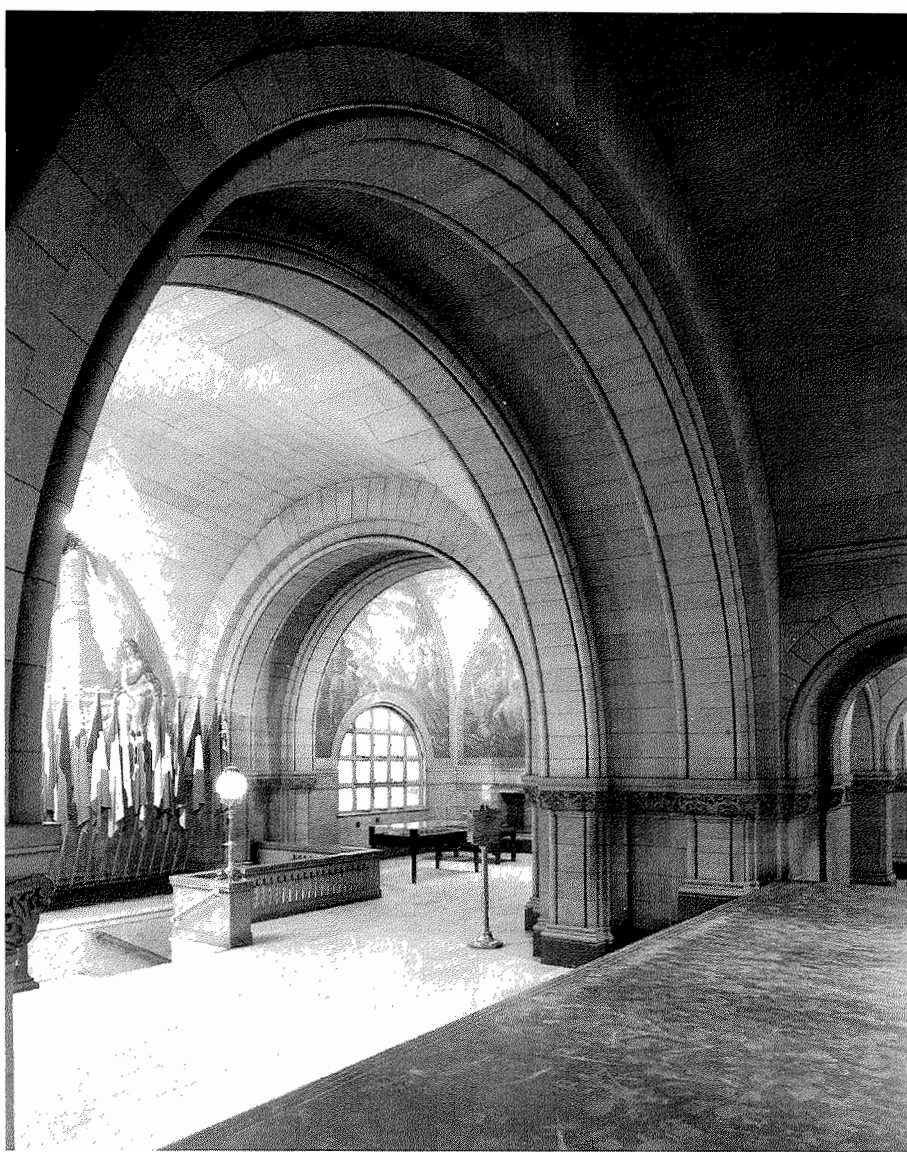
Schoolhouse Arts Center Dedicated in Bethel Park

On June 30, members and friends of the Bethel Park Historical Society, the Schoolhouse Arts Center, and the Bethel Park School District gathered to celebrate the new life and future of a 90-year-old red brick schoolhouse in Bethel Park. The Bethel Park Historical Society plans to transform the 11,000 square-foot building into a center to enrich the arts, with a school of theater and dance and exhibit space.



Louise Sturgess, executive director of Landmarks, spoke at the ceremony and commended Donald E. Anderson, president of the Bethel Park Historical Society, for "working for more than 20 years to overcome obstacles to ensure the continued use of the schoolhouse."

After seeing the dedication ceremony broadcast on Bethel's Channel 7, Anna Belle Doman, a member of Landmarks, wrote to Louise: "There have been many happy times in that building for me in the past." Landmarks is pleased that the old schoolhouse will continue as a place of expression and congregation for people of this region.



Allegheny County Courthouse

Courthouse Security

This August, Judge Robert Dauer restated his call made several years ago for increased security at the Courthouse. As he envisions things, only courtrooms and their auxiliary spaces would remain in the Courthouse, and all but two entrances would be sealed, with metal detectors, scanners, and guards controlling access. The disadvantages are obvious. In one sense the Courthouse would cease to be a public building: casual individual visits and visits by tour groups would be inhibited, since the grand stair, the Nesbitt murals, and the restored Room 321 would be beyond the checkpoints, accessible only after visitors had turned out their metal-bearing pockets.

We had hoped that the more volatile juvenile and family courts would go into the old Jail, but that seems to be a matter of doubt at present. The security question threatens one of our best architectural experiences, enjoyed to the full although the courtyard park may still be freely accessible. Landmarks will continue to work toward a solution that will meet all considerations.

Historic Homeownership Assistance Act of 1995

As this summer approached its end, the above-named bill before Congress (H.R. 1662 and S. 1002) was unacted upon. The law is supported by Preservation Action, a national organization, as an incentive to historic preservation and residential neighborhood rehabilitation as well. A residential property on the National Register, used as a principal home by the owner and rehabilitated according to the Secretary of the Interior's standards, would qualify the owner for a 20 percent federal income-tax credit. The provisions are somewhat more complicated, but this is the general idea.

Hertzberg's Anti-Preservation Bill Defeated

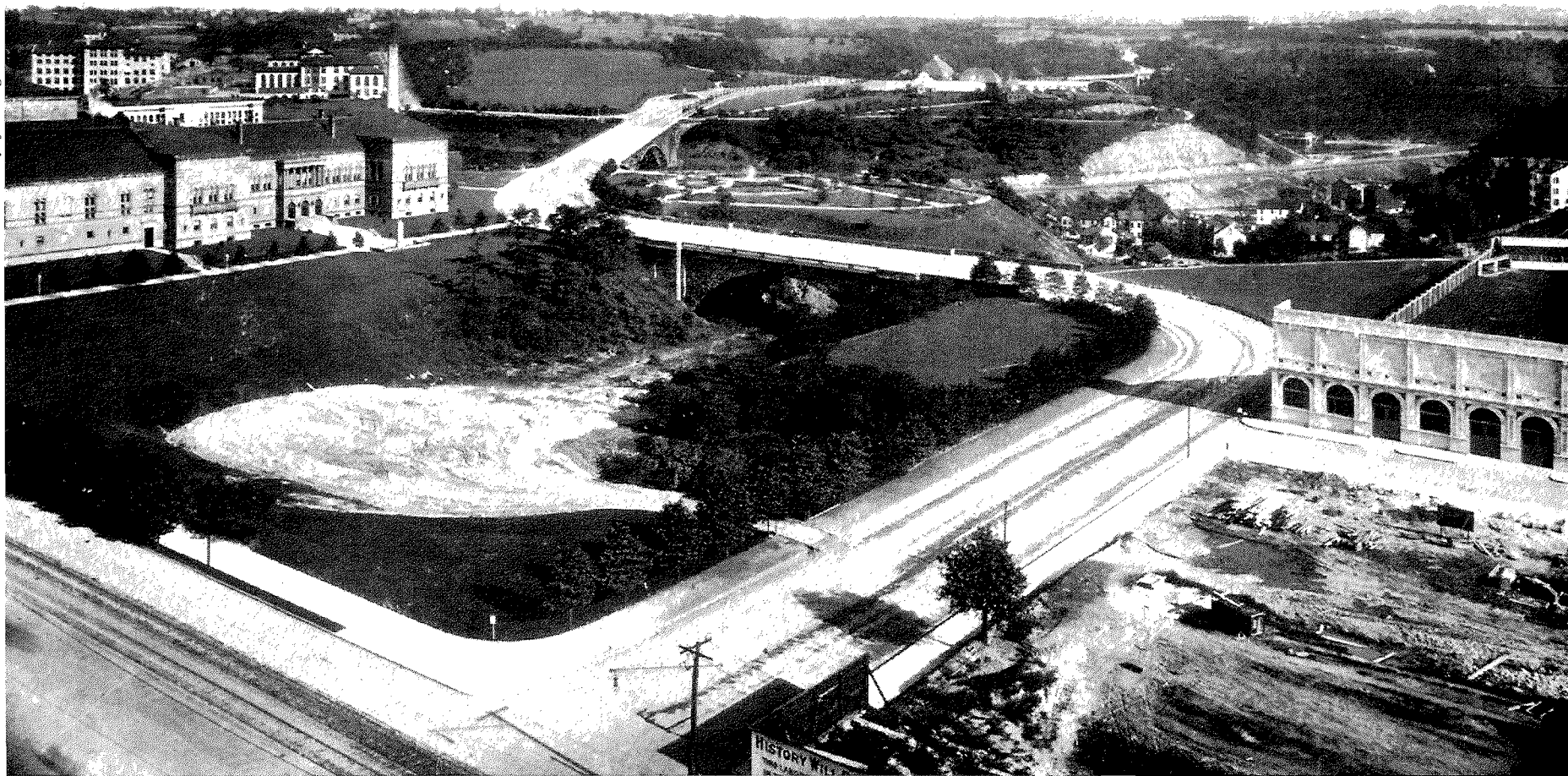
July saw the Pittsburgh City Council reject Alan Hertzberg's proposed bill that would have required nominations for City Historic Structure status to be accompanied by warnings to the owners and all other persons with an interest in the property including lienholders of possible loss of property value, and have required the City to compensate not only owners but also other parties with an interest in the property for such loss. Such requirements would of course have inhibited designation, and Pittsburgh preservationists were relieved at the bill's defeat. Council President Jim Ferlo, however, has established a committee headed by Councilman Dan Onorato to study the nomination process itself. The committee has met twice and hopes to have recommendations for revisions to the City's Preservation Ordinance before year's end.

Staying On

Remaining from demolition of the 1949 Pittsburgh International Airport terminal are two bronze plaques that stood in the main lobby. Three feet high and two feet wide, they display the County seal and the information and credits to be expected at a major public work. Landmarks suggested to the County Commissioners that the plaques be salvaged for display elsewhere; this will be done although the display place has not yet been chosen.

Call Us

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.



Looking across to St. Pierre Ravine, just as the filling was getting under way. To the right of Schenley Drive, between the two bridges, is the small formal garden which for a brief time was meant to contain the Schenley Memorial Fountain. This view, probably taken in 1912, appeared in the brochure issued in 1914 which was provided to every entrant in the Plaza competition. To the left is the Carnegie Institute, as recently enlarged, with the Carnegie Institute of Technology still under construction beyond. To the right is Forbes Field, with Forbes Street itself making a diagonal in the foreground.

Schenley Plaza—Place of Dreams

Barry Hannegan

The Idea of a Plaza Takes Shape

My commentary for this newsletter is very much a sequel to that in the last issue (*PHLF News*, August 1996), which recovered the history and meaning of Pittsburgh's great system of parks and scenic boulevards. In that sequence, Schenley Plaza is surely the single greatest spatial event. It is a site known to every Pittsburgher and to most visitors to our city. Several readers of the "Emerald Necklace" article asked me why I hadn't written more about the Plaza; I had indeed left it still in its original condition as St. Pierre Ravine, a state increasingly felt, by 1910, to be unsatisfactory. For some time, I have thought that a full history of Schenley Plaza would be useful and, to my mind, extremely interesting, and here was an opportunity to lay out, however briefly, the events that formed one of the city's distinguishing ornaments. It has come down to us not altogether in the form intended, nor have many of the proposals for the site been realized or retained; hence, the "dreams" of the title here. Finally, the subject seemed an ideal opportunity for a reminder that grand projects such as this one are as much the responsibility of the landscape architect as they are of the architect *pur* and the city planner, not to mention engineers,

philanthropists, politicians, bureaucrats, and critics.

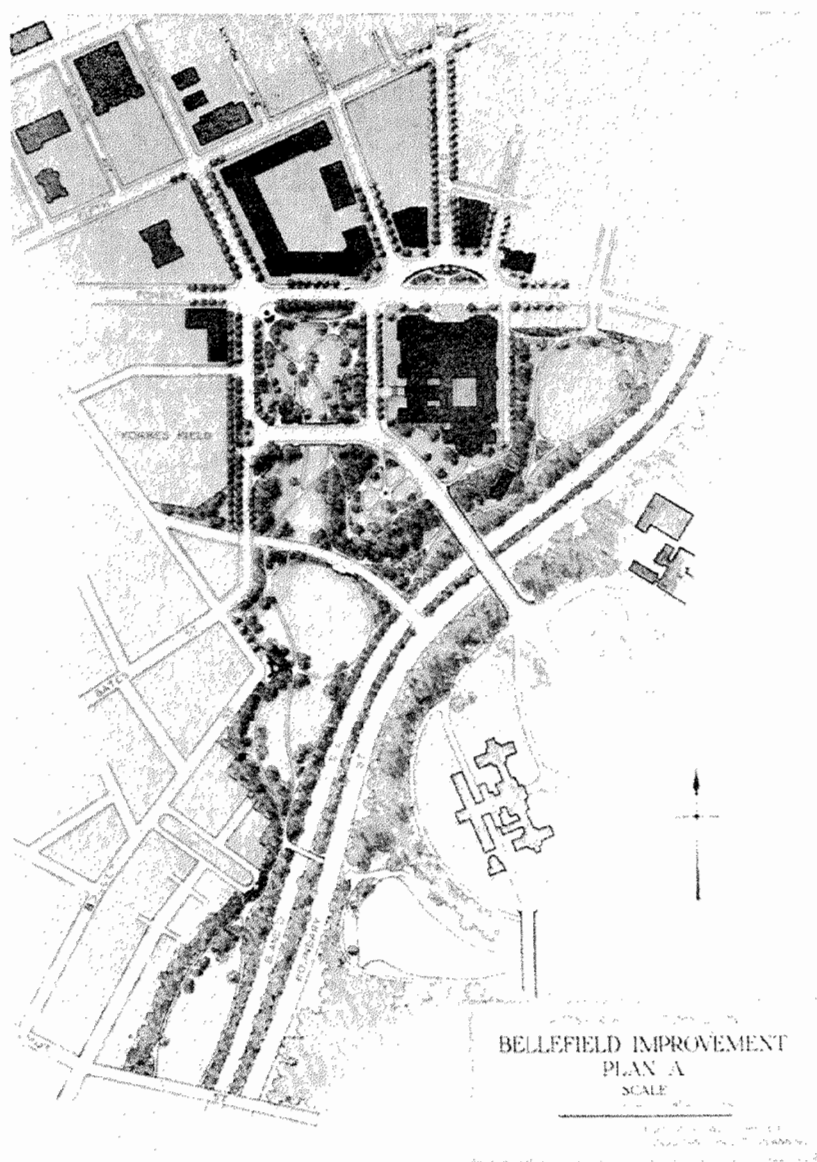
Perhaps the opening chapter to what would be the Plaza's history was written by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., whose report on improving Pittsburgh was published in 1911. I mentioned this document in my previous article and noted there that Olmsted had offered two designs to treat the Bellefield area; these are now illustrated here. His Plan A had little to do with the site of the Plaza, which he left as a landscaped valley crossed still by the Bellefield Bridge. His intention in this design was to provide an appropriately grand setting and approach to the Forbes Street entrance of Carnegie Institute. This was adroitly achieved by emphasizing the axiality of Bellefield Street and the Institute's facade and by introducing a shallow, semi-elliptical plaza on the north side of Forbes to provide a pocket of space where one might (must) pause to enjoy the grandeur of the new building. The *patte d'oie* of radiating streets opposite the Institute was a classic city-planning device that evoked Versailles and Rome and countless great urban gestures in Europe. Olmsted also provided for the siting of future buildings which would help further to define the

spaces of the area and encourage development in a regular fashion; significantly, one of these structures was to run along Forbes and close the northern boundary of the Ravine, answering the comparable mass of the Library and Music Hall to the east.

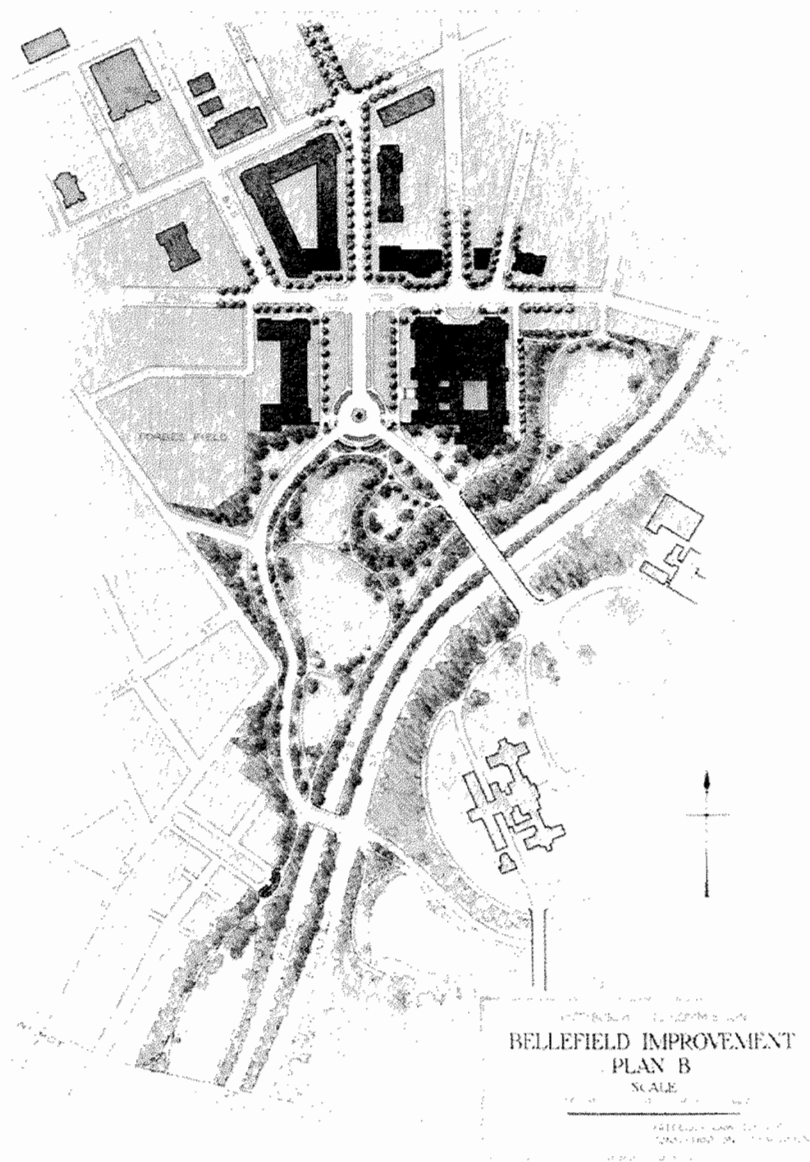
Olmsted's Plan B, the one he preferred, reduced the emphasis on the Institute's Forbes-side facade but created, for the first time, the concept of a formal plaza to the Library's west, across which a continuation of Tennyson Street was to provide a ceremonial entrance into Schenley Park. The Bellefield Bridge was discarded, and very nearly in its place was a circular traffic circle which allowed a graceful accommodation to the necessary change in direction toward Schenley Bridge. On the plan, it looks startlingly like the Schenley Memorial Fountain, still to come. Again, the sites of future great building were indicated, and had these and the plaza been realized, as they might well have been, we would enjoy a faint but authentic echo of the Place de la Concorde in Bellefield.

The catalyst for the filling of St. Pierre Ravine *appears* to have been the decision to erect a monument to Mary Croghan Schenley, the form of this to have been determined by a competition,

announced in April 1911, for a suitable sculpture. A group known as the Schenley Memorial Commission was to choose the winner, announced in 1913. There seems to have been an assumption basic to this project that the memorial would be erected on the filled site of the Ravine, and the actual filling, achieved with material removed in the course of the lowering of the Grant Street hump, downtown, took place between 1912 and 1914. It is unclear, and was so already by 1916, who initiated the filling, but it could hardly have been done without the approval of the Department of Public Works. However, the Memorial Commission seems to have been uneasy with the notion of placing the fountain and its sculpture on the filled land even though that had been the intention at the outset of the project. The Commission might also have been unhappy with the idea being put forward in 1914 that the construction of the fountain memorial should be postponed until some decision could be reached on how to treat the newly filled site so that it would provide an appropriate entrance to the Park as well as a worthy setting for the Schenley Memorial. Accordingly, the Memorial Commission started at its own expense to erect the Fountain at the center of the



Plan A for the improvement of Bellefield, by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., from his Pittsburgh Main Thoroughfares and the Down Town District, of 1911. Attention was given chiefly to Forbes Street and the area in front of Carnegie Institute.



Olmsted's Plan B, from the same publication. Here, perhaps for the very first time, is a proposal for what would become Schenley Plaza.

small formal garden just to the right of the approach of the Schenley Bridge. The city's Art Commission thought this an altogether unsuitable site and refused to give its sanction to the project, after some \$3,000 had been spent in preparing the Memorial's foundations.

The Great Plaza Competition

All the interested parties seem finally to have agreed that a plaza competition was the best course of action, and in late 1914, an invitation for submissions was announced nationally. Specifications were surprisingly few. There had to be provision for the Schenley Fountain and for ease of traffic circulation, with some mind to the parking requirements of the new Forbes Field. By April 10, 1915, the deadline for design entries, 45 proposals had been received. There had been some difficulty in forming the requisite panel of jurors for the competition. Olmsted and H. VanBuren Magonigle, the designer of the architectural portions of the winning Schenley Memorial Fountain proposal, both declined to serve, citing conflict of interest. Both William Falconer and J. Wilkinson Elliott, almost surely the earliest of Pittsburgh's professional landscape designers, made themselves unavailable to fill the necessary slot of landscape architect on the jury. This was eventually taken by Berthold Frosch, one of our most important park designers whose personality and career remain obscure. He was joined by Henry Hornbostel,

arguably by 1914 the city's most eminent and certainly most conspicuous architect, and by George S. Davison, Civil Engineer.

Their decision was announced in mid-June, 1915; they awarded first prize to Horace Wells Sellers and H. Bartol Register, both of Philadelphia, who had apparently formed a collaboration just for the purpose of entering the competition. Second prize went to Raymond H. Hood of New York, the home, as well, of the third prize winner, Arthur F. Brinckerhoff, Landscape Architect.

Before examining the competition entries, it would be interesting to pause to consider in the briefest way some basic data about these four designers. Sellers (1857–1933) came from a Philadelphia background in engineering. He had no experience with the architectural training of the period, which at first or second hand was based on the curriculum of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and he only very rarely formed any sort of professional association.

Register (1886–1956) was a recognized architect with some, if limited, experience with French architectural practice. In 1912, he joined as partner the Philadelphia firm of Evans, Warner, and Bigger, at the moment of Bigger's withdrawal to come to Pittsburgh. Frederick Thomas Bigger is a familiar name in the chronicle of public works and city planning here, and he began his public role early, serving throughout the Plaza competition as the Assistant Secretary to the Art Commission, a position that would have secured him the most intimate involvement with the entire procedure.

Raymond Hood (1881–1934) is the

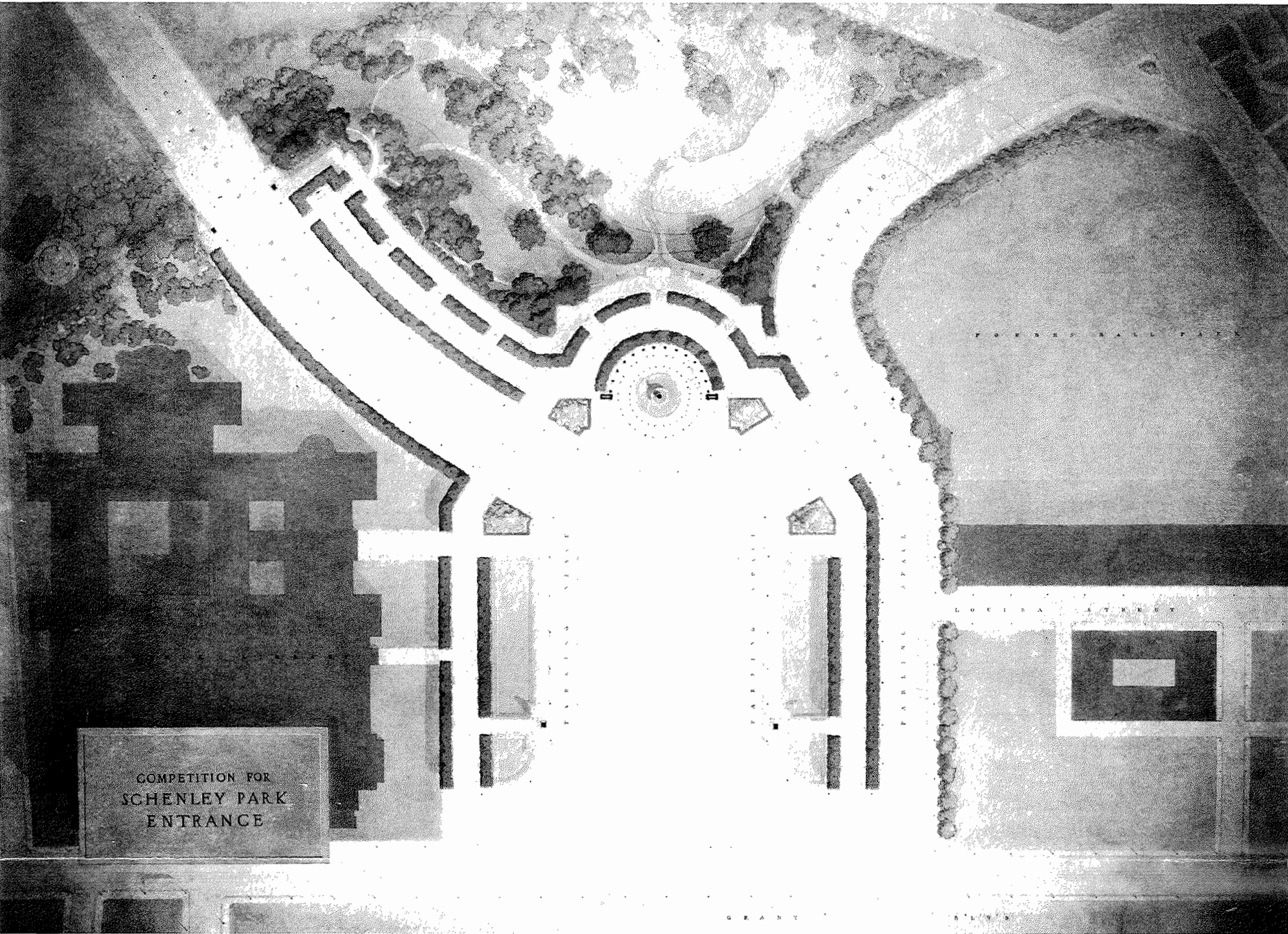
best-known name in the entire group of competitors. He has always been recognized as one of the most inventive and successful designers of the high-rise building in its hey-day in the 1920s. His impeccable background included an education at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and early professional training in the New York office of Cram and Goodhue. From 1906 to 1908 and again from 1911 to 1914, Hood was in Pittsburgh as assistant to Henry Hornbostel and hence would have known the site and context for the Plaza competition. It is unlikely that Hornbostel did not know of his protégé's undertaking.

As for Brinckerhoff (1880–1959), we know him as an extremely successful landscape architect. His work appeared in popular journals between the wars, and one of his designs achieved a sort of immortality through being chosen to illustrate the concept of "Home Grounds" in the widely used *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*. It is of some interest that in the report of the jurors to the competition committee chairman, Berthold Frosch, the landscape architect of the panel, added a dissenting statement, arguing that the third prize entry was superior to the other two and should have had the first prize. That third prize design was, of course, by Brinckerhoff, the only landscape architect premiated by the jury.

The winning designs illustrate the two most prevalent types of plans submitted in the competition; the formal, plaza kind represented by the first and second prize examples, and the informal sort, which called for an extension of Grant (Bigelow) Boulevard obliquely across

the area usually with rather naturalistic landscaping and with all other elements of the design rather loosely articulated; Brinckerhoff's submission well embodies this approach. All three of the winning plans took into consideration the possibility of a major new thoroughfare, Monongahela Boulevard, eventually entering the area of the Plaza from the southwest. This never-realized artery would presumably have linked Bellefield and its amenities with the Monongahela Valley, rather along the route of Bates Street. The subsequent creation of the Boulevard of the Allies sufficiently obviated the need for this earlier boulevard, much to the loss of the regularity and dignity of the Plaza. Taken as a group, the 45 entries present a fascinating cross section of planning ideas of the period. Many of them are elaborate beyond belief (and probably beyond realization, at least on any reasonable budget), but a significant number reveal admirable ingenuity in addressing the problems of the site. The competition entry of Thomas H. Scott of Pittsburgh is of some interest in the light of the anonymous plan for the treatment of the area that appeared in the 1911 report of the Department of Public Works and which was reproduced in my last article. He called for something very close indeed to the plan of 1911, albeit considerably more detailed, and given his long participation in city parks improvements (the bandstand surviving in West End Park is his), I am inclined to see him as the anonymous Departmental designer.

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The plan of the first-prize winner in the Plaza competition.

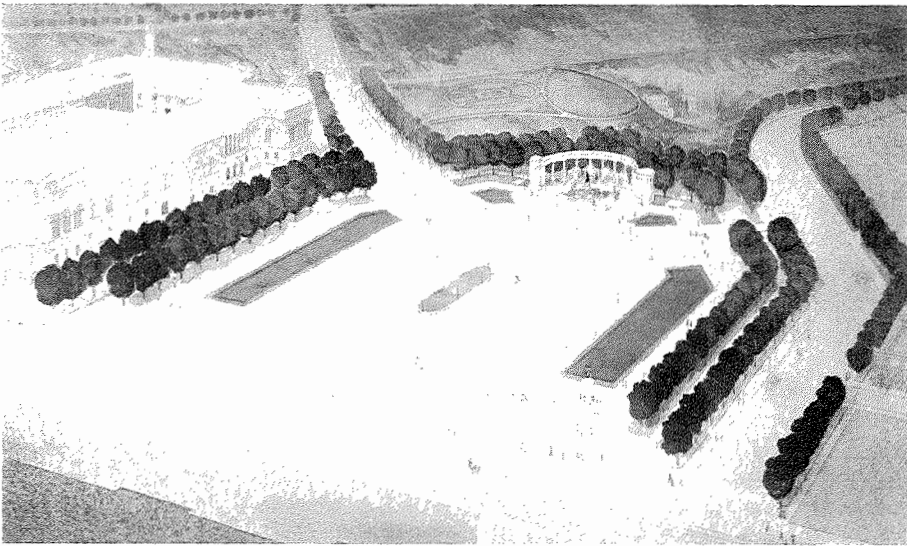
The second and third prize plans both made good use of the Bellefield Bridge by leaving its southern face free, converting it into a vast retaining wall. Both designers called for a grotto under the great arch but while Brinckerhoff developed this in the simplest way, Hood used the bridge's elevation as the staging for a vast double run of stairs, capped by an elegant peristyle with pavilions. Hood, like most of the entrants, placed the Schenley Memorial Fountain squarely in the middle of the bridge, a solution to its location that appears to have been dimly sensed as desirable from the earliest moments of the entire discussion of the area's resolution.

The Plaza Takes Shape

It is perhaps not too difficult to see some of the reasons the jury awarded first prize to the Sellers and Register design. It did, and does, allow for considerable traffic mobility and the essential parking, although never enough of that in anyone's memory. The scale of their plaza is certainly monumental enough to satisfy the standards of the City Beautiful style and it still more than holds its own in a radically altered context. And when we look at what their plan actually required, it boils down to paving and trees—lots of both. The columnar exedra that was to rise behind the Fountain's basin would certainly have been a nice touch although an expensive one, but even allowing for it, the first prize design would have been a

very economical affair to have realized, compared, for example, with Hood's idea, or with many other of the entries as well. The Art Commission made a number of suggestions for modifications, such as improved pedestrian right of way along Forbes at the Plaza's entrance, and it was only in January 1917 that the Commission formally requested the city to adopt the plan for implementation. Ominously, the Commission's statement classified as essential only the erection of the Memorial and the building of "such . . . roadways as may be required." All else could, or might, come in time, including the exedra, which the Commission felt would be acceptably replaced by some sort of planting, at least temporarily. In fact, the Commission's statement left until some future time any action on planting even though the Sellers/Register plan relied heavily on greenery for its form and character. It is hardly surprising that the exedra never was built.

The Schenley Memorial Fountain was dedicated on September 2, 1918, but work was still going on in the Plaza as late as 1921, when lighting was being installed. It is a safe bet that nothing had been done about the requisite planting, and only in 1921 came the first reference to a planting plan designed by the landscape architect James L. Greenleaf (1857–1933). He had been engaged by the Garden Club of Allegheny County, and their intervention is strong if negative evidence that the city had not pursued the completion of the Plaza in all its essentials. This was not to be the only time that the Club took an initiative in improving public grounds. On this occa-



A bird's eye rendering of a slightly later phase in the evolution of Sellers and Register's winning submission. The placement of the rows of trees is slightly altered, the plaza is now broken briefly by a small grass island, and more sidewalk is provided along Forbes.

sion, it secured one of the finest talents in the country. Members of the American Society of Landscape Architects with long memories speak with the greatest admiration of Greenleaf and in particular of his skill in selecting the right plant for the right design solution. At Schenley Plaza, he accepted the general specifications of the Sellers-Register plan but simplified its outline while enhancing the breadth of its scale. He retained the row of ginkgo trees already planted along the walk in front of the Library, and it was very likely Greenleaf who widened the strip of grass that divided the center of the paved area of the Plaza. This feature had not been

present at all in the original version of the winning design, but it did appear in the subsequent refining of that scheme by the architects themselves. Even then, however, it was a mere ribbon of lawn, lost in the paved vastness of the plaza. It had been given the shape of a *spina*, the built-up spine of a Roman circus, around which chariots, and now automobiles, could tear at breakneck speeds. The choice of the shape of this medial strip many have been dictated solely by its function and location, but it was an all too reliable augury of the later hectic traffic in the Plaza. In enlarging this patch of lawn, Greenleaf incorporated it more successfully into the overall

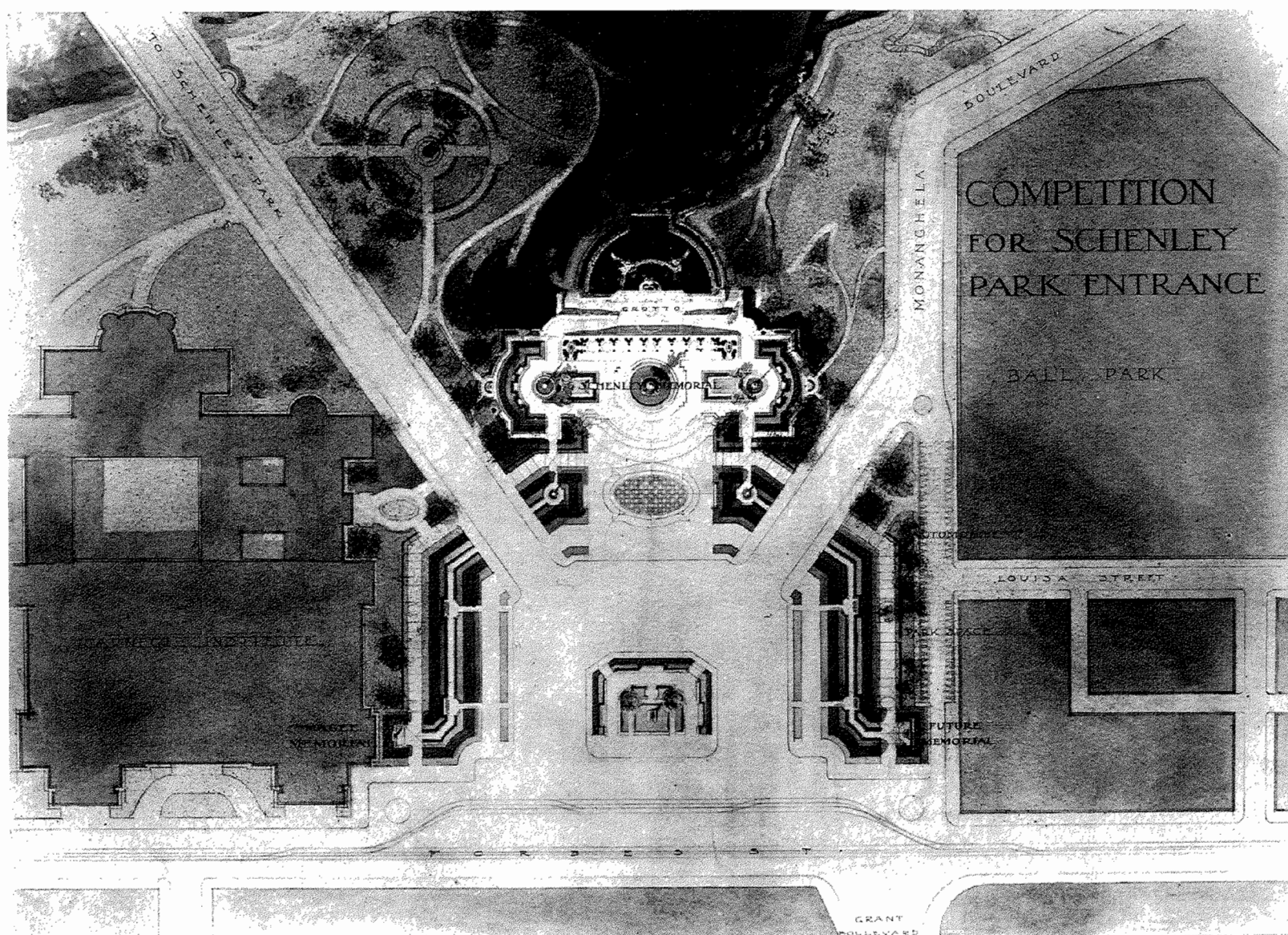


Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives

Raymond Hood's second prize winner. The plan called for a tremendous quantity of architectural embellishment. Is all this fussy angularity a foretaste of Hood's facility with Art Deco?

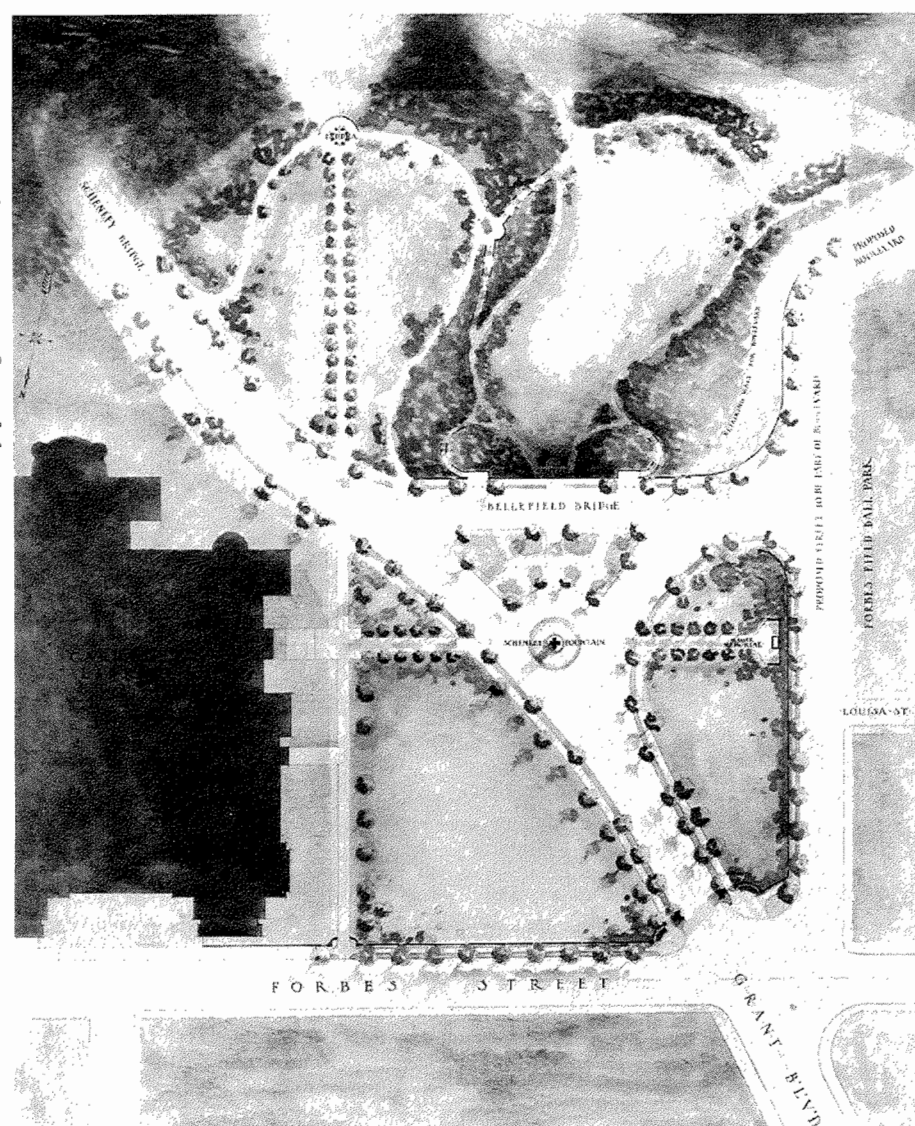


Photo courtesy of Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives

Brinckerhoff's third prize-winning design. It would be difficult to imagine a greater contrast with Hood's proposal than this. Here there would have been virtually no hardscape and the Park was still allowed to come up to the Forbes Street curbline.

design, even if it might have been at the expense of some parking spaces. It would have been his choice, too, to plant the area with the sycamore trees that have become the Plaza's signature. By 1923 the Plaza was complete, and its image, which we all have known and taken for granted, was established.

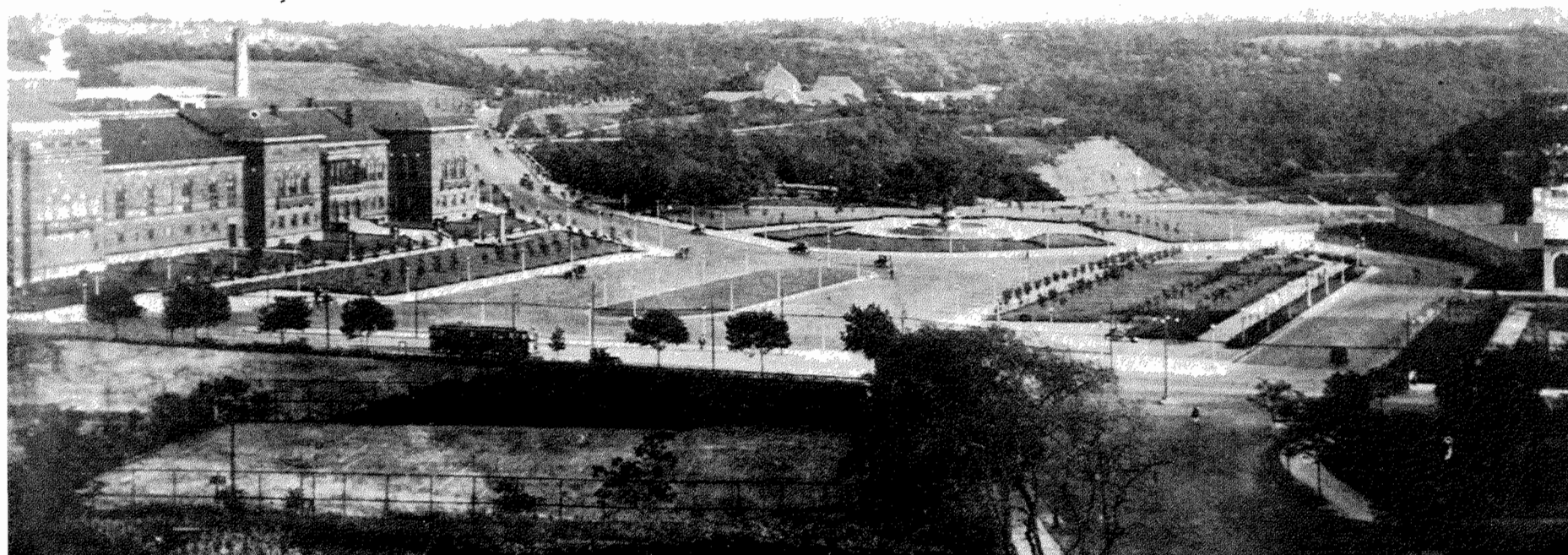
That is not to say that there would not be changes, additions, and further proposals. The small formal garden that appeared in the photograph of 1912, just to the right of the nearer end of Schenley Bridge, seems to have lingered into the 1930s. Such is the likely dating for a plan in the city's Department of Engineering and Construction that shows the garden along with a notation that the site is dilapidated and the paths overgrown. Drawings of 1938–39 show, for the first time, the present arrangement of the tiny plot that now holds the statue memorializing Stephen Collins Foster. In the years after 1945, there were repeated and increasingly drastic efforts to absorb the ever-swelling numbers of cars using the Plaza for passage and parking. That long series of adjustments never, until recently, significantly altered the basic character of the Plaza, but the process of accommodation speaks loudly of the Plaza's changing use and expectations.

Pleasant Dreams . . . and an Uneasy Reality

The finest improvement to the Plaza, after its completion, was proposed in 1939–40 when the Pittsburgh Garden Center hoped to create a permanent garden market around and behind the Schenley Fountain. For this, it had the very real benefit of a design by Ezra C. Stiles, one of Pittsburgh's most resourceful landscape architects in the middle decades of this century. His work has fallen out of sight in the most unwarranted fashion, and he is perhaps best remembered for his involvement with the creation of the county's fine group of regional parks and for a number of private gardens in the Fox Chapel area. His ideas for the garden market are nothing short of wonderful. Most of his proposal provided space for both permanent and temporary displays of garden materials at the amateur, club, and commercial levels. However, to these, Stiles added a children's pony track and circus, an outdoor cafe-restaurant (in Pittsburgh in 1940!), and a glass dance floor built out over part of the fountain basin and lighted from beneath. For sheer period *chic*, his design might have appeared in the pages of *Town and Country* celebrating a new amenity in Manhattan's Central Park. It goes without saying that the garden market was not built.

It is not so much the Plaza itself that has changed over the decades as it is the land immediately surrounding it. The construction of the Cathedral of

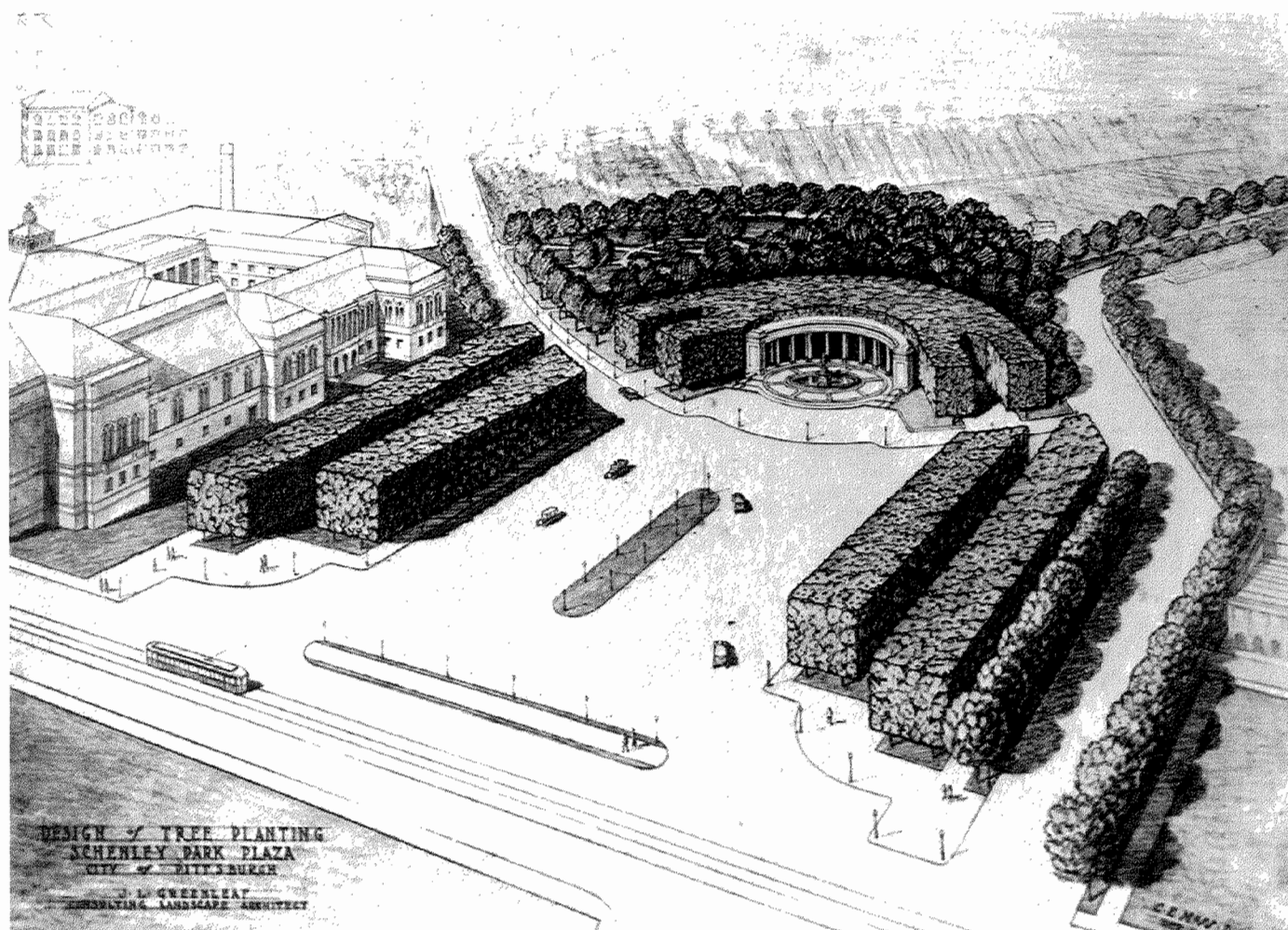
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The definitive version of Schenley Plaza as it looked in 1922-23.

Learning and the creation of its own expansive, park-like setting have ruled out the possibility of any built definition to the north side of the Plaza. The motley of its western boundary when Forbes Field still stood has been improved only marginally by Pitt's expansion there. Whatever Hillman Library's architectural merits may be, it was surely the wrong design for that site, while the building and courtyard to its south are just as surely among the most forlorn examples of anti-human design imaginable. One hears of the University's plans for more construction on this block, an expansion of the Library, but it is probably too much to hope (to dream?) that some new edifice will serve as a screen to the existing structures, conferring on this edge of the Plaza something of the dignity and order long familiar to us on the opposite side. As for the space to the south of the Schenley Fountain, the placement of the Frick Fine Arts Building, another insensitive architectural touch, irremediably ruined any hope for a systematic development at that site that would conform to the orientation of the Plaza. Oddly enough, the Fine Arts Building does fall on the axis of Bigelow Boulevard, in its final two blocks; this can hardly have been accidental, but the intention is obscure since the relationship is anything but obvious, or significant. Perhaps it was thought necessary to avoid building on the filled land directly on the axis of the Plaza on the south side of the Fountain.

So the boundaries of the Plaza are now defined, in however haphazard a way. The unrealized Monongahela Boulevard finally became a reality of sorts with the construction of Clemente Drive at the Plaza's southwest corner where, now, the pedestrian is at far greater risk than at the intersection of Fifth and Bigelow. The flood of cars increases, and the reconciliation of Plaza and parking was attempted, again, just a



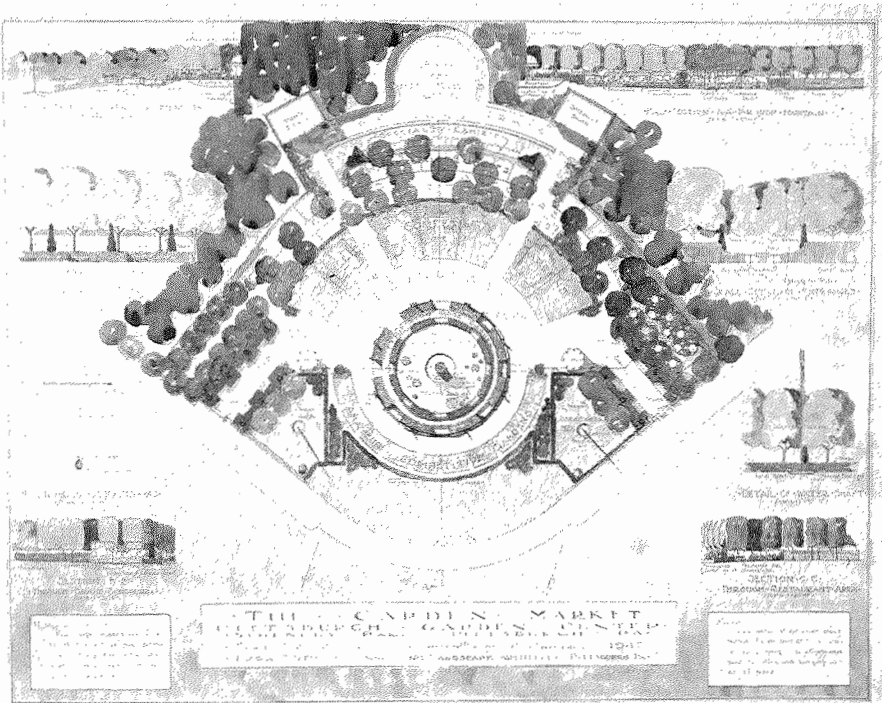
Another bird's eye rendering (and not a very good one) of an early phase of James Greenleaf's design for the Plaza planting. The exedra is still an intention, but the real architecture is provided by the massive blocks of pleached trees.

few years ago with the insertion of a walled parking reserve, a polite and practical idea that, however, diminishes the apparent scale of that great space. There seems now a faint but persistent opinion that the Plaza should be excavated to provide space for a vast underground parking garage and then recreated in some form as the garage roof. All that material so laboriously moved from Grant Street so many years ago to fill St. Pierre Ravine will have to be moved again. Whither now?

Whatever happens eventually on and around Schenley Plaza, let us hope that it waits until the eventual disappearance of the noble groves of sycamores created by James Greenleaf 75 years ago. The trees are going, to be sure; every year or so sees another of them succumbing to cankerstain, a problem inherent to their kind. And they are, after all, very mature specimens. The city's all but non-existent resources for the care of parks and trees prevents any systematic treatment of this problem, and the responsible

parties seem resigned to allowing Nature to take its course. No replanting takes place, and in due course, the groves will dwindle and vanish. Their appropriateness to their site far exceeds Greenleaf's intention. They, and the Plaza, are now surrounded on three sides by libraries while to the fourth there looms the very *locus classicus* of learning in our city. Sycamores are not olive trees, but they serve well enough to evoke that earlier grove that gave its name to Plato's Academy. I do not know how much

Photo by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON



Ezra Stiles' plan for a garden market at the south end of the Plaza, 1940. This drawing has hung for some years in the office of the Director of the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center. Another dream?

teaching and learning might occur beneath the Plaza's sycamores, but I can admit that I have found them, some years ago and now again quite recently, a hospitable place of reflection, unhurried thought, and gentle conversation. And that is to say nothing of the beauty of these massed trees in every circumstance of our variable year and weather. Perhaps one might be allowed to conjure up yet another dream for this place of dreams, a vision, certainly a hope, that those planners of the next century when charged with the inevitable re-ordering of the Plaza will remember the sycamores and their place and their meaning in the life of the city and of the Plaza.

Acknowledgment

It is now several years ago that Martin Aurand, director of Carnegie Mellon University's Architecture Archives, called my attention to the extensive documentation of the Schenley Plaza competition in that collection. I am grateful to him for that kindness and for subsequent, more recent help in the preparation of this article. My thanks go, as well, to Susan Parker, executive director of the Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center, for her friendly cooperation in allowing us to photograph and publish the plan for Ezra Stiles' design for a Garden Market.

Charles Birnbaum Visits Pittsburgh

On September 20, Charles Birnbaum, coordinator of the National Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative, spoke at a luncheon at the Grand Concourse restaurant. To an audience made up of members of Pittsburgh's academic, philanthropic, and horticultural communities, Mr. Birnbaum demonstrated the great need to identify and preserve historic designed landscapes across the nation. He pointed out that the nomination of Schenley Park to the National Register of Historic Places barely mentioned landscape elements—a telling illustration of how blind we have been to all aspects of the basic character of our planted environment. Mr. Birnbaum has just completed the Park Service's guidelines for historic landscape preservation and has also just finished working with Angela Landsbury on a film on historic American landscapes.

Mr. Birnbaum's appearance in Pittsburgh was initiated by the showing in the gallery of the Frick Fine Arts Building of his exhibition on Samuel Parsons, Jr., one of our great urban parks designers and a founder, along with Frederick Law Olmsted, of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The exhibition was organized by the Catalog of American Landscape Records at Wave Hill, Bronx, New York. Its Pittsburgh showing was made possible by generous support from Bruce Plastics, Inc. Mr. Birnbaum's three-day visit in Pittsburgh, during which he was taken to view a number of important landscape sites including "Woodville," was underwritten by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the regional chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Chatham College, and the Henry Clay Frick Department of Fine Arts of the University of Pittsburgh.



West End Park Barry Hannegan

The photograph above shows West End Park around 1910. The pavilion in the middle distance was the Park's first structure and was erected in 1903 after designs by C. W. Bartberger. The pavilion was demolished some years ago to be replaced by a basketball court.

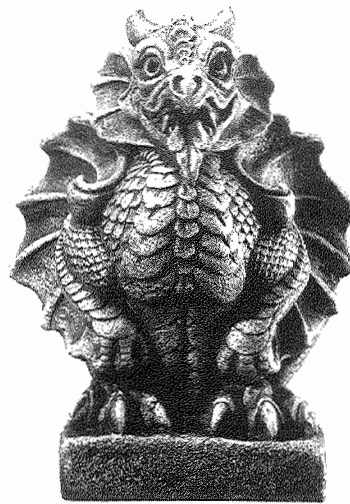
The uniformed figure has been identified as the Park manager Neil McCallum, who was responsible for the brilliant horticultural reputation of the Park early in this century. The younger man is thought to be Donald McCallum, who eventually succeeded his father as keeper of the Park.

Query: *Did Pittsburgh Parks officials wear uniforms?*

Patricia Lowry's article on West End Park, which appeared in the *Post-Gazette* in August, has triggered a number of calls from West Enders who have fond memories of the Park. These public-spirited individuals have given us a fund of new information and invaluable records of the Park's appearance earlier in the century. They are: John Gallaher; Joanne Imburgia; Mildred Novak; Regina Splane; and James Vandle.

I would like to thank them all for their thoughtful initiatives in contacting Landmarks and helping with the Historic Parks and Gardens Survey.

Capture the Guardian Spirit of Old-World GARGOYLES



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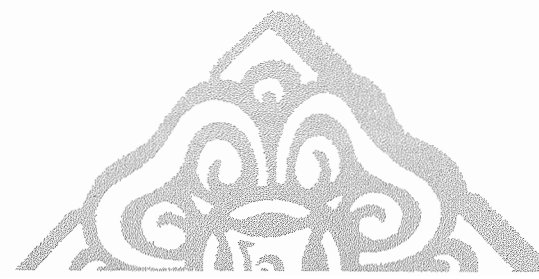
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Preserving Its Past*



Preservation Scene

(continued from page 9)

Canals vs. Highways

A useful idea for the Turnpike Commission? In Western Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission seems to have a great deal of money available to spend to plan new roads to the south of Pittsburgh that will only result in more dependence on the automobile, more pollution, more sprawl, and further weakening of the city.

But in New York State, the New York State Thruway Commission is spending money for a far superior purpose: the restoration of the Erie Canal from the western perimeter of the State all the way across and up to the Adirondacks, 234 miles long. It passes through 200 towns, creates 13 thematic parks, and affects millions of people.

Besides restoring this historic resource and doing so in such a way that it provides for many leisure activities, the entire project is generating considerable private investment in development, which is due to the sponsorship of the Thruway Commission rather than that of a political entity. Investors feel that there is a reliable source of revenue and a reliable sponsorship and therefore they will invest long-term dollars.

The architects for the Erie Canal restoration are Beyer Blinder Belle.



“Forty Favorites”—An Exhibition of Photographs by Clyde Hare

The Altoona branch of the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art is hosting a one-man exhibition of photographs by Clyde Hare. The show opens on October 25 and will remain open through January. If you are interested in going to see the show in Altoona, please call Noel Feeley for further details: (1-814) 946-4464.

In June, Clyde Hare was one of 76 artists featured in an exhibition at the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art in Loretto. The exhibition was titled “American Masters of Photography: A 100 Year Survey.”

As the holiday season approaches, keep in mind that members of Landmarks may purchase *Clyde Hare’s Pittsburgh: Four Decades of Pittsburgh, Frozen in Light* (\$65.00). Call Louise Sturgess (412) 471-5808 to order an autographed copy; members receive a 10% discount.



Frick Building Renovations Complete

Jack Norris, president of The Galbreath Company’s Mid-Atlantic Region, announced in mid-September that major renovations to restore The Frick Building to its original grandeur had been completed. Galbreath is the exclusive leasing and managing agent for the property located at 437 Grant Street and is one of the largest international privately held real estate companies in the country.

The renovations included restoring all of the bronze on the exterior and inside the lobby of the building, renovating both the Fifth and Forbes Avenue sidewalks and making the Fifth Avenue entrance compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), relighting the famous La Farge window and refinishing the marble floor in the lobby. Interior landscaping and furniture has also been added to the lobby. “This building is one of Pittsburgh’s greatest historic treasures and we’ve just highlighted its beauty,” says Nancy Kurdyla, property manager for Galbreath at The Frick Building.

The Frick Building is a 20-story Class A office building with 341,000 square feet of space. Currently it has 35,000 square feet of space available for lease.

Fort Pitt Museum

Among the things planned for Point State Park in the 1950s was construction of replicas of the bastions of Fort Pitt. On this subject Robert C. Alberts, in *The Shaping of the Point* (1980), called the architect Charles Morse Stotz’s proposal to use the inside of the Monongahela Bastion as a museum “one of the happy developments.” This particular ray of the Baroque star that was the fort’s design was to be re-created in concrete revetted with eighteenth-century-looking brick and roofed in 20 inches of concrete topped with a four-foot thickness of earth. The happiness has diminished since the Fort Pitt Museum opened in 1969. Its level has made it vulnerable to floods, and the earth-laden roof is cracked and leaky. This January’s flood put the museum theater out of action, as are the special exhibit areas, and another flood in July did not help. At present, though, all regular exhibits are on view. The roof, which began to leak in 1979, is to be totally rebuilt next year. Insurance will pay a little over \$200,000 to cover recent damage, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay an amount still to be determined, but much expenditure lies ahead.

Restore the ITC

Mayor Tom Murphy addressed the Democratic National Convention on August 27. Among other things he called for a full return of the federal Investment Tax Credit, once offered to owners of National Register properties who restore such properties according to the Secretary of the Interior’s standards. The credit, originally as high as 25 percent, was severely reduced by the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

At present, there are two federal rehabilitation tax credit laws: the Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit and the Non-historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

The Historic Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit program provides for a tax credit of 20 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenses on a Certified Historic Structure (i.e. listed on the National Register of Historic Places or located in a registered historic district and certified to be of historic significance to the district). A Non-historic Rehabilitation Credit provides for a tax credit of 10 percent of qualified rehabilitation expenses on any building that was first placed in service before 1936. The building must be “substantially rehabilitated,” meaning that the qualified rehabilitation expenditures within a two-year period exceed the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis in the building, and must also meet certain use requirements. Owners, long-term lessees, and partners may claim the credit, pretty much, but the situation is complicated. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 also produced the “passive activity loss” rules which operate to limit losses and credits from activities in which the taxpayer is not a “material participant.” These rules curtailed investment in rehabilitation projects.

Federal Government: Good

“The Commissioner of Public Building Service of the General Services Administration [GSA] has announced that the first priority in relocating government agencies will be to move people back into central business locations.” GSA has issued new rules that put more teeth into President Carter’s 1978 Executive Order that supported locating facilities in such areas and a 1976 law that required GSA to give preference to historic buildings. However, GSA is relying more heavily on demonstrating to agencies that downtown and historic buildings are good places to work and GSA wants to cooperate with the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Main Street Programs. According to the Trust’s magazine, *Historic Preservation*, GSA has 280,000,000 square feet of federal work space and 8,000 buildings and therefore can be a substantial positive client for the reuse of historic buildings.

Federal Government: Bad

Exercising a major usurpation of local zoning, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under the new telecommunications act has invalidated all ordinances regarding the placement of TV satellite dishes in residential areas, according to the National Trust.

In the past, local zoning and planning boards, town councils and mayors sought to regulate placement so that the aesthetics of a community would not be disturbed, but now the FCC has taken over. According to *Historic Preservation* magazine, Kevin McCarty, the assistant executive director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, says that “the flagrancy

and aggressiveness of the rule, the idea that the FCC is going to replace local police and zoning power in this area, sets a horrible precedent.” In fact the Mayor’s Conference staged a demonstration outside the FCC offices to protest the rule.

One of the first historic towns to be affected is Williamsburg, where the town counsel tried to keep satellite dishes to the side and rear yards so that they would not be visible from the front streets. However, this ordinance in Williamsburg now appears to be illegal and the FCC regulation permits no exemptions.

The FCC says that it is trying to “balance the federal interest in ensuring easy access to satellite services with . . . managing land use in . . . communities.” The city planning director of Williamsburg says, “We have a real concern in the preemption. For the FCC to say we can’t regulate here at all makes no sense.”



St. Michael the Archangel, South Side.

Endangered Place

In the National Trust’s 1996 list of America’s 11 Most Endangered Places, Pennsylvania was represented only once: the East Broad Top Railroad, in Huntingdon County at the center of the state. This steam-period narrow-gauge railroad is popular with tourists but cannot support itself from their admissions, and subsidy money is running out. Preservation Pennsylvania has its own endangered list, maintained since 1992. Its Allegheny County components are the Carrie Furnaces in Swissvale, the South Side Church of St. Michael the Archangel, the Armstrong Cork group in the Strip, Allegheny River Boulevard, and “Willow Cottage” in Shadyside.

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:

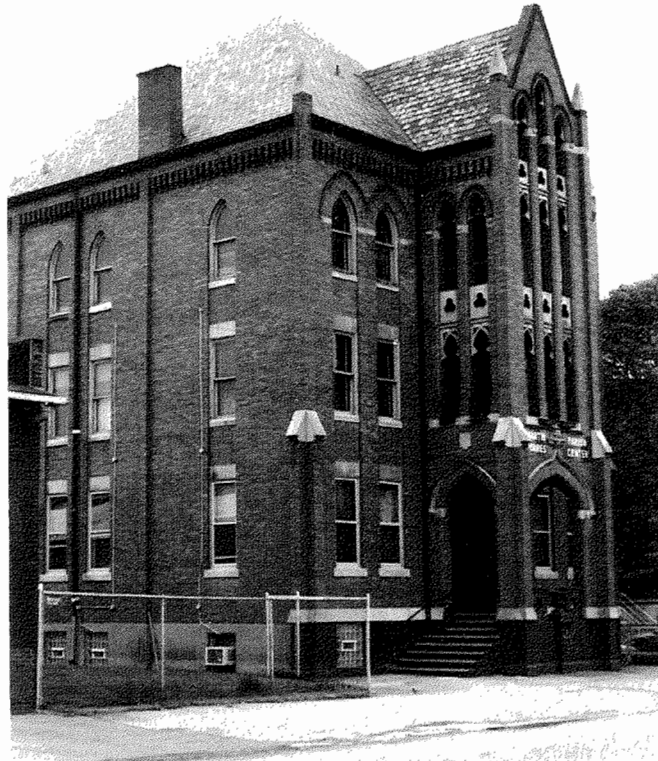
- they are remarkable pieces of architecture, construction, or planning, or if they impart a rich sense of history;
- alterations, additions, or deterioration have not substantially lessened their value in the above respects;
- they are at least 50 years old;
- they are within Allegheny County.

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.

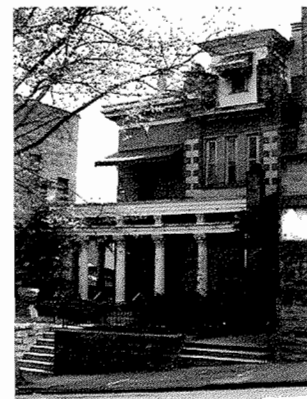
PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE: *A Few Finds*

Walter C. Kidney

Our last issue gave a progress report on the updating of *Landmark Architecture* and our fieldwork. This "Pittsburgh Architecture" installment is a sort of complement to the report: a random gathering of pleasurable encounters and rediscoveries along the various ways we have traveled.



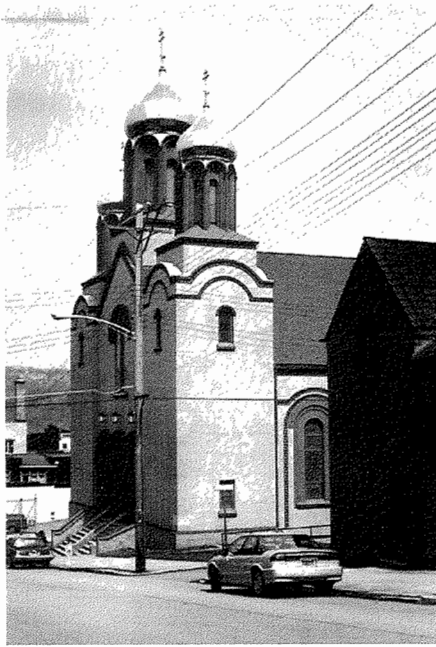
The present St. Martin de Porres Parish Center, at 704 Market Street, McKeesport, was probably built around 1900, and escapes from the banal through this open, ascending entrance pavilion.



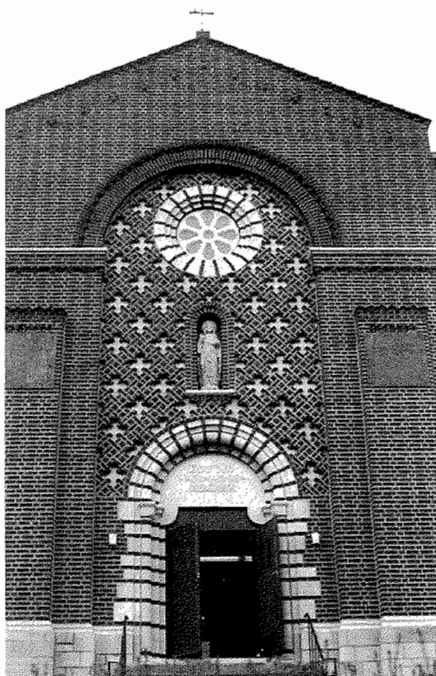
Titus de Bobula's rectory for St. John's Byzantine Catholic Cathedral, built on Dickson Street in Munhall in 1903, uses an Art Nouveau version of the Composite Order. The frieze is open, with peculiar supports to secure the upper part of the entablature. I keep thinking that there is a precedent in Italy from just this time but have not remembered where it is.



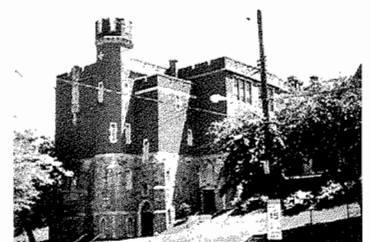
Lamont Button, the good Pittsburgh architect of the 1930s and 40s, used lovely rich red brick in three churches within two blocks along Tenth Avenue in Homestead. This is one little window in St. Nicholas' Orthodox C.R. Church on Ann Street, finished in 1950. The red brick outlines big gaudy side bays and enriches doorways and the drums of onion domes, but this little detail, contrasting with pale yellow wall brickwork, is elegantly sufficient.



This is a convent attached to St. Mark's Church in the Industrial Bottoms of McKees Rocks. My guess is that it dates from the mid or late 1920s, and that the architect was the fanciful Edward Joseph Weber, an architect I am finding more and more interesting. The light was good in this picture, and every brick and slate is individualized, as the architect doubtless desired.



Mount Assisi in Ross Township is almost certainly by Edward Joseph Weber, and its chapel entrance is an effervescent essay in deep red brick and white limestone: a sort of Italian Romanesque up to a point, original beyond. It was built in 1927.



The greater part of St. Philip's School in Crafton also was built in 1927, with warm-toned rock-faced sandstone below and rich red brick above. The masonry is unusual in that, not only is the sandstone random ashlar—squared in various dimensions and jigsaw-puzzled together—but so is the brickwork. You think of brick as a modular material, easily assembled, but Bertram Goodhue, for instance, at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York, used labor-intensive fitting-together of differently dimensioned bricks in order to get a varied, random pattern; and so it is here. Another Weber design, most likely.

Education News

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!

October 28 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
1996 Award of Merit Presentations and Reception at Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at The Priory.

November 6 10 a.m. to 3p.m.
Calvary Episcopal Church
Landmarks and the Church Restoration Group will host an Emergency Planning and Disaster Recovery Seminar. Stewards of religious properties may register (\$15 per person including lunch) by calling (1-800) 322-3520. See page 5 for more details.

November 18 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
P&LE Room, Station Square Sheraton
Distinguished Lecture on Historic Preservation: F. Blair Reeves, F.A.I.A., "A Peninsular View of Thanksgiving, Architecture, and Preservation"

November 22 and 23 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
November 24 Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Holidays at the Neville House in Collier Township. The house will be decorated for the holidays and hand-made crafts and baked goods will be on sale.

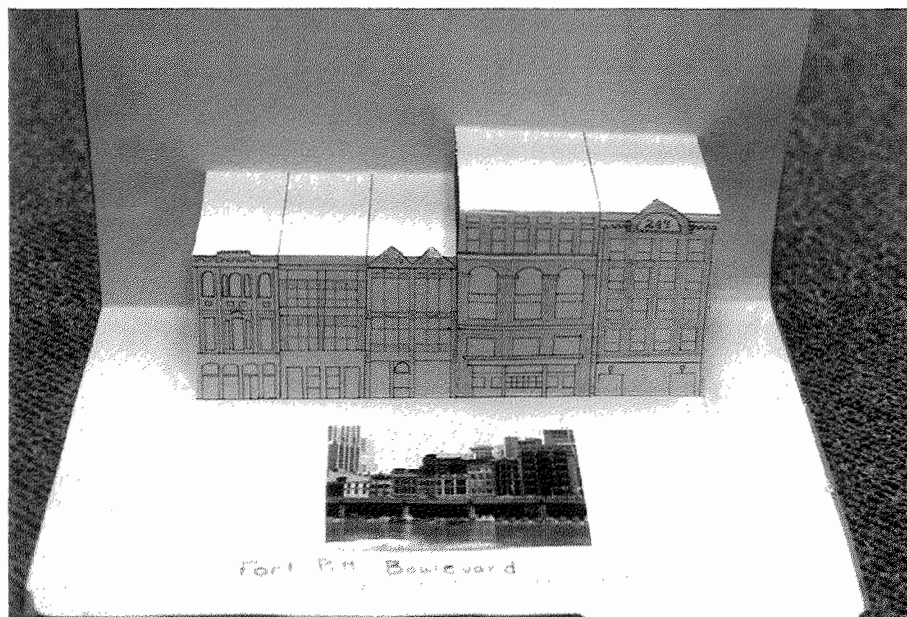
December 7 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Meeting location: One Oxford Centre Grant Street
The Galbreath Company is sponsoring Landmarks' first annual Holiday Tour and High Tea, downtown. (For details, see page 19.)

December 15 2 to 5:30 p.m.
Departing from Station Square
Join Landmarks for a holiday bus tour to the First Hungarian Reformed Church in Hazelwood and the Covenant Church in Wilkinsburg.

January 9 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
(tentative)
Holiday reception at Sunnyside Inn in Shadyside.

Tour the Frank Lloyd Wright Office at The Heinz Architectural Center

The Heinz Architectural Center, the Carnegie Museum of Art has begun guided tours of the Frank Lloyd Wright San Francisco Field Office on the second Wednesday and the third Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Tour reservations are required; each tour is limited to seven people and lasts approximately 45 minutes. To make a reservation call (412) 622-3222.



Wake-up Your Students with Pop-Up Engineering, Bridge-Building, Mask Making, etc.

How about something out-of-the ordinary for your students? How about



challenging them to make pop-up buildings, paper-bag buildings, gargoyle masks, books about Pittsburgh, or city murals? How about holding a bridge-building competition for middle school students?

Any of these projects will enrich a social studies, art, or language arts class and encourage cooperative learning among students, as well as creativity, hands-on experience, and pride.

If you are interested in finding out how to do any of these projects, call Landmarks' education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks at (412) 471-5808. She will be happy to mail project directions to you.

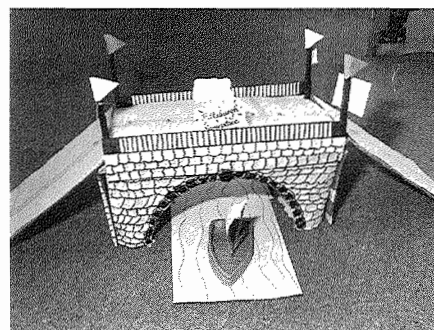


Photo by Diane I. Daniels

Inspiring Urban Youth

This summer, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, met with 25 students from the city's West End neighborhood. He and other African-American members of Landmarks' staff talked with the students about their educational experiences, job responsibilities, and career goals. The students were participants in a summer program sponsored by Community Outreach Ministries, Inc.



Westmoreland County Students Participate in Design Competition

At the request of Sandy Cover, a teacher of gifted students in the Belle Vernon Area School District, Landmarks has developed a design competition for about 200 middle and high school gifted students in Westmoreland County. On September 23 and on October 28 students met with Landmarks' education staff and docents at Station Square. They viewed the "Architecture: The Building Art" slide show, toured the city, and discussed their design projects. Middle school students will be building a model of a housing complex for City and County employees on the east lot of Station Square. High school students will be building a model of a headquarters building for an industry they envision on the site where the Alcoa Building is now. (They are required to reuse at least half the aluminum panels and preserve the atrium in their design.) Students will work on their models in October, November, and December, and record their design progress in a log book. On January 23 they will return to Station Square, where their models will be exhibited and judged by architects.

Resource Fair, Apprentices, and Teacher Enhancement

Three notable events occurred in October:

- On October 3 Landmarks participated in the "Resource Fair" sponsored by the Regional Math/Science Collaborative at the Carnegie Science Center. Educators from Southwestern Pennsylvania came to see the many resources available through various organizations to enrich math/science curricula.
- On October 9 twenty-one high school students from throughout Allegheny County attended the first session of the "Architectural Apprenticeship," offered by Landmarks and architect David Roth through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. The students will meet once a month, October 1996 through February 1997, to learn about the architectural profession.
- During the afternoon of October 9, Landmarks' staff also met with teachers from Westmoreland, Greene, Washington, and Fayette counties who were participating in the Teacher Enhancement Program sponsored by California University.

DOUBLE OUR STRENGTH

ASK A FRIEND to join the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, or give a membership to a friend as a birthday present.

A MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$20.
CALL MARY LU DENNY AT
(412) 471-5808 FOR DETAILS.

Ziegler Speaks at the Chicago Society of Architectural Historians

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks, spoke to the Chicago Society of Architectural Historians on October 15, reviewing Landmarks' historic preservation program in Pittsburgh. He was particularly pleased to address the Chicago Society of Architectural Historians since members from the organization had visited Pittsburgh in 1995 and toured the city with Landmarks.

Photographer Volunteers His Talent

After attending one of Landmarks' educational classes sponsored through Pitt's Informal Program, Daniel R. Skrabski offered to take some color slides of landmark buildings in downtown Pittsburgh so the quality of our slide presentations would be first rate. Mr. Skrabski is a customer service representative for Sukolsky-Brunelle, a custom photo lab in downtown Pittsburgh.

We thank Mr. Skrabski for making this suggestion and for volunteering his time to take over 45 color slides. His work is excellent, and as a result the images in our slide lectures will be more vivid, current, and dramatic.

Library Expansion

Landmarks has an excellent library of books and periodicals relating to historic preservation, architecture, town planning, and landscape history. The library began with the gift of books from James D. Van Trump, significantly augmented by gifts from Walter C. Kidney, our architectural historian, together with purchases and individual gifts.

The library also contains an archives of photographs of local architecture, slides, and architectural plans of buildings with which Landmarks has been associated.

We are pleased to announce that we have acquired more space on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building and are therefore able to increase the library space by about 40 percent.

Renovation began this September and we hope all work will be completed in December. The reading room will be significantly larger and we will be able to utilize a fine oriental carpet given to us by our Chairman and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Albert C. Van Dusen. The carpet once graced the apartment of Vira Heinz in the Park Mansions in the East End.

During this interval, the library is not accessible to members, but will be once again in early December.

Railroad Picture Book

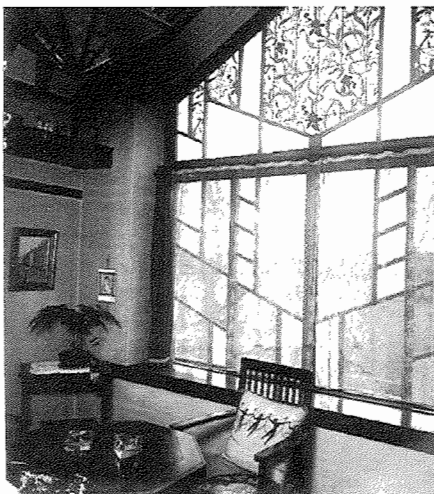
Willard A. Harvey, Jr., *Railroads of the Ohio Valley 1947-1960. Book One: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Gallipolis, Ohio.* Telford, Pa.: Silver Brook Junction Publishing Company, Inc., 1995. 96 pp., 145 photographs. \$21.95.

This is a simple treatment of its subject, limited to basic information and period photographs, the great majority showing the last steam locomotives in operation. Major and very minor railroads, including those of industrial plants, are included.

Japanese Preservationist Visits Landmarks

Mr. Masato Sugiura, a representative of "The Society of Appreciating Architectural Heritage in Sapporo," visited Landmarks during his trip to the United States to learn about historic preservation organizations and programs.

Mr. Sugiura met with members of the Landmarks staff, attended a session of the "Pittsburgh Heritage" course taught in association with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, toured Manchester Citizen's Corporation projects with Rhonda Brandon, and discussed the Community Design Center's recently established neighborhood restoration Renovation Information Network with Rick St. John.



Sapporo is a city on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. One of the architectural heritage society's projects is the preservation of a house designed by a local Japanese architect who admired the work of Frank Lloyd Wright.



Schwartz brass-melting furnace.

Two Artifacts in Place

Two artifacts have been set up on the East Lot at Station Square, next to the walk beside the tracks. One is a Schwartz brass-melting furnace, donated by Shenango, Incorporated. For those who wonder why a furnace company, which makes pig iron and iron castings, needs to melt brass: Shenango had an Ohio subsidiary that did centrifugal casting in bronze. A major customer was the Electric Boat Company in Connecticut, long-time builder of submarines, which used a bronze-like alloy in propeller-shaft bearings.

The other artifact is a portion of the stator from a powerhouse generator. Those who know Latin will appreciate that a stator stands still while the rotor fits within the stator and rotates. The energy put into the rotation process by a turbine is transformed into electric energy. The stator as displayed is the bare bone of the mechanism, minus the magnets and windings it would have had in use.

Landmarks' Riverwalk was featured in the Fall 1996 issue of *Invention & Technology* in an article by Frederic D. Schwarz. He writes: "Touring the site is enough to make anyone feel like a toddler crawling under the kitchen table."



August 3, 1996

Dear Landmarks,

I just finished taking your "Downtown Dragons" walking tour. I was "scouting" the tour for a possible field trip for my students. The tour was terribly interesting, and beautifully done!

I've recently taken your South Side and Chatham walking tours and viewed your slide show on historical churches. I enjoy your publications and newsletter. Also, during the past two school years, I've had your wonderful "Portable Pittsburgh" program come to my classroom.

BRAVO and deep appreciation for all the wonderful work you do.

Angela Marvin

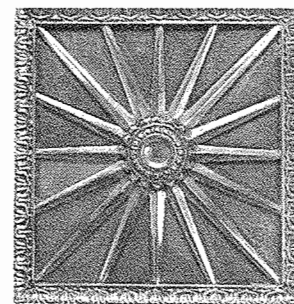
Mrs. Angela Marvin,
M.A., M.S.Ed.

Transportation & Technology Museum Breaks Ground

The Transportation & Technology Museum, which formerly operated the Station Square Transportation Museum, has joined forces with the Frick Art & Historical Center to expand the existing carriage museum at "Clayton" in Point Breeze. Ground was broken in July for a 6,000 square-foot addition designed by Landmarks Design Associates Architects and constructed by CMI Construction, Inc. The new museum, named the Car and Carriage Museum at the Frick, will house over 30 vehicles representing the Pittsburgh region's contribution to the industries involved in the creation and development of the auto industry during the Frick era, c. 1890-1930. The anticipated opening of the Museum is June 1997.

ANNOUNCING
LANDMARKS'
FIRST ANNUAL

HOLIDAY TOUR & HIGH TEA



**Downtown
Saturday
December 7**

12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Grant Street entrance to
One Oxford Centre

Sponsored by



**The Galbreath
Company**

- ◆ Explore Grant Street's historic buildings and interiors, decorated especially for the holidays.
- ◆ Visit Henry Clay Frick's private chambers in the Frick Building.
- ◆ Enjoy High Tea in the lobby of the historic William Penn Hotel.

\$20 per person
(including a round-trip ticket on the "T" from Station Square to downtown Pittsburgh in case you want to park at Station Square).

**For reservations,
call Mary Lu Denny
(412) 471-5808.**



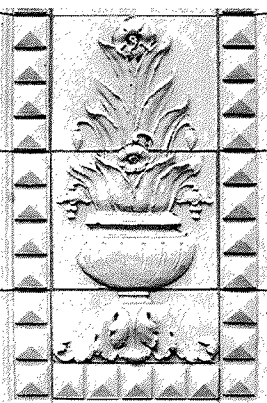
**Reservation deadline:
December 4**

Lazarus Arising

(continued from page 1)

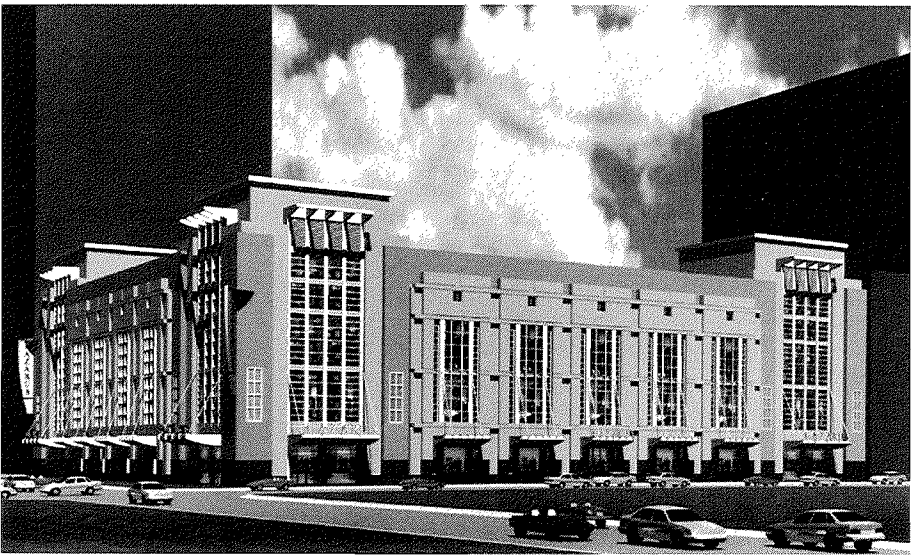
The Lazarus Store

The new design, by Cooper Carry & Associates of Atlanta, is supposed to be “modern yet substantial to fit in with the solid architectural style of Downtown Pittsburgh,” according to a Lazarus release. The materials externally are cast stone over granite, though mullions, canopies, and open quasi-cornices over the corner pavilion windows will be aluminum and stainless steel. In general the design is a rather attractive one, weaving and projecting vertical and horizontal elements nicely and presenting a solid overall shape to the spatial voids across Wood Street and the forgettable architecture across Fifth Avenue. The general effect is palatial as far as these two streets are concerned. The



A doorway detail from 312-16 Oliver Avenue.

three-level underground parking garage will apparently be served from Oliver Avenue, a street now of most ambivalent nature, half-alley, half a place of modest commerce.



The new Lazarus.

Henceforth the alley will surely predominate, with only Trinity Cathedral, Revco, and the Oliver Building having public doorways along the 480-foot block. One may hope, though, for an architectural treatment, adapted to the functions served on this humbler street, that is consistent with the other fronts. Apart from that misgiving we have only two criticisms. First, the signage shown is ineffectual, and the hanging signs of an ugly shape. Second, the openwork cornices over the corner windows seem unnecessary and distracting. The smaller windows with their cast-stone frames are more interesting and contribute more to the building’s unity. We remain mystified as to why this particular block of buildings was chosen

as the site for a new Lazarus store rather than the buildings across Fifth Avenue on either side of Wood Street; these are largely non-descript, and far less demolition cost would be involved because they are all low-rise. Why take away the best buildings when two other groups present themselves as far superior candidates for removal? We do appreciate the fact that the architect of the new Lazarus building is committed to a design that has good fenestration and no blank walls, and to some degree echoes the historic architecture of the city. He spent time in our office learning about the building history of Pittsburgh, and we appreciate his sensitivity.

The Fallen



The granite lower story of the Third National Bank. The original upper wall surface was pale warm-gray Roman brick. The canopy and the sign over the pediment are additions.



Terra-cotta detailing, 520 and 518 Wood Street.



Art Nouveau at 514 Wood Street.



Looking up at 312-16 Oliver Avenue.



The Farmers Bank Building from Oliver Avenue.



Trustees enjoyed a tour and refreshing glass of lemonade at the Morning Glory Inn—Pittsburgh’s newest bed-and-breakfast—on the South Side.

Trustees Tour Current Projects

On July 10, trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation toured historic properties and neighborhoods in Allegheny County where Landmarks is funding or assisting with major preservation efforts. Trustees visited the Neville House, West End business district, Manchester, East Allegheny, Bloomfield-Garfield, Oakland, and the South Side. Executive directors of many of the neighborhood groups welcomed our trustees as we toured the various neighborhoods; they helped make the day-long tour a worthwhile and enlightening event.



Northside preservationists (from left to right): Rhonda Brandon, executive director of Manchester Citizen’s Corporation; Ethel Hagler, Landmarks’ trustee; and Barbara Burns, executive director of East Allegheny Citizens Council.



George Yeckel (left) and Mark Bibro inspect the new foundation under the rear section of the Neville House in Collier Township.

Photos by Bill Rydberg, PHOTON