



PHLF News

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

No. 147 September 1997



Photos by Jim Indles

Looking toward Pittsburgh from the North Side.

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Preservation Fund Strengthened

Fannie Mae Foundation Approves \$250,000 Investment for Landmarks

Landmarks is pleased to announce that the Fannie Mae Foundation, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has approved its request for a Program-Related Investment to be utilized by the Preservation Fund in the amount of \$250,000. Landmarks president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services, pursued the Fannie Mae Foundation investment as a result of a recommendation from Landmarks member David Brashear; it represents the first substantial foundation commitment (other than federal grants) that Landmarks has received from an out-of-town entity.

The Fannie Mae Foundation, a private foundation, supports national and local non-profit organizations working to provide decent affordable housing, and otherwise improve the quality of life, in communities throughout the United States. To promote homeownership the Foundation also sponsors public service outreach efforts, including consumer education and home-buying fairs, and conducts housing and policy research. The Foundation's sole source of support is Fannie Mae. The Foundation has regional offices in

Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Pasadena, and Philadelphia.

A Program-Related Investment (PRI) is essentially a low-interest loan to a non-profit, charitable organization that is involved with housing. Landmarks' PRI must be used for the restoration of historic buildings for low- and moderate-income housing in Pittsburgh. The Preservation Fund already is considering several possibilities that



The South Side flats and slopes.

meet the Fannie Mae Foundation's criteria. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. will be responsible for the administration of the Program-Related Investment. However, if a loan

request exceeds \$100,000, the Preservation Loan Fund Committee reviews the request for approval.

The infusion of \$250,000 to the Preservation Fund will make a significant impact on Landmarks' ability to restore historic homes in Pittsburgh. We are grateful to the Fannie Mae Foundation.

The Hillman Foundation Awards Two-year Grant

Landmarks also is the recipient of a two-year grant in the amount of \$150,000 from The Hillman Foundation, Inc. The funds will be used to augment the Preservation Fund which makes loans to tax-exempt neighborhood organizations for the preservation and restoration of historic and architecturally significant buildings in Pittsburgh and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Hillman Foundation contribution was awarded in response to a proposal submitted by Landmarks in September 1996. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. received formal notification shortly before Landmarks' May meeting of its Board of Directors. "The timing of the grant approval could not have been better. It was wonderful news to give to our Board," said Mr. Slaughter.

Through the years, The Hillman Foundation has supported Landmarks' neighborhood restoration work and its publications. We recognize that this grant is a major commitment from the Foundation, enabling Landmarks' Preservation Fund activities to expand. We believe that the funds will be at work by Fall, helping more neighborhood restoration work proceed.

Bigelow Boulevard: an Offer from Landmarks

On July 23, while verbal lightning continued to rage over the southernmost block of Bigelow Boulevard, Landmarks put an offer to the University of Pittsburgh and the City to supply plans and specifications free of charge for a compromise solution to the matter. Our letter to the University indicated that:

Landmarks agrees to the narrowing of Bigelow Boulevard between Fifth and Forbes Avenues to a central two-lane cartway, with an extension southward into Schenley Plaza. This extension is to be realigned, if the Plaza is eventually redesigned, so as to head more directly toward the Schenley Fountain. The existing sidewalks are to remain in place.

Landmarks proposes planting a sweep of evergreen shrubs between the new cartway and the present curb lines, the shrubs not to exceed three feet in height and to cover the entire area, except possibly for corner flower beds and inset benches facing the Cathedral of Learning and the Student Union. Extant trees on the lawns are not to be removed, and new ones may be planted, but only inside the existing sidewalks.

Landmarks' landscape historian Barry Hannegan and horticulturist Greg Yochum, in collaboration with local architects and landscape planners, will proceed with a design, based on these general principles, that may be included in the City's bid package. Any basic deviation from the concepts outlined above will render the agreement void.

Welcome New Members

(as of August 4, 1997)

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

Mr. & Mrs. Allan W. Beatty	Florie Krell
Mr. & Mrs. John Howe Billings and family	Michael F. Lacy
Peter C. Bower	Marianne Lesonick
Jay Judson Brooks	Stephanie S. Lind
Madonna Carr	Mr. & Mrs. R. Dennis McClelland
Ross Carr and Adam Jacobs	Christine A. Nettrour
Meg Cheever and family	Karl Owens
Anna Connor	Terese Piccoli
Basil Cox	Violeta Rodriguez
Susan Cramer	Janet L. Sargert, Esq.
Corinne A. Crocco	Mildred F. Schmertz
Lynn S. Dunbar	Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Jared I. Edwards	Eni Sonmez-Alpan
John K. Ellis	Steel Industry Heritage Corporation
Floyd R. Ganassi	Mr. & Mrs. John Stephen
Kathleen Harris	Judy A. Traveny
Veronica Hastings and Todd Hess	Paul J. Urbani and family
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Hurtt	Stephanie Wishney
Betsy and David Kain and family	

Welcome Corporate Members

(as of August 4, 1997)

Benefactor	Great American Federal Savings & Loan Association
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	The Gustine Company
Patron	Neville Chemical Company
Alpern, Rosenthal & Company	Sargent Electric Company
Partners	Associates
Bognar and Company	Delta International Machinery Corporation
Burrell Group, Inc.	Pytlik Design Associates
Ferry Electric Company	

Special Gifts

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks Mr. and Mrs. Farrell Rubenstein for making a contribution to Landmarks in celebration of the special birthdays of Claire Hahn, Marilyn Latterman, Barbara Miller, and Jackie Wechsler. Mrs. Rubenstein is a trustee of Landmarks and we are grateful for her support.

Trustee Honored

James W. Knox, a trustee of Landmarks and long-time leader in local and state government affairs, was presented the University of Pittsburgh Alumni of Distinction Award on November 22, 1996. He was commended for his “52-year career as a volunteer for the Nationality Rooms Program.”

Over the years Mr. Knox’s offices included chairman of the Irish Room Committee, chairman of the Nationality Council, and chairman of the Cultural and Educational Exchange Endowment Fund. In the latter capacity, he established six scholarship endowments totaling nearly \$200,000. His efforts funded the Irish Room’s Book of Kells cabinet, the Commons Room organ, a Samuel Yellin exhibit, and the publishing of the Nationality Rooms Book. The University of Pittsburgh was the recipient of the United States Flag and the Presidential Flag from President John F. Kennedy’s Oval Office, in honor of Mr. Knox. These flags now stand in the Chancellor’s office.

PHLF News is published four times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, a non-profit historic preservation organization serving Allegheny County. Landmarks is committed to neighborhood restoration and historic-property preservation; public advocacy; education and membership programs; and the continuing operation of Station Square, an historic riverfront property opposite downtown Pittsburgh.

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Designed by Pytlik Design Associates

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.	President
Louise Sturgess	Editor/Executive Director
Cathy Broucek	Assistant to the President
Elisa J. Cavalier	General Counsel
Tom Croyle	Comptroller
Mary Lu Denny	Director of Membership Services
Mary Ann Eubanks	Education Coordinator
Barry Hannegan	Director of Historic Landscape Preservation
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
Gregory C. Yochum	Horticulturist
Ronald C. Yochum, Jr.	Assistant for Public Policy and CIO

Carl Wood Brown Fund Established

Landmarks is pleased to announce a generous gift from Carl Wood Brown to establish our newest Named Fund. The Carl Wood Brown Fund will be utilized for the restoration and maintenance of houses and churches in the Pittsburgh area, as well as for other activities undertaken by Landmarks.

Mr. Brown’s gift continues a recent tendency that was not expected when we began the Named Funds Program. In the past year, three of the four new Named Funds have been created by members of Landmarks who have not lived in Pittsburgh for some years but who have continued their memberships. We now have gifts from members in Virginia, Connecticut, and Florida.

Mr. Brown has been a member of Landmarks for nineteen years and a loyal contributor to our publications. He said that he feels “privileged to show my support for the outstanding preservation work done by Landmarks these many years. In my opinion Landmarks has made a most significant contribution to the restoration progress of Pittsburgh.”

Named Funds may be established with gifts of money or securities. For information on establishing a Named Fund, call Arthur Ziegler or Cathy Broucek at (1-412) 471-5808.

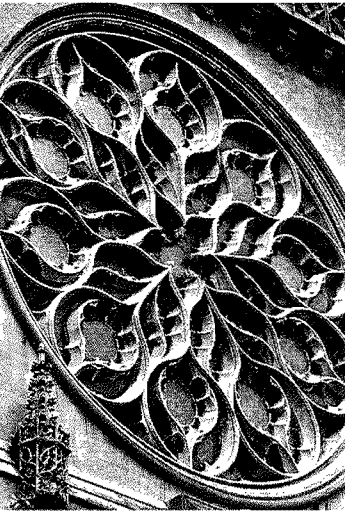


Photo by Clyde Hare

Trustee Generously Supports Historic Religious Properties Initiative

Last year, 129 members and friends of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation responded to our year-end request, contributing almost \$11,000 to Landmarks’ Historic Religious Properties Fund. Constance O’Neil, a trustee of Landmarks, was impressed by this broad public support and specified that her most recent contribution to Landmarks be designated for historic religious property preservation also. The staff and trustees of Landmarks thank Mrs. O’Neil for her generous gift.

Gift from Texas Has Pittsburgh Roots

In April of this year, Landmarks received a letter from a Texas bank stating that the RSMIS Foundation wanted to make a \$300 grant to our organization. In addition, the grant would qualify for a matching contribution from USX Corporation.

After further investigation, we learned that the RSMIS Foundation was formed in 1995 by two former Pittsburgh residents who now live in Texas, and NationsBank acts as the RSMIS Foundation’s agent.

Forty-three charitable organizations were chosen in 1997 for unsolicited grants based upon their worthy educational and program activities. Landmarks is honored that the RSMIS Foundation chose to support its historic preservation programs.

Landmarks Receives Historic Preservation Award

On July 1, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh recognized the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation at its fiftieth Awards Dinner. Landmarks president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. accepted the Historic Preservation Award in recognition of Landmarks’ contribution to the development of the City of Pittsburgh.

The Named Fund Program

A Named Fund is an unrestricted donation to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation’s endowment fund, and is managed according to Landmarks’ then-applicable policies. Each Named Fund is given a name which generally is that of the donor unless a different name is stipulated. The Named Funds are invested and their principal balances are adjusted annually to reflect gains and losses in the market. Income from the funds supports Landmarks’ programs. Although the ultimate responsibility for determining how funds will be used rests with Landmarks’ trustees, we do discuss the use of the Named Fund with each donor if he or she wishes.

Named Funds may be established with gifts of money or securities. For additional information on establishing a Named Fund, please call Arthur Ziegler or Cathy Broucek at (1-412) 471-5808.

EVENTS

Call Mary Lu Denny, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at (1-412) 471-5808, for more information on the following tours and special events. The tours are limited, and reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

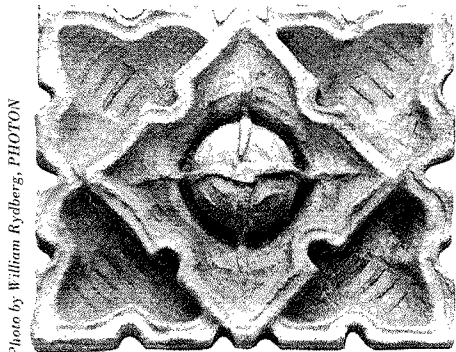


Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

Weekly Downtown Walking Tours
Wednesdays, 12 Noon to 12:45 p.m.
September 3, 10, 17, and 24
Sponsored by The Galbreath Company
\$2 members; \$3 non-members

Meet at the fountain in the USX Tower Plaza and explore the architectural landmarks and corporate skyscrapers along Grant Street and surrounding Mellon Square Park.

Microbrewery and Pub Tour
Saturday, September 13
12 Noon to 5:00 p.m.
\$35 members; \$45 non-members

We will tour three microbreweries located in historic Pittsburgh buildings and enjoy food and beverages at each.

Murray Hill Avenue Walking Tour
Wednesday, September 24
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
\$3 members; \$5 non-members

We'll begin at Kipling Road and stroll down Murray Hill Avenue in Squirrel Hill to Third Presbyterian Church, where light refreshments will be served.



Historic Religious Properties Seminar
September 26, October 24, and November 21

Please see the article to the right for details.

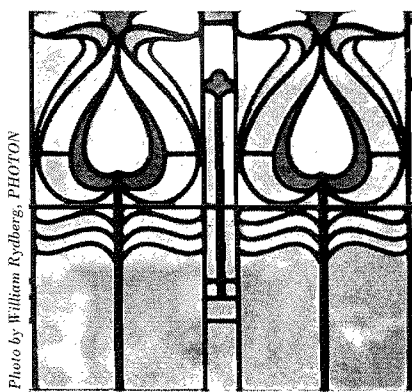


Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

Rudy Brothers Art Glass Tour
Sunday, October 19
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
\$10 members; \$20 non-members

Join Albert Tannler and local art glass expert Joan Gaul for this afternoon bus tour exploring some of Pittsburgh's finest glass designed by the Rudy brothers.

Reception for Award of Merit and Historic Landmark Plaque Recipients
Monday, October 27
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Landmarks' 1997 Award of Merit and Historic Landmark plaque recipients will be recognized during a reception in the GRW Theatre at the Library Center, downtown on Wood Street. (The spectacular renovation of the Library Center is featured on page 5 of this issue.) Light refreshments will be served.

Holiday Tour and High Tea
Saturday, December 6
12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Join docents from Landmarks' staff for a holiday stroll along Grant Street. Following the tour, High Tea will be served in the Westin William Penn Hotel. This tour is limited to 100 people.



Eric Caldwell, Intern

Eric worked as an intern in the James D. Van Trump Library in May and June. He recounts his experience at Landmarks:

I decided to do my archival internship at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation because the people here have a strong commitment to preserving and remembering the past. People can only know where they are going by knowing where they have been. I recently graduated from Duquesne University with a Master's Degree in American History. I am still attending Duquesne University to receive certification in archival, museum, and historical editing

studies. I was an intern for Landmarks to fulfill my certification requirements.

Through my work I made it easier to find the guides to completed collections that are in the library section of the computer files. I organized both the *Artifacts on Loan to the Station Square Shops* and the *African-American Historic Sites Survey* collections. I also organized and arranged a large number of historic maps, diagrams, and over-size photos in the library work area. I learned a good deal while doing my internship. My knowledge of local African-American history and of the tremendous work Landmarks has put into developing Station Square is greatly increased.

I enjoyed my time at Landmarks and thank everyone for making my internship such a pleasant experience.

Historic Religious Properties Seminar

Landmarks and Mistick Insurance Restoration Services Sponsor Three Friday Sessions this Fall

Religious buildings have become familiar, cherished sights in our lives, places where not only artistry but personal and collective memories and cultural traditions have survived. In recent years, however, the survival of the churches and temples themselves has become a matter of great public concern.

The Historic Religious Properties Seminar will be a forum for sharing expert knowledge on the challenges of survival. Professionals will offer advice on maintaining historic religious properties, raising funds, and developing community support.

The first two seminars will be half-day events, beginning with a continental breakfast. The third seminar, a full day, will include a bus tour and box lunch. Seminar topics and meeting locations include:

I. Fundraising: How to Make, Find, and Save Money

Friday, September 26
8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
Rodef Shalom Temple
4905 Fifth Avenue, Shadyside

II. Contractors: When to Hire and Whom?

Friday, October 24
8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
Calvary United Methodist Church
Allegheny and Beech Avenues,
Allegheny West

III. Protecting Your Property and Contents: What You Need to Know

Friday, November 21
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Church of St. Benedict the Moor
89 Crawford Street, Hill District

Call Cathy Broucek or Howard Slaughter (1-412) 471-5808 for a complete listing of seminar topics. Please complete the Registration Form to the right if you are interested in attending.

REGISTRATION FORM

◆ Seminar Series

☐ Yes, I (we) would like to attend all three sessions.

_____ \$60.00 per person

_____ \$250.00 per congregation*

*Any number of people from your congregation may attend all three sessions, and your organization will receive a complimentary one-year corporate membership in the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

_____ Number of people attending

_____ Total due

◆ Individual Series

☐ Yes, I (we) would like to attend Session I II III

Circle the session(s) you wish to attend.

_____ Number of people attending

_____ \$25.00 per person, per session

_____ Total due

Registration Deadlines

• If you are attending all three sessions, your registration form and payment are due by Tuesday, September 23.

• If you are only attending one or two of the sessions, your registration form and payment are due one week prior to the particular session.

☐ My check, payable to PHLF and referenced to the "HRP Seminar," is enclosed.

☐ Please charge this to my credit card:

☐ Am Ex

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

☐ Discover

Account # _____

Signature _____

Expiration _____

Print your name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

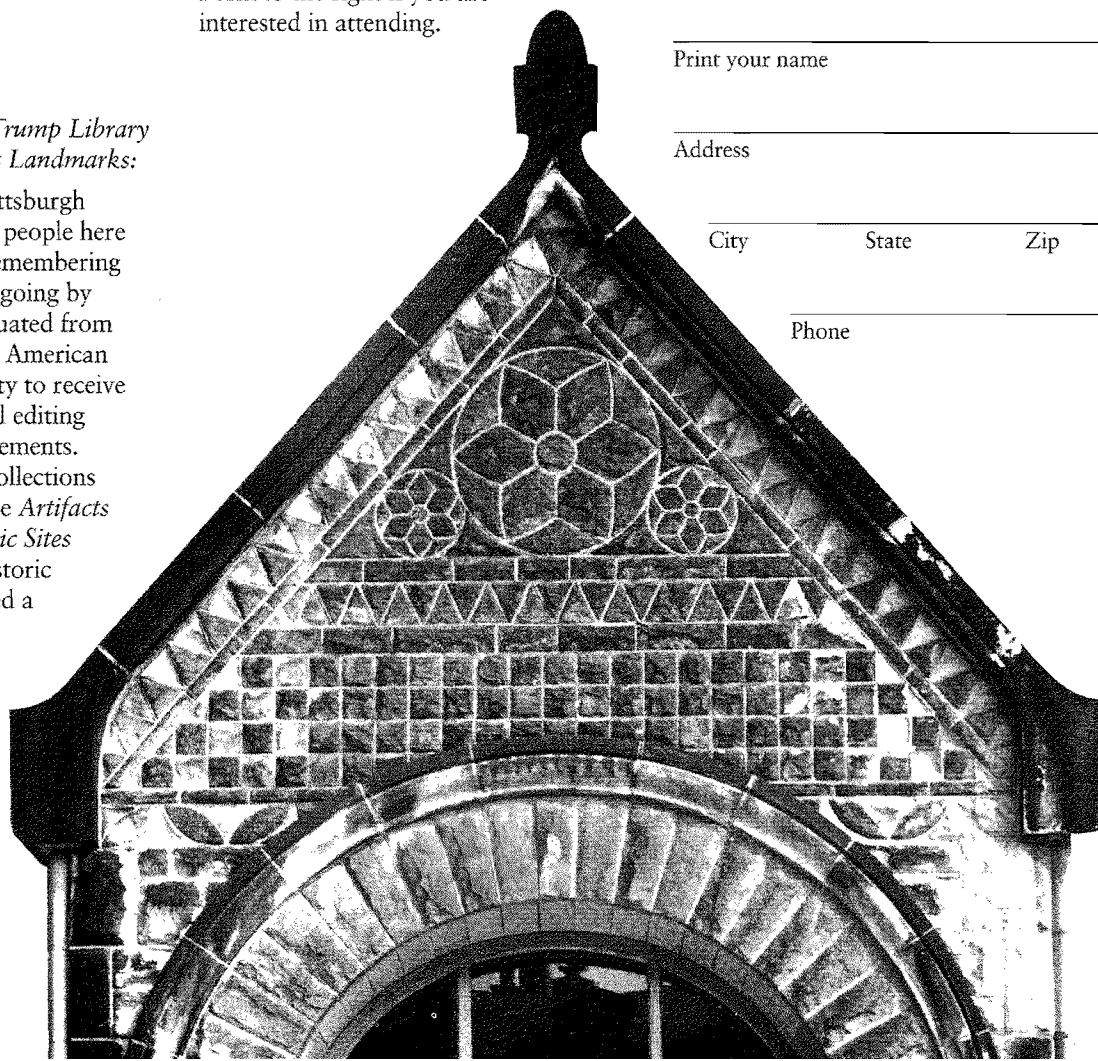


Photo by Clyde Hare

JOIN LANDMARKS

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

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

Membership Benefits

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

*Please call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808 for specifics.

Membership Categories

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

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

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

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

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

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Send check or money order to:

Membership
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
One Station Square, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134



Creating a Future
for Pittsburgh by
Preserving Its Past

The Now-old Alcoa Building

Walter C. Kidney

How sad it is when what began new and fresh, anticipatory of the future, is seen as outdated! When the Alcoa Building opened in 1953 it faced the then-new, then-called U.S. Steel Building across a Mellon Square still under construction. These two Harrison & Abramovitz buildings and the void between them constituted an image of the Pittsburgh Renaissance, of the past cast off, and newness was especially

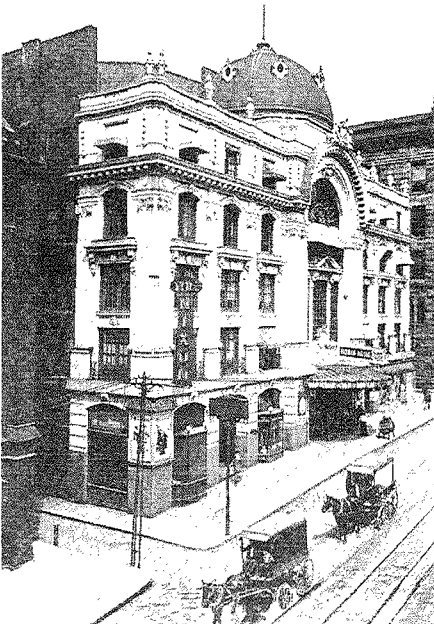


The innovative aluminum siding.

conspicuous in the Alcoa Building, designed to show off aluminum in every possible way.

The outer aluminum skin was a work of industrial design as much as architecture, giving the impression of the world's tallest bus. Windows were to be washed wholly from inside: both faces. Therefore the glass had to rotate in a half-circle. Therefore the seals around the windows had to be deflatable and reinflatable. Therefore, to make the seals continuous, the window corners had to be rounded. Thus, combined with the buckled effect of the spandrel panels beneath the windows, the notably manufactured look of the building. Within were aluminum sculptures, aluminum trim, aluminum light diffusers, and aluminum electrical work.

Alcoa's decision to move, to build anew with a plan better adapted to present needs, brought with it the realization that this bold new building was now almost a half-century old, about as old as the Nixon Theatre had been



The Nixon Theatre in the 1900s, when it was new.



The Alcoa Building, c. 1960, with a Hornbostel building to the left that was later refaced as Brooks Brothers.

when it came down to clear the site. Alcoa's offer of the building as a home for organizations benefiting the Pittsburgh area's economy, education, culture, and physical environment was thus not only a gift of useful space; it was also the salvation of an outstanding

work of architecture. As summer came to Pittsburgh, it looked as if the Southwestern Pennsylvania Corporation would accept ownership and undertake the management of the Alcoa Building, whose future name would likely be the Regional Resource Center.



The last days of the Nixon.

Photos by Tom Bell



The hand carved, freestanding marble staircase.

Library Center Opens

It looks as if the group of financial buildings that had a short existence as the Bank Center is now headed for a longer one as the Library Center. Here, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Point Park College have combined downtown library facilities and have thus, we may hope, put the old buildings to permanent use.

The backbone of the group is the T-shaped Colonial Trust Company by Frederick John Osterling, with rather low but showy "swagger bank" fronts of 1902 on Forbes and Fourth Avenues, and from the architect's later years a Greek Ionic entrance (1926) on Wood Street. The tallest element of the Bank Center is no longer included: the Peoples Bank Building, latterly the Bank Tower,



The Wood Street entrance of the Library Center.

at Fourth and Wood. Between the Bank Tower and the Fourth Avenue Colonial front lie two other Library Center addresses: the Freehold Realty Building of 1893, which at present has a restaurant as a basement tenant, and Alden &

Harlow's Commercial National Bank of 1897, which lost a handsome arched center element long ago but that retains some very good golden-brown Roman brick and terra-cotta ornaments. These exteriors have hardly been touched so far, but a second campaign to adapt/restore them is anticipated.

Inside, a pale creamy light prevails. The many, many leaded-glass panels of the Colonial Trust skylights toward Wood Street and Forbes Avenue shed light on palely tinted, Palladian motifs in shallow relief on the upper walls. New grids of steelwork and simple wall surfaces, painted cream with a grainy texture, contrast quite well with such delicate Classical detailing. In places, though, much bolder and fancier



The first floor, with the new circulation desk and stair.

touches of internal swagger burst onto the scene: giant Corinthian columns of pavonazzo marble set between walls faced in the same. A geometrical stair. A niche, with a marble statue. A safe whose door looks reassuringly impossible to close. The old and the new, in this design of Damianos & Anthony, are well blended, and only three disappointments are apt to come to a casual visitor. The Colonial Trust space toward Fourth Avenue is filled in and its skylights darkened; the Fourth and Forbes Avenue entrances are ordinarily screened off for security reasons; and there is an electrified brass chandelier at the Wood Street entrance—looking like an eighteenth-century church chandelier—that shows up ineffectively against the great area of window a few feet beyond.

Especially as regards the computer, the Library Center far surpasses the resources the two libraries had had downtown previously. Nor have they had such a space downtown heretofore, even recalling the Carnegie facilities in the Frick Building. Those of us who coped with the tight plan, diagonal stairs, and split-level access of the previous Business and Downtown Libraries will appreciate the simplicity and amplitude of the new spaces.

Members of Landmarks will be able to tour the Library Center on Monday evening, October 27, when we recognize the 1997 Award of Merit and Historic Landmark plaque recipients there. (See page 3 for event details.)

The Farmers Bank Building: Gone

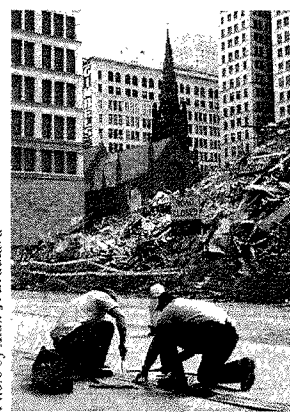
Here are two pictures of the twenty-five-story building erected for the Farmers Deposit National Bank in 1902. The architects were Alden & Harlow, then at the height of their careers, and the fourth story was decorated with marble caryatides by John Massey Rhind who would soon be collaborating with these architects on the extension of the Carnegie Institute in Oakland. Less well remembered these days is the Arts and Crafts tile-hung White Dog Cafe on Oliver Avenue, which was on the same property. Toward the end, neither could be recognized externally. The Farmers Bank Building was slipcovered in sheet metal of two tones of grayish brown in 1966, and the low-built White Dog Cafe had been refronted at least once.



The Fifth and Wood corner, c. 1905, when the building was new.



Above: December 1995. A metal slipcovering had happened in 1966.



Left: The building was imploded at 3:45 p.m. on May 25, 1997, to prepare for the construction of a Lazarus department store. A new architectural vista has opened.

Photo by Alan J. Brainard

Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

The Pittsburgh Parks: Two New Organizations

November 7, 1996 should prove to be a red-letter day in the green history of Pittsburgh. That evening, a group of some thirty individuals met in offices overlooking the Golden Triangle to discuss the possibility of forming a private organization that would take an energetic role in restoring Schenley Park. Such groups have been formed in several cities, notably Buffalo and Louisville as well as New York, and have established partnerships with their respective city governments. The results of these collaborations are heartening; cities are beginning to recover the true greatness of their parks, to the delight of citizens, to the gratification of politicians, and to the fascination of tourists.

Schenley Conservancy

The call to arms here was sounded by Meg Cheever, until recently the publisher of the invaluable *Pittsburgh* magazine. The response to her appeal was more than vigorous enough to launch the Schenley Conservancy as the citizens' advocate for park restoration. Discussions with the City enlarged the Conservancy's area of concern to embrace all four of Pittsburgh's great parks—Schenley, Highland, Frick, and Riverview. The priority of these four sites established by the Conservancy's broadened charge has considerable merit since they are regional amenities and not simply city assets, but the understanding with the City places appreciably greater burdens on the Conservancy when it comes to fund raising. We now need to multiply the twenty to twenty-five millions needed

for the restoration of just Schenley Park by four.

In its first six months as a registered non-profit organization, the Schenley Conservancy was involved in two successful ventures. On May 31, 1997, it was a co-sponsor with the Carnegie Museum of Natural History of a Bio-Blitz in Riverview Park, which brought attention to the Park's exceptional botanical and biological diversity. Then, on the following day, the Conservancy held its first fund-raising event, organized around the appearance of Susan Rademacher, executive director of the Louisville Olmsted Parks Conservancy. She spoke eloquently of her group's achievements. Her talk and the dinner that followed, held at the Pittsburgh Golf Club, proved irresistible, and the evening's attendance and donations far exceeded the Conservancy's most optimistic hopes.

Strategic Parks Planning Initiative

Late 1996 also saw another auspicious initiative concerned with the region's parks. Arising out of the recognition by the local chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) that the condition and functions of our parks and public spaces must play an essential role in the area's revitalization, a broad study was launched by a collaborative group, the Strategic Parks Planning Initiative, that included a number of government, non-profit, and professional organizations. Landmarks is one of these, and has also been instru-

do you
recognize
this
place
Notes



Stone Arch, Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The stone arch in Highland Park, around 1900. A place to promenade and enjoy the rockery, still devoid of plants at this early date.

mental in funding the active participation of Partners For More Livable Communities, whose president, Bob McNulty, attended a number of the Initiative's meetings.

In addition to a great deal of fact finding and study on the part of the individuals in the Parks Initiative, the group invited park directors from Indianapolis, Louisville, and Chicago to speak on their respective efforts at park rehabilitation. Members of the Initiative traveled to Philadelphia for a day of investigation, particularly into the Philadelphia Green program of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Landmarks' Barry Hannegan organized and conducted a four-hour tour of some of Pittsburgh's finest parks, pointing out significant historic features and their precarious state.

After a day-long retreat in June 1997, the staff of the Community Design Center, which has been the Initiative's administrative and coordinating body, is preparing a preliminary white paper



Photo by William Ryberg, PHOTON

A photograph of the same view, today, hardly recognizable to the person who sent the old postcard.

that will serve as the basis of a conceptual design charrette conducted by the ASLA. A final document, outlining the current state and requirements for Pittsburgh's green spaces, should appear early in the fall. The Initiative's broadly based membership and the active participation of the City's Departments of Parks and Recreation and City Planning augur well for the success of the Initiative's efforts.

New Gardens in the North Side

One hundred and thirty years ago, the City of Allegheny launched the creation of the region's first municipal park system. These green spaces, much altered, are still happily with us in the guise of the Commons of Pittsburgh's North Side. In recent years, they have been joined by a group of delightful community gardens, such as those at Taylor Street at Buena Vista and Taylor at Brighton Road. Just this summer, the North Side has seen the unveiling of two more sites that greatly enhance the neighborhood's appeal.

The Mattress Factory

June 14 marked the official inauguration of the garden at the Mattress Factory where work has been going on for the last two years towards the realization of the elegantly spare creation of designer



Winifred Lutz of Philadelphia. Beginning with the wish of the Factory's director, Barbara Luderowski, that some sort of landscape should

occupy the vacant lot next to the museum, Ms. Lutz dug into the history of the neighborhood and literally dug into the site itself, to reveal the basement ruins of the demolished industrial building that had stood there before its destruction by fire in 1963. Exploiting the powerful mood of those ruins, Ms. Lutz has created a landscape that is



The Mattress Factory garden.

full of resonances and references of a multi-layered past. One of the many devices for heightening a sense of history here will be the insertion into the brick and stone rubble walls of enameled photographic images of some of the Italian immigrants who lived within a block or two of the site early in this century. Plant materials, for the very great part natives to this region, are used sparingly and often as much for their evocative power as for their design qualities. A garden for exploration and reverie, the site offers only one formal place to sit—a chair that in summer is

surrounded by shimmering walls of switch grass, a clean prairie place of refuge from the weight of urban history and change.

Laura's Blumengarten

At the other end of the North Side, in historic Deutschtown, the Graf family, developers and proprietors of the Priory on Pressley Street, opened a new garden park just opposite the former church of St. Mary (now Pittsburgh's Grand Hall) on Lockhart Street. The garden, dedicated to the German immigrants of



Laura's Blumengarten

the area, bears the name "Laura's Blumengarten," in honor of Mary Ann Graf's mother and granddaughter.

The site is a deep, narrow one. For the garden, Pashek Associates, adapting forms and motifs from the church facade, designed an irregular linear pattern defined by a crisp but slightly meandering walk of aggregate. This leads the visitor toward the far end of the space where an airy classical arbor closes the vista and provides the ideal setting for photographs of wedding parties coming from across the street. The site is softened and divided by a fairly heavy planting of such urban staples as arborvitae and pear trees, and brilliant city-proof annuals. Created to be enjoyed both from the surrounding sidewalks and from the interior, the garden is clearly meant to be understood as a place for special events.

Rhonda Brandon

The first in a series of community profiles

Diane I. Daniels

The Rhonda Brandon most people know is the executive director of the Manchester Citizens Corporation: a person who makes housing deals, has represented her organization in receiving numerous awards, and is leading the



HOPE VI project. But there is more to Ms. Brandon. She is a life-long resident of the Hill District, a wife of twenty-nine years, the mother of two sons, and the grandmother of four. A strong believer in family, she considers her family to be her greatest life accomplishment.

Rhonda describes herself as loyal, happy, and fun loving. "I like people, people, people," she exclaims, "and my life mission is to always be able to help mankind. I always have enjoyed being around, working with, and empowering people." She considers working with people through homeownership and assisting youth to be a joyful experience. She does not view herself as a role model, but shows through example, by living as a good citizen and a compassionate and caring person.

She advises young people to respect each other. "Respect is key. Respect yourself and respect each other," she says. She also advises youth to get a good education and to remember, "There is nothing you can't achieve if you set your mind to it."

Until two years ago, the saddest experience in Ms. Brandon's life had been the death of her mother. However, on July 31, 1995, her 22-year-old son was shot, the victim of a drive-by shooting. "My son LaRue Brandon was in the peak of his life when he was killed," she recalls, "and the sadness that has occurred as a result of his death is something I will never be able to overcome." His killer has yet to be found.

Fortunately, Rhonda's work in Manchester occupies much of her time and gives her many opportunities to help others. "I have the best job any one can have. I love what I do and am fortunate to work with wonderful people."

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Landmarks Assists in Preserving Birthplace of Boy Scouts of America Founder

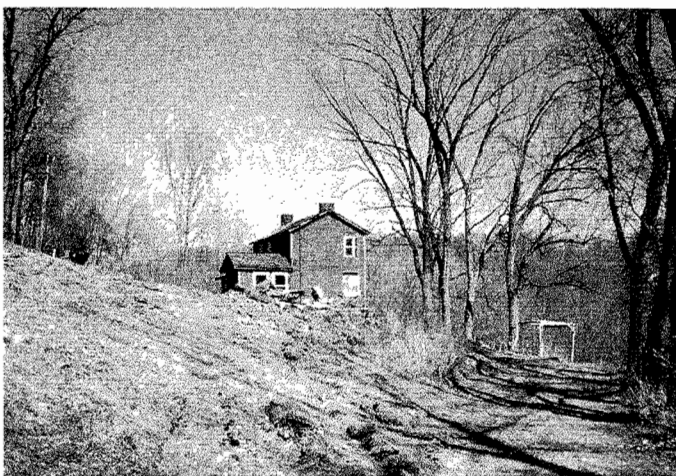
Summer camp for inner-city youths to be established

Diane I. Daniels

In 1910 the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated by William Dickson Boyce. Mr. Boyce is said to have been born in 1858 on a farm located at the current address of 1721 Old Leechburg Road in Plum Borough.

Since 1989 the twenty-six acre property has been owned by the Apostolic Alliance Village, Inc. (AAV), a group of ministers based in the City of Pittsburgh. The proprietors are Reverends Richard Randall, Thomas Ramsey, Wade Jones, and Leroy Robinson. The mission of AAV is to develop facilities on the land in which educational and family support programs, retreats, camping experiences, and recreational activities can be conducted to serve the urban community.

Apostolic Alliance Village intends to preserve the 1830s William Boyce house, a five-room, two-story structure, and to construct a multi-purpose facility and five cabins. Conducting research on the William Boyce house and obtain-



ing field inspections and surveys of the twenty-six acre site has been a mammoth task, according to Reverend Randall. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks and a former member of Urban Scouting for the Boy Scouts of America, is assisting AAV in its effort to document and preserve the Boyce homestead. Landmarks underwrote the cost of a field inspection by Brown Carlisle & Associates and provided technical assistance, resources, and staff support. "We appreciate Mr. Slaughter's excitement and interest in preserving a piece of history for the Boy Scouts," said Reverend Randall.

Landmarks Lends Support for Business Incubator

Diane I. Daniels

On May 9, the Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc., Mayor Tom Murphy, Landmarks president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services, celebrated the opening of the Women's Enterprise Center (WEC), located at 901 Western Avenue in Allegheny West.

The WEC is designed to provide resources, training, and facilities for female-owned firms. The Center is also viewed as a vehicle to assist in the rebuilding of the economically distressed North Side neighborhoods.

The developer of the \$800,000 project is Allegheny West Development Corporation, the non-profit development arm of the Allegheny West Civic Council, a community-based organization in its twenty-eighth year. Funders and supporters of WEC include Landmarks, the City of Pittsburgh, U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, National City Bank, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, Community



Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

Savings Bank, PNC Bank, Mellon Bank, and the University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center.

"Landmarks has been a supporter of this project since the beginning," said Mark T. Fatla, project director. Even now Landmarks provides technical and moral support. An \$80,000 loan from the Preservation Fund in 1986 was used to acquire a row of houses, including 901 Western Avenue. Landmarks' loan was the first money available for the project.



311 Lowenhill Street, Beechview

Landmarks Protects Lowen House Through Facade Easement

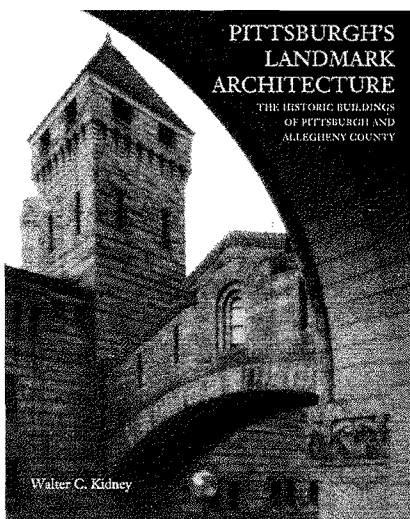
The Lowen house in Beechview is an 1860-period board-and-batten house, in recent years deserted and much decayed. The rarity of this type of house around Pittsburgh and its remarkable hilltop view towards town have kept up public interest, though, and led to its designation as a City Historic Structure.

Jehovah's Witnesses acquired the Lowen house and six-acre property in 1992. Originally, they planned to build a new church and demolish the house in the process. Landmarks contacted Jehovah's Witnesses and asked if the house and some land surrounding it could be separately partitioned and sold to someone who would restore the house. Jehovah's Witnesses agreed.

Since March 1995, Landmarks has published several articles about the Lowen house in PHLF News. Although a number of people called to inquire further about the property, no one could afford the significant restoration costs.

However, a neighbor, Tim Simons, decided he would like to acquire the Lowen house and undertake much of the restoration work himself. Jehovah's Witnesses proposed a reasonable price, and Mr. Simons purchased the house in 1997. Appropriate restoration, however, was expensive and time consuming. Therefore, Landmarks has agreed to assist Mr. Simons in developing an exterior restoration plan. After Mr. Simons completes the restoration, Landmarks will purchase an easement from him to ensure the integrity of the facade for years to come.

We thank Mr. Simons and Steve Hudson of Jehovah's Witnesses. Mr. Hudson has worked patiently with us for the past several years to help preserve this remarkable house.



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Christian Lantzsch, a trustee of Landmarks, accepts his autographed copy from Walter C. Kidney. The Author's Reception took place in the home of Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr. Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture was dedicated to Mr. Hoffstot's wife, Barbara Drew Hoffstot (1919-1994), a founding trustee and vice-chairman of Landmarks for thirty years.

150 Members and Friends Attend Author's Reception on June 19

Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture is available, and close to 400 copies have been sold already. You may order a book from Landmarks by completing the order form on this page, or you may purchase it from The Landmarks Store on the balcony level of The Shops at Station Square, or from area bookstores.

Critics and members are complimenting the book. Donald Miller, arts and architecture critic of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, wrote in his article of June 29: "Kidney's brief critiques are to the point, recalling those of PHLF co-founder James D. Van Trump. This is a book Allegheny Countians will return to again and again." Lynne Margolis noted in her article of June 21 in the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* that: "It's a fascinating look at a history richer than most of us are aware of; gems of imagination have been found still shimmering in nearly every area neighborhood, both on and off the beaten paths, and each is illuminated by Kidney's narrative." Randall L. Campbell, a member of Landmarks, wrote us the following letter that we are pleased to reprint with his permission.

June 23, 1997

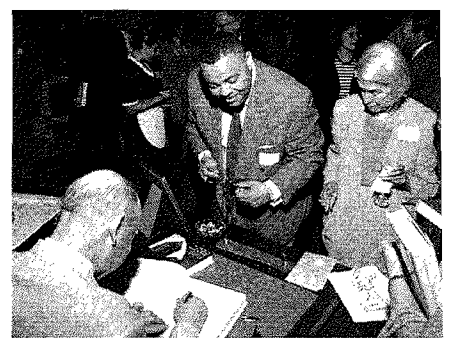
Dear Ms. Sturgess

I'm just overwhelmed with my new copy of Walter Kidney's *Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture*. I picked it up on Friday and have spent all of my free time perusing it.

It's simply wonderful. I'm so very pleased with it. Thank you for your personal attention in securing an inscribed copy, as well as providing me the honor of making a small contribution towards its publication.

It is the definitive work on local architecture and a great addition to my library. Thank you again,

Sincerely
Randall Campbell



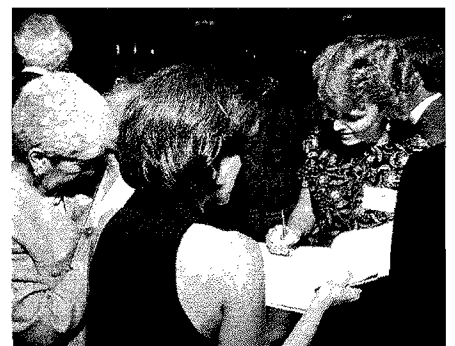
Author Walter C. Kidney autographs a copy of Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture for Stanley Lowe.



Betty Kidney (left) and Monna Kidney, the author's aunt and mother, respectively.



Frank and Nancy Bolden.



Louise Sturgess, project director and editor, autographs a copy for David and Wendy Barendsfeld.

New Urban Vision

On June 24, the National Trust for Historic Preservation called together two dozen national preservation leaders in Minneapolis to discuss the formulation of urban policies for the first part of the twenty-first century. Included were Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. of our staff. Mr. Slaughter spoke on affordable housing and neighborhood preservation, and Mr. Ziegler presented a lecture in which he emphasized the significance of educating young people, teachers, and the general public. Mr. Ziegler pointed

As preservationists, we believe that people ought to be informed about the value of cities, the significance of good neighborhood development, and the significance of good design.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

out that young people and adults in disadvantaged neighborhoods lack information about job opportunities, about transportation linkages, and about cultural and historical values of their neighborhoods. He also said the public needs to be better educated about costs of various forms of development. "Many people seem to think that suburban development comes at no subsidy expense but that downtown projects all require subsidies." In this connection he pointed out the cost of subsidizing highways and infrastructure for new suburban developments and the accompanying loss of countryside, and the extra cost of the declining property values in

the city as they rise in the suburbs. All these require getting the word out: education.

He pointed to a half-century of failed urban visions on the part of Federal, State, and local governments, citing 1960s efforts in Allegheny Center and East Liberty as local examples, and called for broad public involvement in planning.

"If people have all the information," Mr. Ziegler said, "they will be able to formulate their own programs for community renewal, for participating in economic development, and for establishing solid values of citizenship. Economic depreciation will only disappear when knowledge of all kinds is widespread. As preservationists, we believe that people ought to be informed about the value of cities, the significance of good neighborhood development, and the significance of good design." He pointed out that 34 percent of Landmarks' budget is now going into educational work of various kinds, the single largest allocation in the organization.

Attendees at the meeting included Richard Moe, president of the National Trust, Neal R. Peirce, the syndicated columnist who more than any other journalist has focused life-long attention on cities, the current mayor and the former mayor of St. Paul, the mayor of Chattanooga, and preservationists and planners from a variety of cities.

Subsequently, Mr. Peirce wrote an article on Mr. Ziegler's views that was published nationally in newspapers that carry his column and in the July 14 issue of the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*.

Copies are available from Landmarks.



Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

429 First Avenue

Living in the Triangle

The Pittsburgh Downtown Plan meetings that have been going on the whole year have turned their attention to the Triangle, and the shores facing it, as places of habitation.

The assumption here is that the Triangle itself is desirable as a residential area among other things, with the so-called Firstside as one locale and the Cultural District, including the Allegheny River edge, as another. In accordance with a general inclination in the Pittsburgh Downtown Plan toward preservation and adaptive use downtown, much of the new residential space would be in existing loft buildings. There might as well be some residential adaptive use on Fourth Avenue, some new infill, and even a kind of hundred-foot residential palisade facing north to the Allegheny. Parking and recreational spaces, other public amenities, and the goods and services necessary for residential neighborhoods would of course demand space beyond that required for habitation pure and simple—though some promoters of residence in the Triangle hope for a weaning from the automobile. Fourth Avenue apart, we seem to be looking at two fringe areas two blocks deep, with Liberty Avenue and Boulevard of the Allies as no-man's lands preventing the spread of neighborhood living into the core of the Triangle.

If—and there is much doubt of this—if small restaurants, groceries, and other neighborhood businesses could fit into the narrow properties so often to be found in these areas, and if problems such as the noise and the smell of kitchen ventilators could be overcome, then villages alongside the innermost urban core might come to be. It is not unheard-of, of course, for a business to take a pick to a party wall and spread into an adjacent property. And similar arrangements have been suggested for upper floors to share the expense of installing and running elevators.

In this residential regard, an eight-story loft building of c. 1910 at 429 First Avenue has been attracting attention since the beginning of the year. Standing next to the Hartley-Rose Building already well known, it has the same white terra cotta-and-brick combination with ampler fenestration. Apart from stairs, elevator shaft, and new kitchen-and-bath units, each upper floor will be open. Total areas are 1,850 square feet for Floors 2 through 8, with prices of \$155,000 to \$195,000, the higher the floor, the higher the price. Construction work has been under way this summer. For inquiries, telephone No Wall Productions Development Company, (1-412) 362-7985.

Foreign Officials Continue to Visit

For several years, officials from foreign countries have been visiting Landmarks to learn about Pittsburgh and our work in historic preservation. In June, Dr. Monika Lamperth, the vice chair of Parliamentary Public Administration in the Parliament of Hungary, visited with Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks. Dr. Lamperth represents the area of Kaposvar with a population of about 80,000. She was particularly interested in our relationship with governmental organizations and the methods we use to represent historic-preservation interests in the public policy-making process. The non-profit sector is in its infancy in Hungary, and she wanted to learn how non-profits are established and how they function in the improvement of cities and towns.

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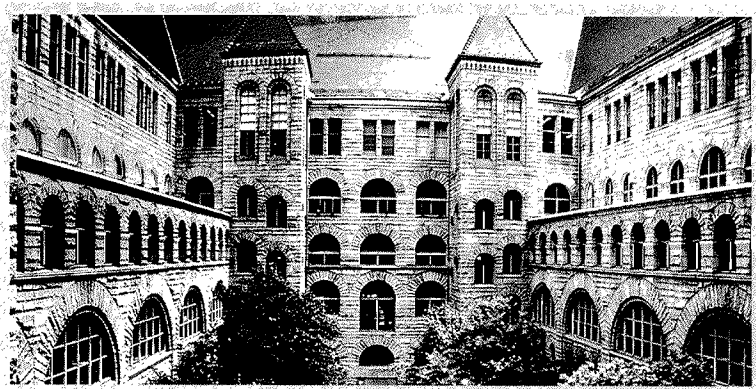
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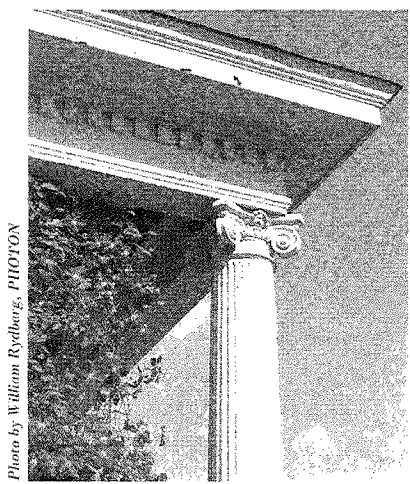
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PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE:

Architecture and Being Young

Walter C. Kidney

These reminiscences are personal but, I hope, not merely self-centered.



A Roman Ionic porch post.

allusive quality of such markings come upon unexpectedly. In an overgrown lot near my home, rejected facing stones from the Presbyterian Hospital were dumped, and I liked to crush leaves from

As a child, I saw the Ionic capitals on a neighbor's porch columns and suspected that there was such a thing as architecture. When I was first taken to the Carnegie Library in Oakland, I *knew* that there was such a thing as architecture. I had some childish wish to mark things: rub chalk on pavements, or scrawl on a stone of one color with one of another. Somewhere, Frank Lloyd Wright said something about the haunting,



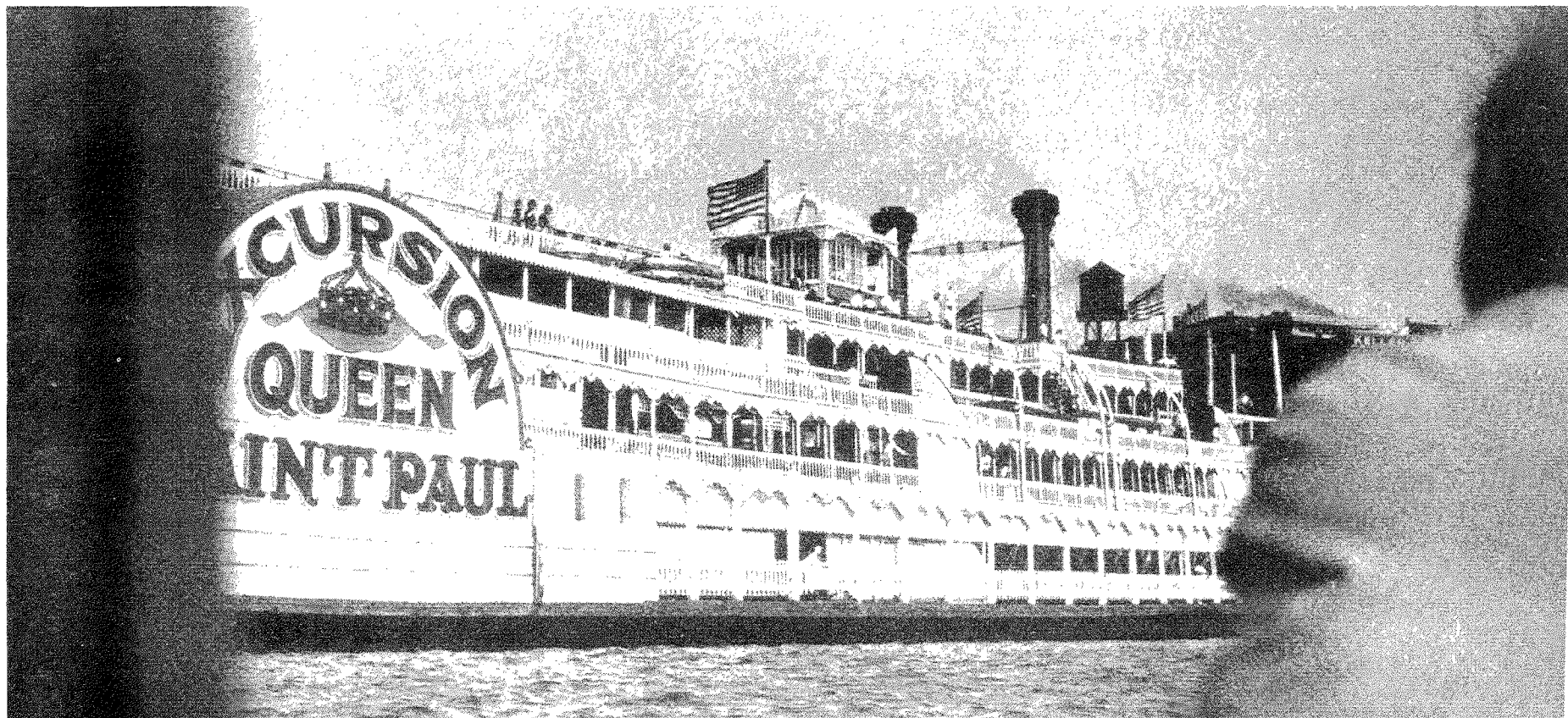
The Library entrance as I first saw it.

the ailanthus trees

and rub the blackish-green juice into the limestone surfaces; the rank smell of bruised ailanthus leaves was the very signature of a Pittsburgh summer. I took to splendid built things, not all architecture as usually conceived. In that 1940 period, the grandiose sidewheeler *Saint Paul* (later, the *Senator*) came to Pittsburgh several times a summer to take us slowly down the Ohio, the calliope playing "Sweet and Low," the band playing "Sunrise Serenade."



The ailanthus and Classical architecture: the old Exposition Buildings at the Point. Below: The Saint Paul.



I have no picture of the house my grandparents rented at Fifth and Lothrop, where I spent school vacations: a big brick box with three stories of Tuscan porches coated in dusty green; mantels with beveled mirrors, varnished oak, egg-and-dart moldings, and gas grates. There was an upright piano, where I remember “Valse Bleue” and other music of 1900 or

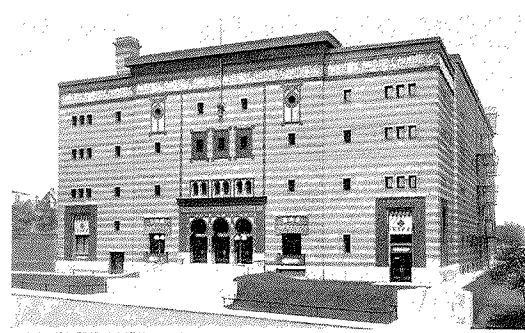
1940 being performed. And not too many

steps away was the Oakland Civic Center, our Acropolis that was mainly on a plateau, our clubland, our assemblage of drop-dead architecture that was nonetheless not any sort of collective authoritarian statement: stylistically polyglot and derivative, yes, but what did my accepting little eyes know about that? Or would have cared?

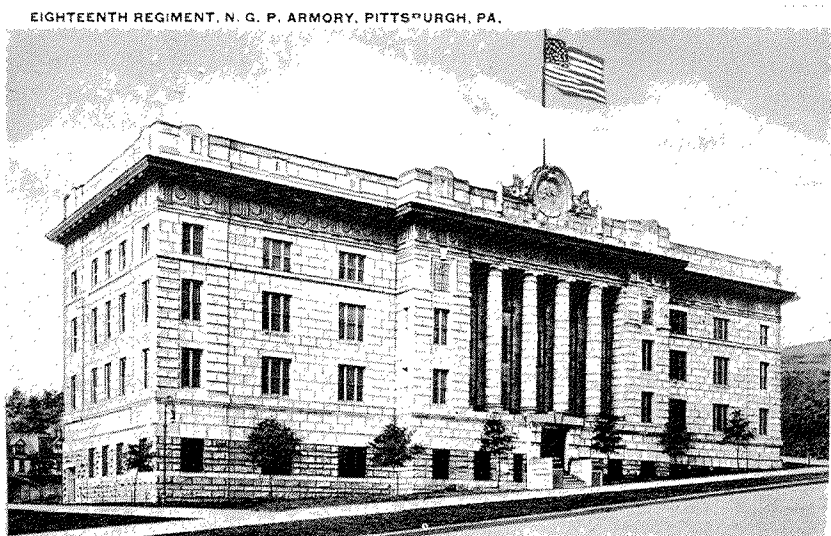
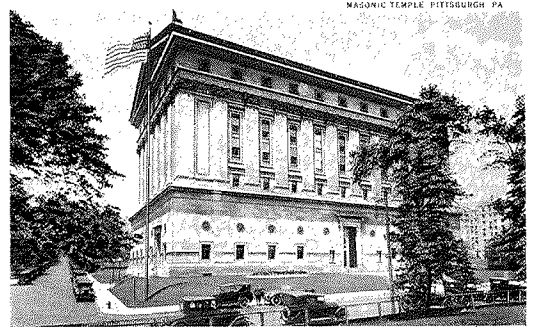
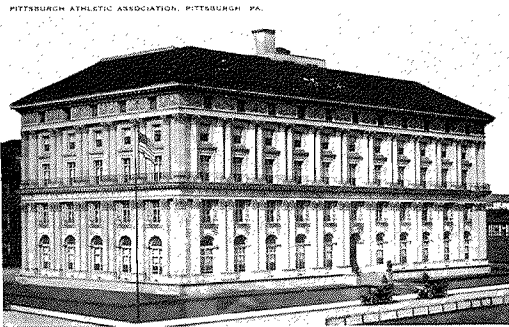
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Houses in the Oakland I knew as they looked in the mid-'30s.



The Civic Center in postcards.



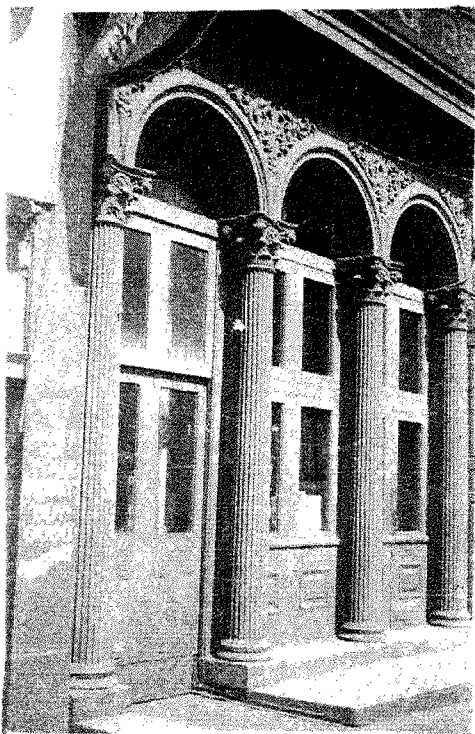


Founder's Hall, Haverford College.

In 1942, I began eighteen-some years' residence in Philadelphia, culturally a different place and one to hate and love both. Eventually I went to Haverford, a Friends' college whose original building, a country academy of 1833, showed me how beautiful proportion, almost unassisted by ornament, can be. While even before this time the informal training I had received in despising Victorian architecture fell away—as I remember it—in a few weeks. Late one

summer afternoon in 1948, the sixteen-year-old me was walking down East Market Street past commercial fronts of cast iron, terra cotta, and brick that were past even sneering at; but the sun grazed the buildings' projections and recessions, gilded the ignominies of dreary, dusty, caked-up paint, and made me want to look

further. I am still not convinced that Philadelphia is a place to inhabit, but as regards its architecture there is so much to see: so much that is tasteful, individually or in a group, so much that is interestingly quirky, so much that is brilliant.



The Shields Hardware building, 1850-period Philadelphia cast-iron architecture that long ago gave way to Independence Mall.



A house by the Furness-like G. W. and W. D. Hewitt: hard and quirky Philadelphia architecture, c. 1880. Below: Philadelphia architecture of a decade later by Wilson Eyre.



Our Newsletter's pages on education have prompted me to these looks into my past, my own introduction to the hardware of civilization under the aspects of shelter, planning, beauty, order, and optimism: to architecture, that is.

PRESERVATION SCENE

Historic Preservation Prevails

Despite the battle over proposed detrimental amendments to Pittsburgh's Historic Preservation Ordinance that has been brewing in City Council since 1996, historic preservation prevailed thanks to the strong support of Councilman Jim Ferlo.

The issue originally arose in 1996 when Councilman Alan Hertzberg proposed legislation that would eviscerate Pittsburgh's Historic Preservation Ordinance. Councilman Hertzberg, with the support of the Realtors Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh, claimed that historic designation reduced a property's value, and that property owners should not be restricted by preservation regulations.

In 1997, Councilman Hertzberg amended his proposed legislation relying heavily on recommendations made to the Department of City Planning by Clarion Associates, a Chicago-based company retained by the City in 1990 to review the City's historic preservation program. Nevertheless, significant problems remained. For example, under the Hertzberg proposal private citizens and community groups could no longer nominate buildings as historic. Furthermore, the design review by the Historic Review Commission (HRC) for thirteen specific exterior alterations was to be eliminated. Thankfully, Councilman Ferlo came forth with amendments to mitigate Councilman Hertzberg's proposed legislation, clarify situations involving economic hardship, and fill gaps in the present ordinance.

Both the Hertzberg and Ferlo amendments were discussed in a City Council meeting on July 9. On the issue of eliminating the HRC's review of certain exterior alterations, Councilmen Ferlo, Cohen, and Riccardi strongly voiced their concerns, indicating that exterior design review was the heart and soul of historic preservation and that without it the City could not maintain the integrity of an historic building or district. Councilman Cusik's one-year residency requirement for nominators saved the present nomination process. And Councilman Cohen stated, "Pittsburgh has a rich architectural history. We need to preserve our heritage not only to enjoy the architecture but to teach our children about our heritage."

Ultimately, on July 22 with a 7 to 1 vote, most of Councilman Ferlo's amendments were passed, and Pittsburgh's Historic Preservation Ordinance is not only intact: it is better. Landmarks' only reservations pertain to two Hertzberg amendments that are now law. The first permits a two-day hiatus between a nomination and the prohibition on exterior alterations to a nominated building. The second permits the owner of any nominated property (or the owner's attorney) to cross-examine speakers at a public hearing before the HRC or City Council. We agree with John DeSantis of the HRC that such a process might have a chilling effect on public testimony.

Landmarks had alerted individuals and community groups about the challenge to the preservation ordinance. In response, members of the South Side Local Development Company and Manchester Citizens Corporation, and Henry Hoffstot, Joedda Sampson, Susan Brandt, Rick St. John, John Murdock, David Page, and many other people attended public hearings and wrote letters to City Council. We thank them for their support.



Frederick Avenue in Sewickley.

Future of Sewickley's Historic Architecture Tabled

In 1997, Walter C. Kidney stated in *Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture: The Historic Buildings of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County* that the Sewickley area is where "some of the best architecture of [Allegheny] county is to be found." Stephen Neal Dennis wrote in *Historic Houses of the Sewickley Valley* (1996): "Today, the challenge is to recognize this superb architectural heritage for what it is, and to understand how unusual it is to find a suburban area that retains so many finely crafted structures in an essentially unaltered condition." In *Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait* (1986), Franklin Toker wrote: "... the scores of homes in Sewickley constitute a virtual museum of mid-Victorian design."

Despite the obvious wealth of historic buildings in this area, Sewickley Borough Council tabled indefinitely a proposed action that would help to preserve the quality and character of the town and its historic buildings. As a result of Borough Council's inaction, five of Sewickley's seven Historic Review Commission (HRC) members resigned in protest.

Sewickley originally passed an ordinance in 1983 that created an Historic Review Commission and designated three historic districts in the Borough. This ordinance was not dissimilar to Pittsburgh's preservation ordinance or other ordinances across the country. It permitted review of most exterior changes to a building in an historic district by the HRC. Around 1995, however, the Borough amended its preservation ordinance so that all exterior renovations to an historic building that did NOT require a building permit were exempt from the preservation ordinance. This amendment essentially gutted the preservation ordinance.

At the time of the amendment, the Sewickley HRC sought the assistance of Landmarks. Walter Kidney wrote to Borough Council members emphasizing that a multitude of architectural ornament on a house could be removed without a building permit and that altering a building in such a way could diminish or destroy the historic and architectural value of the structure. Notwithstanding Landmarks' input, the amendment was not rescinded.

Today, homeowners in Sewickley's historic districts continue to have almost as much freedom to make changes to the exteriors of their homes as residents of non-designated areas. Without a meaningful preservation ordinance and

a supportive Borough Council, the glowing descriptions of Sewickley's historic architecture that are now to be found in many books and articles may cease to apply, until Sewickley is indistinguishable from other communities throughout Allegheny County whose once-historic architecture has fallen prey to ill-conceived renovation plans.



A Hobbs House in Leetsdale

Isaac Hobbs, Mid-Victorian architect and deviser of the stillborn Ovo Order of architecture, is known locally for the Dollar Bank on Fourth Avenue and for domestic construction, now largely vanished, in the Bellefield part of Oakland. Recently, a Hobbs house has been identified in Leetsdale, standing on a nineteen-acre property. The house appears to have been built in 1870 or before for a James Gardner Coffin, and appears on pages 114-15 of Hobbs' *Architecture*, a pattern book of 1873. At present the house is in miserable shape, but two people, Joe Zemba and Joe Zohar, have bought the property and wish to restore both house and garden. Landmarks will be offering assistance and we will report on the restoration progress in future issues of PHLF News.

Re-create the Wall of Fame?

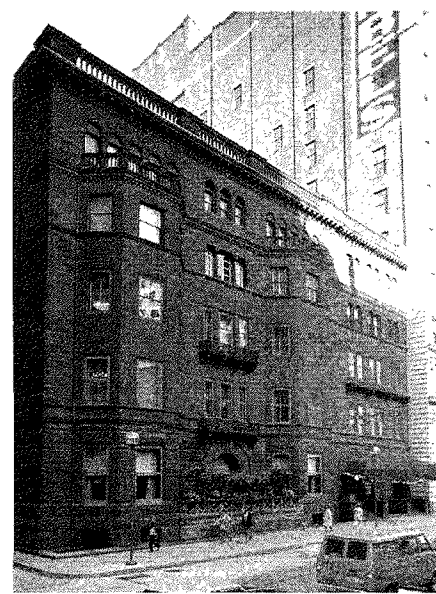
This June, it seemed at least possible



that the Judy Penzer mural that crumbled with the old Farmers Bank Building would be reproduced from the small-scale original. The technique is simple and cartoon-like, orange, white, and black predominantly, and intended for reproduction by sign painters, so that there would be no material difference

thus far between the lost mural and the new one.

The problem is that the plain end wall of the Gimbel's Building, partly Penzer's property, seems to be the chosen place for the reproduction, and



The Penzer mural would presumably go where the Gimbel's sign now is.

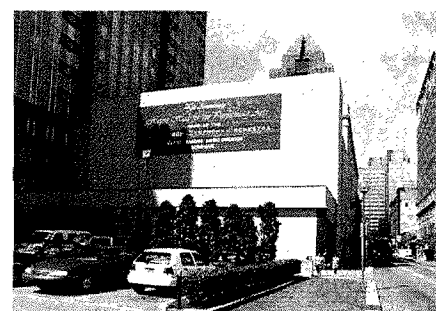
its appearance there would be to the detriment not only of the delicate cream terra cotta of the Gimbel's facade but also of the brownstone Duquesne Club that it would overlook. A similar contrast appears on Pennsylvania Hall at the University of Pittsburgh and there indicates an easy-going contempt, or even worse a total unawareness, of Hornbostel's quiet architecture.



Disrespect for Hornbostel at Pitt.

There are difficulties, though, about painting on this wall. The Duquesne Club rises five stories, about sixty feet, effectively masking about half the Gimbel's wall's height. Windows and raised strips of brickwork break up the surface. Thus, the mural would probably have to be reproduced, ineffectively, at small scale. Another side wall, facing north along Smithfield Street, offers even less promise as being obscured by a parking garage. Thus, it seems that the re-creation, at this site at least, is unlikely.

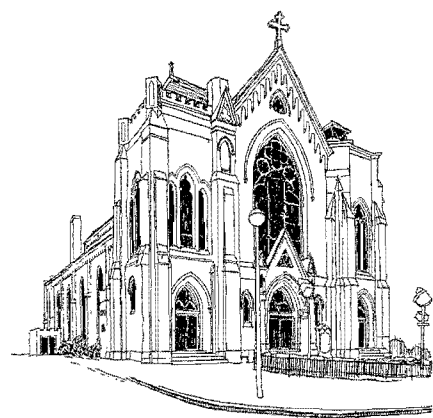
In mid-June too, an artist named Burton Morris offered to donate a mural to the city. Among his works is a redesign of the familiar Perrier bottle, not yet seen in this area. Where the mural would go remains to be seen, but the rear wall of Heinz Hall, facing across a parking lot to Benedum Center, has been mentioned. In such a place, there would be no really historic architecture to drown out if it proved to be strident. Michael Graves' O'Reilly Theater is to be across Penn Avenue, and the theater and mural would probably divide attention between them.



One suggested location for the Burton Morris mural.

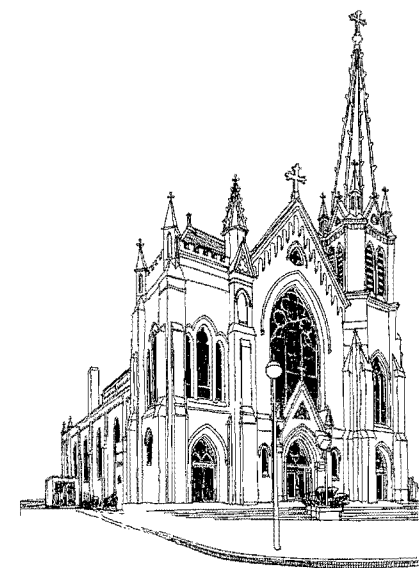
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PRESERVATION SCENE

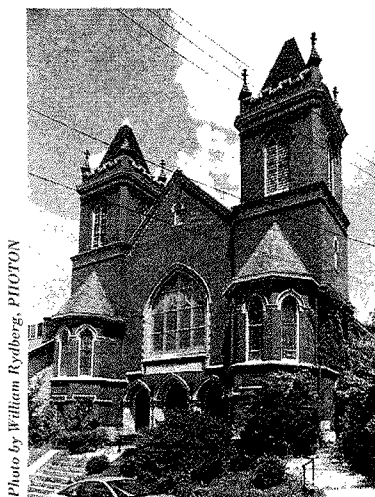


A Spire on the Mount

Since 1896, the church of St. Mary of the Mount, a Frederick Sauer work in yellow brick, has looked down upon the western half of Station Square. The church was never completed, though; finials have been missing from the left part of its front, and heavy buttressing to the right implies construction to a greater height anticipated some day. But now it appears that the church will start



its second century with the construction of these incomplete features. Here are Before and After views of St. Mary of the Mount. The new pinnacles, belfry, and spire will be executed in aluminum, adding thirty feet to the total height of the church and fifty-six feet to the height of the present tower structure. A carillon is planned. The architect is David J. Vater, R.A., Inc.



Mt. Washington Church to Become Apartments

The Mt. Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) is sponsoring a \$2 million project, developed by Property Development Associates of Carnegie, which will renovate the Methodist Church of Mt. Washington at 124 East Sycamore Street. The church was built in the late 1880s, and its red brick twin towers are conspicuous on Mt. Washington. MWCDC is applying to the Federal

Home Loan Bank for grant funds. The project has already been approved for funding by the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. The developer will be seeking low-income tax credits.

The totally renovated and reconstructed interior will contain twenty-one bedroom apartment units, two large common rooms, and laundry facilities. The developer is committed to maintaining as much of the historic fabric as possible, including many of the stained-glass windows. The renovation will begin early in 1998.

This preservation and re-use project has many reasons for support:

- It is in a CDBG/Community Reinvestment area;
- It puts a tax-exempt property back on tax rolls;
- It recycles an historic building for a community-acceptable use;
- It provides quality low-income housing for seniors in an outstanding location, one block from Grandview Avenue, next to the full-service primary business district on Shiloh Street, and within an easy walk of a five-day-a-week, full-program, City-run senior center.



Mackintosh-Hemphill Adaptation

At the end of May, it looked as if the former 1900-period office building and an adjoining building at South Ninth and Bingham Streets, former elements of the Mackintosh-Hemphill foundry, were to have a definite future. The developers, Thomas Tripoli and Michael Kratsas, envision three adjoining hotels on the site: a ten-unit and rather expensive one in the office building, a less expensive element of the Sleep Inn chain in the other old building, and a five-story, 104-unit Comfort Suites hotel in a new construction that will also contain some retail and a restaurant.



Bedford School

Across Bingham Street, Joedda Sampson is converting the Bedford School of 1850 into loft condominiums. This will not be an exterior restoration—a belfry and two entrances would have to be rebuilt, and some fenestration rebuilt as well—but a building that retains much historic character will be converted to domestic use through further, but this time sympathetic, adaptation. The two rehabilitations will strengthen each other's effects, assuming the new Comfort Suites hotel is designed to complement the older architecture.



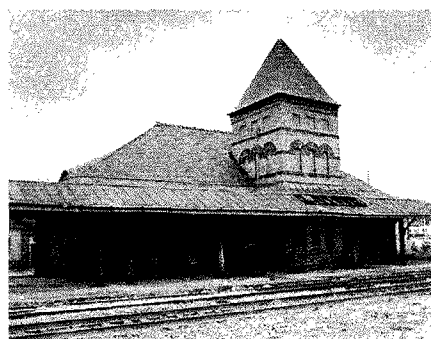
The Davis farmhouse, c. 1880, at 3423 Brownsville Road, Brentwood.

Battle of the Signs

For over a year the Brentwood Historical Society has been spearheading a grass-roots initiative to preserve the Borough's Senior Citizen Center, or historic Davis farmhouse, from demolition and replacement with a proposed fire house and social club. In July, the Historical Society and Brentwood Fire Department erected signs advocating their respective positions.



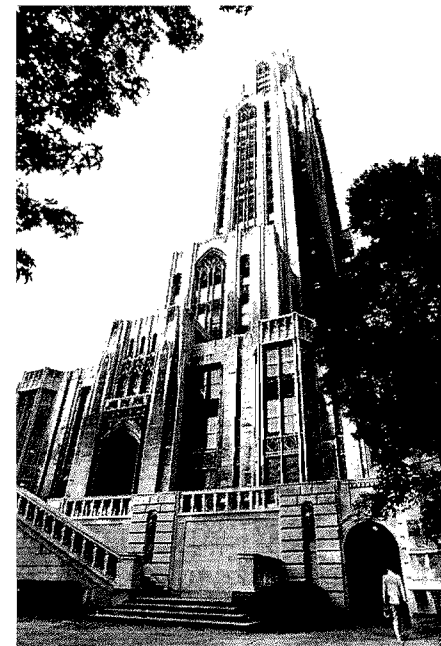
Initially the Brentwood Fire Department erected a sign on an adjacent residential property that read: "Future Site of the Proposed Brentwood Fire Department and Banquet Facility." In response to the fire department's sign, Brentwood Historical Society president Gerry Sullivan asked Mayor James Joyce and Council members David Shade, Ron Arnoni, and Raymond Schiffauer if the Historical Society could erect a sign on the Davis property to advocate preservation of the house and surrounding park. According to Ms. Sullivan, Mayor Joyce said that he did not see a problem with the erection of such a sign and the other council members agreed. Interestingly, after the erection of the sign advocating the preservation of the Davis farmhouse, the fire department's sign advertising the proposed fire hall was removed.



Coraopolis Museum

June brought the news that the Western Pennsylvania Interactive Railroad Museum at Coraopolis, conceived some two years ago, is about to enter the planning phase. Eminent specialists in museum and tourist development, Integrated Building Arts, Ralph Appelbaum & Associates, and the Enterprise Development Company along with several others, will devise a master plan at a cost of \$100,000. The Coraopolis Economic Revitalization Committee and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are joint contributors. Landmarks has been working with Jack Polaritz, the project director,

on the initial plans. One element of the scattered-site museum is Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge's Coraopolis passenger station for the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad, an appealing Richardsonian building long idle.



Cathedral of Learning: Pollution

The limestone facing of the Cathedral of Learning, completed in 1937, has sustained sixty years of pollution damage, and especially on two of its sides. Prevailing winds and industry-generated acids are most likely to blame, or so a layman might suppose, but Dr. Cliff Davidson of Carnegie Mellon University is using the Cathedral as a specific object for detailed study of pollution damage to stone exteriors generally. A paper in the February 1997 NCPTT [National Center for Preservation Technology and Training] Notes describes the research being undertaken. For a copy of "The Soiling of the Cathedral of Learning," write to NCPTT, NSU, Box 5682 Nachitoches, La. 71497, or call (1-318) 357-6464.

Vacant Lot at Brighton/Western

A parking lot. Unfortunately, this may be the future for an undeveloped parcel of property at the corner of Brighton and Western Avenues on Pittsburgh's North Side, once the location of four Longfellow, Alden & Harlow homes.

Since 1993, Allegheny West Civic Council has tried to prohibit a developer, Irwin Associates (affiliated with Mistick Incorporated and the Mistick Construction Company), from asphalt-ing this lot which is diagonally across from historic West Park, adjacent to the Darlington House of the 1890s (that Dr. Spence has renovated magnificently), and down the street from the Community College of Allegheny County. Due to a recent Supreme Court ruling, however, a parking lot may be forthcoming.

The property is located in a multiple-family residential zone. Originally, Irwin Associates intended to develop the property for apartments using federal funds to help defray part of the development costs. When the developer learned that federal funds were not available, and when the environmental report on the property revealed the existence of petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene, the developer sought use and dimensional variances to use the property as an open-air parking lot. At the zoning board proceedings, Irwin Associates claimed that they needed the variances



Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

The vacant lot along Brighton Road. The Darlington House is just beyond the lot.

because the property was practically valueless and could not be developed for residential housing except at a prohibitive expense. Through a short-term loan from Landmarks, Allegheny West was able to offer to purchase the property for \$200,000; nevertheless, Irwin Associates turned down the offer—presumably because the potential parking revenue would be greater than \$200,000.

The case went before the zoning board and the trial court; both found that Irwin Associates was experiencing an unnecessary hardship because the property could only be used for a purpose permitted by the zoning code at a prohibitive expense. The Commonwealth Court, however, reversed these rulings stating that Allegheny West's \$200,000 offer was an indication that the property was not valueless, and therefore, that Irwin Associates was not entitled to the requested variances.

If the case had stopped at Commonwealth Court, a parking lot would not be on the horizon. But the case was taken to Pennsylvania's Supreme Court. In *Allegheny West Civic Council, Inc. v. Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Pittsburgh* (PA 1997), the Supreme Court stated that it was unreasonable to force a property owner to pursue an offer that was less than the property's value in lieu of a variance. Moreover, the Supreme Court held that because the property could not be developed as residential housing without prohibitive environmental remediation costs, Irwin Associates was entitled to a variance. The case has been remanded to the Zoning Board for further consideration.

While one could argue about the vacant lot's true value, Landmarks hardly feels that \$200,000 is an insubstantial offer, especially in light of the fact that the property owners have not been paying any property tax because it is listed on the City tax rolls as having no value. Furthermore, we are mystified as to why Mistick Construction (a long-time North Side historic restoration company) would seek to deface the neighborhood it had previously chosen to restore. As of this writing, no asphalt has been poured. Hopefully neighborhood preservation will prevail over profit.

Public Policy Pilot Project

In July, an alliance of organizations was formed to combat developmental sprawl in Pennsylvania, a problem especially in the southern part of the state. The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Pennsylvania, and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania,

an organization "to strengthen the livability of the Commonwealth through better land-use planning," held a "brainstorming session" and "retreat" in Philadelphia in mid-August as a start to the three-year project. According to a National Trust/Preservation Pennsylvania announcement, "The short term goal is to educate the general public and elected officials about the problems of sprawl, and to amend the state Municipalities Planning Code . . . The long term goal is to . . . enable the preservation movement to respond quickly and effectively to any issue affecting historic preservation in Pennsylvania . . ."

For information, contact:
10,000 Friends
1211 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(1-215) 563-0250.

Ross Conservation District

Rochester and Lowries Run Roads in Ross Township have been made "conservation corridor overlay districts," subject to restrictions beyond those imposed by conventional zoning. New construction and non-residential alterations will come before a seven-member Design Review Board whose concerns will be design standards, open space, landscaping, signage, and pedestrian pathways. Historic preservation is only tangential to these concerns, but aesthetic preservation—which much "historic" preservation really is—seems to be at their center.

Beaver on National Register

A large part of central Beaver—317 acres, with about 1,450 buildings—has been designated a National Register District, the largest in Western Pennsylvania. Both the eighteenth-century town plan and the large number of buildings dating back to the late or mid-nineteenth century influenced the designation.



Oakdale School

The former Oakdale Public School, a brick Romanesque building of 1894 on East Street Avenue in that borough, has been enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places. The owner plans a conversion into apartments.

SIHC Grant

In March, the State's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources awarded the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation \$364,000 for continued development of the Rivers of Steel Heritage Area, which extends along the river valleys of Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Fayette, Greene, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties.

Historic Homeownership Assistance Act

Preservation Pennsylvania reports that legislation introduced in the last Congress will come up again in the 105th Congress. The Historic Homeownership Assistance Act, as put forth in the 104th Congress, had the following provisions:

- 20 percent federal income tax credit is limited to \$50,000 for each principal residence (subject to recapture if the property is sold in less than five years).
- This credit is available to homeowners who rehabilitate a qualified property or developers who rehabilitate a qualified property and sell it to a homeowner with the credit.
- Qualified properties include single- and multi-family residences, condos, and cooperatives listed on the National Register of Historic Places, listed in state/local historic districts, or listed as local landmarks and having a portion of the building used as a principal residence.
- Rehabilitation must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, with exceptions possible in Enterprise, Empowerment, or distressed zones.

Pennsylvania supporters of the legislation during the last Congress were House members Phil English (R-21st District) and Paul McHale (D-15th District).

A two- and one-half-year effort to secure passage of an historic home rehabilitation tax credit by including it in a major tax bill thus came to an end this June when the Senate Finance Committee reported a tax package which did not include the credit.

House sponsors worked hard to get the credit included. Despite disappointment in their initial efforts, they searched for opportunities to change the tax code to raise revenue that would offset the revenue loss incurred by the tax credit, originally estimated at \$239 million over five years. A last-minute analysis of the tax credit estimated the revenue loss to the federal treasury at over two billion dollars, effectively killing the bill's chances of being reconsidered.

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 (1-412/471-5808) and report what you know.

The American Farm and Ranch Protection Act of 1997 (H.R. 195, S. 499)

The loss of farmland as a result of sprawl has in the last ten years resulted in a substantial loss of farm acreage in and around the two largest metropolitan areas of the state. The five counties around Philadelphia lost 25 percent of their farmland, amounting to 109,503 acres: the size of Delaware County.

Federal estate taxes exacerbate urban sprawl by creating economic situations under which most farmland owners cannot exist. Farmland owners tend to be "land rich" and "cash poor." When a farmland owner dies, large sums of cash are needed to pay the federal estate taxes. In an area where an eighty-acre farm is valued at \$15,000 per acre, this translates into \$1.2 million of value disregarding improvements, and exposure to estate taxes on \$600,000. Taxes due would be more than \$250,000.

The American Farm and Ranch Protection Act would help save farmland owners from the burdensome estate taxes normally associated with rapid growth due to sprawl while protecting land by means of conservation easements from future sprawl development. The bill stipulates that land that is located within a fifty-mile radius of a metropolitan area, national park, or national wilderness area and is subject to a perpetual conservation easement would be exempted from federal estate and gift taxes.

The bill would require the easement to prohibit commercial use of the property. However, leasing for hunting and fishing may be included provided the lease is subordinate to farming, ranching, forestry, horticulture, or viticulture. This bill is a step in the right direction in slowing sprawl and helping to preserve vital agricultural land.

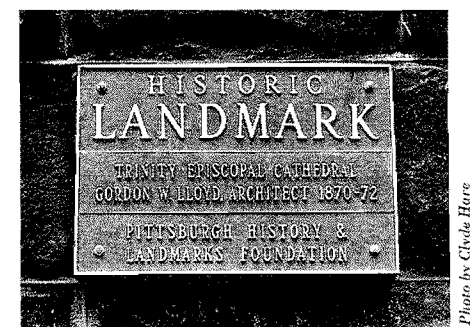


Photo by Clyde Hare

Is Anything in Your Neighborhood 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 (1-412) 471-5808.

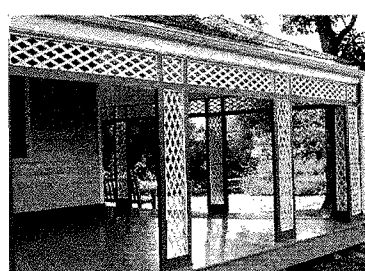
Help us bring public recognition to architectural landmarks in Allegheny County.

EDUCATION NEWS



Improvements at the Neville House

For the third consecutive year, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has funded major repairs at the historic Neville House of c. 1785 in Collier Township. This summer, major improvements included repairing the porch, repainting the house, and completing the handicap-accessible ramp. Wall-paper samples were removed from the second floor hallway, revealing names, dates, and an Indian sketch in pencil, all from around the early 1880s, perhaps.



Rob Windhorst, a volunteer, has spent many hours designing, planting, and weeding the kitchen garden adjacent to the house.

Visit the Neville House this summer and see the progress that has been made. The house is open for tours through September on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is about twenty minutes southwest of downtown Pittsburgh. Follow I-79 South to Kirwan Heights exit 12; turn left on Route 50, and the house is about one-half mile on the left.

Right: Teachers sketched details of Calvary United Methodist Church during Landmarks' Exploring Architecture class in June.

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania Contributes to New Education Brochure

Thanks to funding support from Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is designing and printing a new education brochure. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania is one of the oldest and largest natural-gas utilities in the state, backing its expert service to 374,000 customers in 451 communities in 26 counties with more than 100 years of experience. Columbia Gas has been a corporate member of Landmarks for five years and we welcome the corporation's support of our education program.

"We have wanted to revise our education brochure for several years," said Louise Sturgess, executive director of Landmarks, "and with this contribution from Columbia Gas we are now able to do so. We plan to design a four-color brochure containing fact sheets on Landmarks' various education programs." The printed materials will be available later this fall and will be mailed to area schools and community groups. Call Mary Ann Eubanks at (1-412) 471-5808 if you are interested in receiving a brochure.



Explore Pittsburgh on a Downtown Dragons Tour

Each year over 1,000 school students experience the sights, sounds, and commotion of city life during a two-hour "Downtown Dragons" walking tour. They search for creatures carved in stone and learn about Pittsburgh's history and architecture. Third-graders from Franklin Elementary School in the North Allegheny School District, pictured above, toured Pittsburgh on June 6.

At the request of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, fifteen of their community ambassadors participated in the Downtown Dragons tour as part of their training. Katoki Tucker said he learned a lot about Downtown, including which buildings were adorned with gargoyles and dragons. "There are things I've seen that I didn't actually pay attention to before," he said to a reporter from the *Post Gazette*, pointing out a pair of lions along Fifth Avenue.

The Downtown Ambassadors are on the streets seven days a week this summer, dressed in black and gold, answering questions, tidying up the streets, and hopefully encouraging people to look more closely at architectural details on notable city buildings.

Weekly Walking Tours

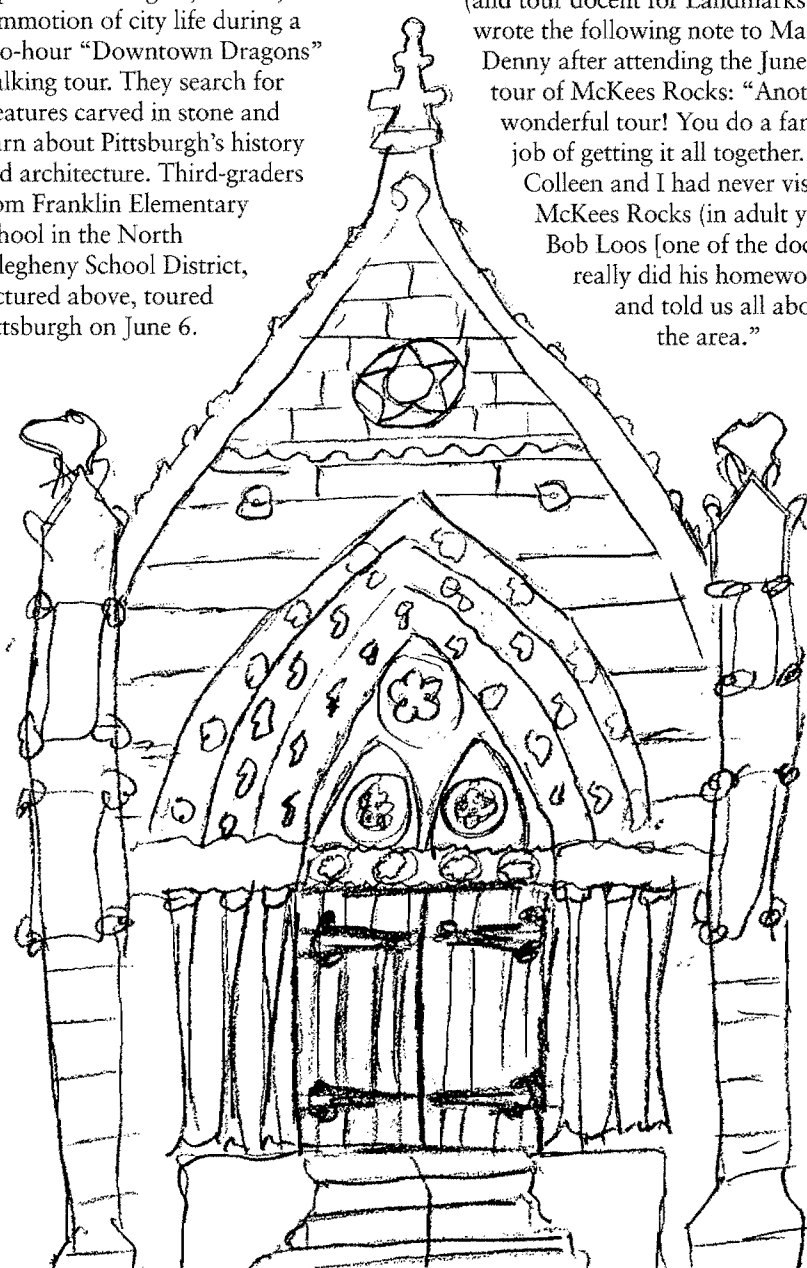
Thanks to a contribution from The Galbreath Company, Landmarks is offering walking tours of the Grant Street area every Wednesday through September 24. Attendance continues to grow as news of the tours spreads. A Downtown Bingo game has been developed for children on the tour, and a Downtown Trivia game has been developed for adults. Prizes and gift certificates are awarded to the winners. Call Mary Lu Denny (1-412) 471-5808 if you would like to make a reservation for the next Wednesday walking tour.

Summer Courses and Tours

Landmarks' education staff has been busy this summer, coordinating tours for the NAACP National Convention, offering inservices to teachers, leading tours for our members, and creating special programs for Knoxville Middle School and Westmoreland County Schools in the fall.

We have received many positive comments from our members and teachers. Nancy Stewart, a member (and tour docent for Landmarks), wrote the following note to Mary Lu Denny after attending the June 25 tour of McKees Rocks: "Another wonderful tour! You do a fantastic job of getting it all together. Colleen and I had never visited McKees Rocks (in adult years). Bob Loos [one of the docents] really did his homework and told us all about the area."

Colleen and I had never visited McKees Rocks (in adult years). Bob Loos [one of the docents] really did his homework and told us all about the area."



After completing the Exploring Architecture inservice in June, one teacher wrote: "The neighborhood walks were a great application of the things we learned; this was one of the best courses I have taken through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit." A graduate of our Portable Pittsburgh inservice in July complimented instructor Mary Ann Eubanks for her "rich knowledge and delightful stories about the artifacts."

We thank Janeen Atkins, Sandra Heard, Sue Neff, and Tom Demko for working with our education staff this summer, and we thank the many neighborhood groups, historic homeowners, and religious property owners who continue to welcome our tour groups.

African-American Timelines Available

Thanks to a grant from Dollar Bank, the second edition of "The African-American Legacy in Allegheny County: A Timeline of Key Events" is now available. For free copies, call Landmarks' receptionists at (1-412) 471-5808 and state your name, address, and the number of timelines you would like. The timeline is an excellent teaching aid during Black History Month, or anytime during the year!

New "Certificate in Historic Preservation"

Youngstown State University (YSU) announces a "Certificate in Historic Preservation" program at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Students develop expertise leading to employment in private contract research, local and state preservation offices, or national preservation agencies. Classroom and field work includes National Register, 106 Review, and Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record documentation.

Students completing the full sequence receive a "Certificate in Historic Preservation." Undergraduates may earn the Certificate as part of a History Major, or as a Minor supplementing work in a related field such as Art History, Anthropology, Geography, or Engineering. Graduate students earn the Certificate as part of a Master's in History.

Both full-time and part-time students are welcomed. Financial aid is available, including tuition discounts for Western Pennsylvania residents, and \$2,000 scholarships to all undergraduates with 25+ ACT or 1140+ SAT scores.

To learn more about the YSU Historic Preservation Program, contact the History Department, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio 44555. Phone (1-330) 742-3452.

Book Review

Howard V. Worley, Jr., *Pittsburgh's Vintage Firemen, 1790-1915*. Distributed by HowDy Productions, P. O. Box 445, Saxonburg, Pa. 16056-0445. 96 pp., many illustrations. Appendix and bibliography. \$22.95.

This is an interesting book on Pittsburgh and Allegheny firefighting. It includes, among other things, a variety of firehouse exteriors and some on-fire buildings of historical interest.

Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit is Packed with Props for Teachers to Use

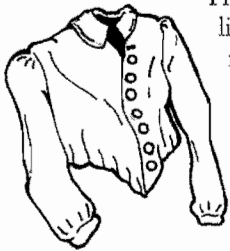


Beginning in September, teachers or community group leaders may borrow Landmarks' *Portable PITTSBURGH Artifact Kit* to help teach students about Pittsburgh history.

The kit is easy to use. Thirty artifacts, from a prehistoric tool to a computer disk, are wrapped in black bags. A mystery artifact card is attached to each bag. As the teacher or group leader pulls the artifact out of the bag, the student shares the information on the mystery artifact card with his/her classmates. Then, the student sticks an illustration of the artifact on a timeline near its

period of use. A teacher's guide,

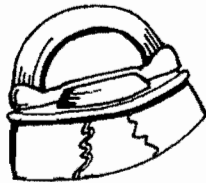
Pittsburgh history outline, student worksheet, nametags, and fifteen large photographs of historic views, events, and people are also included in the *Portable PITTSBURGH Artifact Kit*.



Interested? Call Landmarks' education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks at (1-412) 471-5808 for further details. You may reserve the kit for a seven-day period for a modest fee, and you must pick it up and return it to The Landmarks Building at Station Square.



Call Mary Ann Eubanks, Landmarks' education coordinator, if you want to borrow the *Portable PITTSBURGH Artifact Kit*.



Encourage Your School to Join Landmarks

Your school (or school district) may become a member of Landmarks for an annual fee of \$25.00. Membership benefits include free use of more than one dozen slide shows featuring the architecture and history of the Pittsburgh region, and discounts on exhibits, publications, and educational programs such as the *Portable PITTSBURGH Artifact Kit* and *Downtown Dragons*.

Encourage your school to join today. Call Mary Ann Eubanks at (1-412) 471-5808 for further details on our education programs. Each year, about 12,000 people—students, teachers, members, and tourists—participate in Landmarks' education programs.

Is Your School a Member?

The following schools are members of Landmarks, as of August 4:

J. H. Brooks Elementary School
California University of Pennsylvania
Canevin High School
Chatham College
Community College of Allegheny County
Craig House
Forbes Elementary School
Fort Couch Middle School
Fox Chapel Country Day School
Franklin Elementary School
Gateway Middle School
Gateway Senior High School
Gladstone Middle School
J. E. Harrison Middle School
Hopewell Elementary School
Ingomar Elementary School
LaRoche College—Wright Library
Mt. Lebanon School District
Morningside Elementary School
Northgate School District
O'Hara Elementary School
Our Lady of Sacred Heart High School
PSEA-NEA (Pennsylvania State Educational Association)
Peebles Elementary School
Pine Richland School District
Point Park College
Rowan School
St. Bernadette School
St. Vincent College
Seneca Valley School District
Shadyside Academy Junior School
South Park Middle School
University of Pittsburgh
Winchester-Thurston School



Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians

Many of our members will remember Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians, the famous orchestra that played for over half a century, one of the longest running popular orchestras in our nation's history.

We were pleased to host a dinner for Mrs. Fred Waring, preceding a most successful book-signing at The Shops at Station Square for her new book *Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians*. Present at dinner, from left to right, were: Ellen Wilson, book reviewer for *Carnegie Magazine*; Mrs. Fred Waring; Tom Pataerra, a Pittsburgher who once sang with the Pennsylvanians, now singing with Marvin Hamlisch. Back row: Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. of Landmarks; Bernard M. Markwell, former executive with Gulf Oil who sang in a style similar to that of the Pennsylvanians for many years on KDKA radio; and his son and historian Bernard K. Markwell.

On October 19, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation will present a tour of art glass in Pittsburgh created by Rudy Brothers. Tour participants will visit four sites which display some of the finest early twentieth-century glass found in the United States—glass of extraordinary range and character:

- Sarah Heinz House, Deutschtown
- Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church, Wilkinsburg
- Peabody High School, Highland Park
- J. Horace Rudy house, Highland Park

The tour will be led by Joan Gaul, author of *The Heinz Memorial Chapel* (University of Pittsburgh, 1994) and the first article devoted to the Rudy Brothers' art, "J. Horace Rudy and the Rudy Brothers Company Stained and Leaded Glass," (*Stained Glass*, Winter 1996), and Albert M. Tannler, Historical Collections Director, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, whose publications include "Horace Rudy: Pittsburgh's Master of Glass," *Tribune-Review Focus Magazine* (April 7, 1996). They will be joined at the final stop by John Kelly of Victorian Glassworks. Mr. Kelly is an art glass designer and craftsman who has analyzed and restored many Rudy Brothers windows.

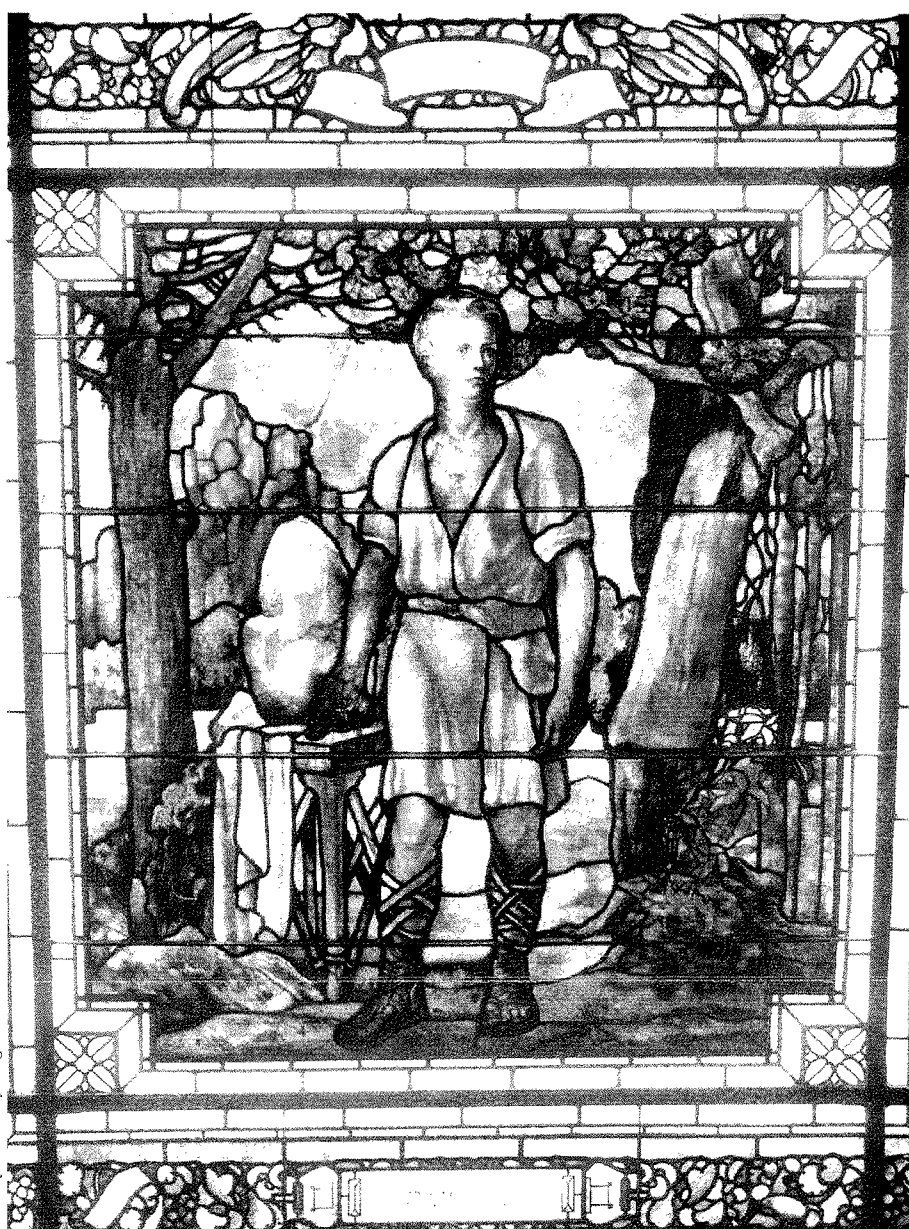
Members will be mailed an invitation to this tour; reservations are limited. Call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808 for details.



Sarah Heinz House

October Tour Features Art Glass in Pittsburgh

Albert M. Tannler



A Rudy Brothers Window in the Sarah Heinz House.

Pittsburgh has been an important manufacturing center for glass; indeed, glass fabrication is one of the city's oldest industries, dating from the eighteenth century. However, Pittsburgh glass makers were not solely industrial fabricators or manufacturers of utilitarian glassware. The design of artistic glass—"art glass" played a significant part in Pittsburgh's cultural past.

Noteworthy experiments in glass design in Pittsburgh have been dated as early as 1837, but the story of art glass design in Pittsburgh properly begins when Henry J. Heinz convinced a family of artisans from the Philadelphia area—Frank, Isaiah, Jesse, John Horace Rudy, and their parents—to move to Pittsburgh. Rudy Brothers opened their art glass studio in East Liberty in 1894. It was the first of several distinguished Pittsburgh glass studios. In 1898, William Willet, who had studied painting with John La Farge, opened the Willet Stained Glass & Decorating Company on Penn Avenue. Henry Hunt opened his firm in 1906, having worked from 1890 to 1903 for the Boston/Pittsburgh firm of Leake & Greene. Hunt Studios and Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios, established in 1909, are still active.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first quarter-century of the twentieth, Pittsburgh's glass studios designed glass, not only for churches, but for many kinds of

non-religious buildings: commercial buildings, government buildings, schools, settlement houses, hospitals, residences. The best of this secular art glass followed and refined techniques developed by John La Farge and Louis Comfort Tiffany.

*[J. Horace Rudy]
sometimes got effects in
transparent colors arranged in
geometric designs that
I'm sure were better than
any . . . art-glass work
of the time in any
American city.*

Charles J. Connick,
*Adventures in Light
and Color*, 1937

At the same time, William Willet and younger colleagues like Charles Connick and Lawrence Saint were seeking to revitalize the art of medieval glass-making and supplant the dark and densely colored La Farge/Tiffany opalescent glass with a more transparent, brighter glass such as they saw in the great Gothic cathedrals. William Willet's 1905 north window in Pittsburgh's First Presbyterian Church is considered to be

one of the first neo-medieval stained glass windows in this country. Willet, Saint, and Connick would become famous for their stained glass designs for many of the country's most prestigious churches; Connick is best known locally for his brilliant Heinz Memorial Chapel windows.

Thus we see that after 1890 significant art glass was being designed and made in Pittsburgh, and soon to be nationally, indeed, internationally prominent artists were being trained here in the La Farge/Tiffany tradition as well as reviving another tradition centuries older.

A 1905 article in *Construction* magazine, "Pittsburgh as a Stained Glass Centre," predicted that Pittsburgh might soon surpass New York and Chicago to become the country's leading producer of stained glass; although the stained glass industry later declined everywhere, the statement confirms the past importance of stained glass fabrication and design in Pittsburgh. Today we see artful and interesting stained glass windows in even very modest houses built between 1900 and 1920 in many Pittsburgh neighborhoods.

J. Horace Rudy, Artist and Mentor

The premier art glass design and fabrication studio in Pittsburgh was Rudy Brothers.

They were all workers; one was serving as a salesman and representative; another as the office manager; a third, as cutter and glazier in the shop; and young Horace, at twenty-four, the designer and mastercraftsman, really the spiritual head of the firm known as Rudy Brothers.

Thus Charles Connick characterized the firm he entered in 1894 and Horace Rudy's place in it. A meeting between Connick and Horace Rudy in 1894 caused the nineteen-year-old graphic artist for the *Pittsburgh Press* to change careers; he apprenticed at Rudy Brothers from 1894 to 1897, and after returning from Boston in 1903, served as Rudy Brothers art director for several years. Lawrence Saint began his apprenticeship at Rudy Brothers in 1897.

J. Horace Rudy was chief glass designer and mentor to the art glass designers of the next generation. Rudy had, Connick stated, "a genius for teaching." George Sotter, designer of the glass at Sacred Heart Church in Shady-side, who apprenticed with Willet and Rudy, wrote after Horace Rudy's death in 1940: "I shall never forget how Rudy received me, looked at my paintings and gave me an opportunity to work with him. In glass as well as in painting he fed me with his enthusiasm to keep going and keep trying." And Lawrence Saint remembered: "Horace looked way beyond immediate horizons . . . he took a deep interest in those in the studio, and tried to point them toward better things in art and life."

Join Landmarks in October to view art glass treasures created in Pittsburgh by one of the country's most influential mastercraftsmen and teachers.

The "Tree of Life": Arts & Crafts Motifs in the Pittsburgh Home of J. Horace Rudy

Albert M. Tannler

The term "Arts & Crafts" does not characterize a specific architectural style but rather an approach to art and design rooted in the theories of the English critic John Ruskin (1819–1900) and in the work of the great English polymath, William Morris (1834–96): painter; furniture, glass, textile, and book designer; poet and novelist; social activist; and—as founder of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 1877—father of historic preservation.

Ruskin and Morris sought to revitalize the art and architecture of their time by reviving medieval architectural forms and the (supposed) honest manual labor and egalitarianism of the medieval craftsmen who created them. An admiration for medieval art and architecture *per se* is not common to all Arts & Crafts artists; all, however, advocated meticulous craftsmanship, the use of natural materials such as wood and stone in ways appropriate to the character of the material, and decoration based on flower and plant forms. Some designers saw their work as grounded in a regional or national tradition of indigenous vernacular buildings and designs. Another contemporary design approach, Art Nouveau, also based its imagery on floral and plant forms, but in a stylized and almost abstract manner; both movements

often met and intermingled.

The term Arts & Crafts has been applied to designs created by many of Horace Rudy's contemporaries: English architects Charles F. A. Voysey, M. H. Baillie

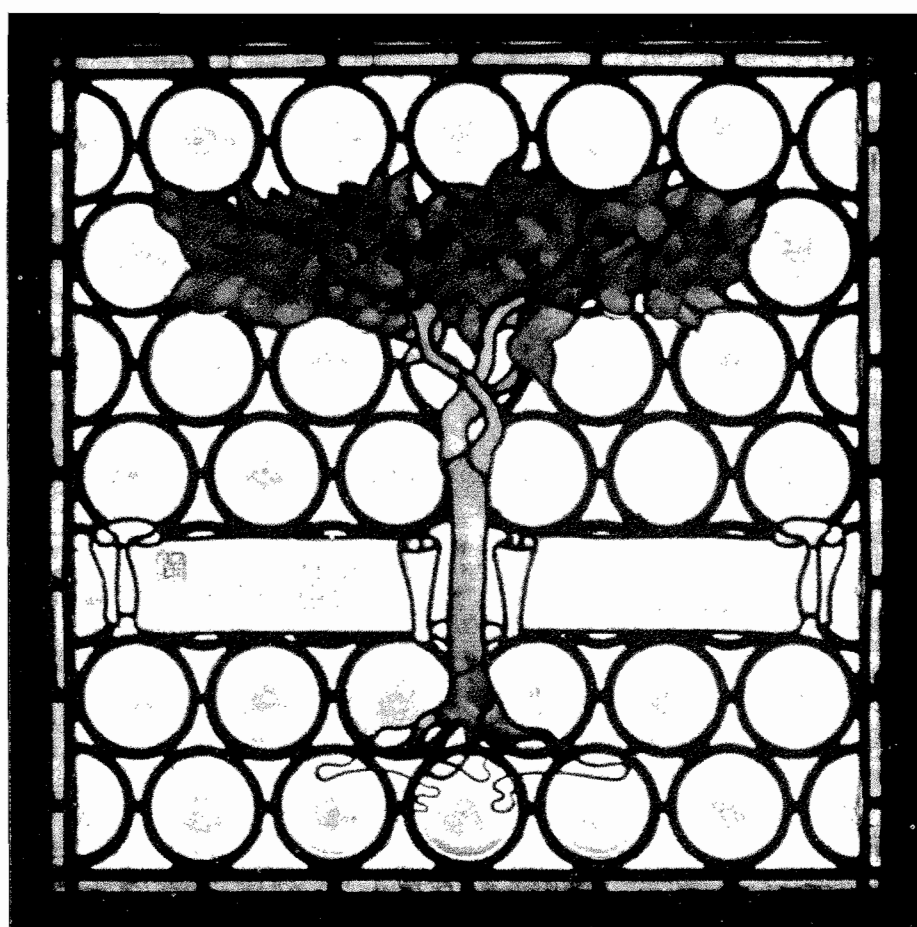


J. Horace Rudy

Scott, and Charles Harrison Townsend whose work was frequently illustrated in *The Studio* magazine (established 1893) which was widely read in the United States; Americans such as furniture designer Gustav Stickley whose magazine *The Craftsman* brought Arts & Crafts ideas, artists, and art into countless homes and architectural offices from 1901 to 1916; entrepreneur Elbert Hubbard and his community of "Roycroft" artisans; and a group of California architects, most notably, Charles and Henry Greene. Arts & Crafts elements are also found in the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and some of his Midwestern contemporaries.

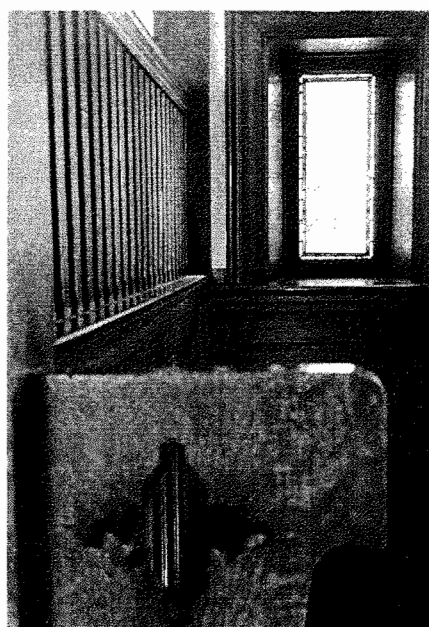


J. Horace Rudy house in Highland Park



The tree of life

Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. and Richard Kiehnel are the Pittsburgh architects most attuned to Arts & Crafts influences. In August 1901, East Liberty contractor Samuel Feltyberger erected an eleven room, two-and-a-half story red brick



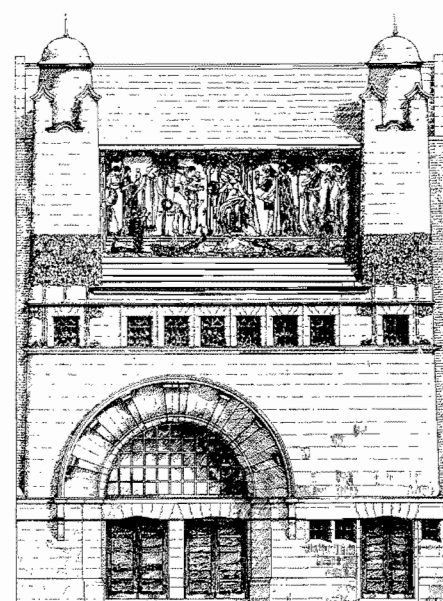
The Rudy house inglenook

and half-timbered stucco Tudor house in Highland Park for J. Horace Rudy; the Rudy family would live there until 1905—a brief period of four years.

The Rudy house belongs in the local Arts & Crafts canon less for its Tudor elements than for its interior appointments; specifically the fireplace inglenook, the oak paneling throughout the first floor, and, of course, the art glass—approximately thirty individual panels throughout the house. The built-in bench in the fireplace inglenook to the right of the front door combines a pew-like cruciform cutout with tenon and key joinery common to 1901–04 Stickley and Roycroft furniture. The

inglenook art glass window consists of a single panel of full-spectrum glass; only the traditional segmented border differentiates it from avant garde abstraction. The glass mosaic fireplace in the living room is composed of some 3,200 individual pieces of glass; geometric borders frame a central garland with attendant bouquets to create a naturalistic yet formal composition.

In the dining room a flowering "tree of life" is set against a background of roundels in the center panel of a three-paneled north window. Stylized trees appear in 1890s designs by Baillie Scott and C. H. Townsend published in *The Studio*. Indeed, an early use of the tree of life is on the facade of Townsend's 1892 Bishopsgate Institute in London. Such trees were, according to architectural historian Peter Davey, Townsend's "favourite motif: trees with short, slender trunks and large overlapping leaves, which in this building are laced together by sinuous branches" (*Arts and Crafts Architecture*, 1995, 146). Similar trees appear on the facade of Townsend's Whitechapel Art Gallery (1896, revised 1899) when gnarled roots appear on the trunks that frame the small first-floor windows. Rudy might have seen these trees in *The Studio* magazine, Vol. XVI, in 1899. Or, he might have seen them in Pittsburgh, since the design for the Whitechapel Art Gallery was exhibited at the first Pittsburgh Architectural Club Exhibition in 1900 held at the Carnegie Institute art galleries (other British Arts & Crafts exhibitors in 1900 were Walter Crane who designed a facade mural for the Whitechapel Art Gallery, Charles Robert Ashbee, and Edgar Wood; Americans Claude Bragdon, Walter Burley Griffin, Dwight and Lucy Perkins, Pond & Pond, and Vernon Watson also displayed their work).



Drawings of C. H. Townsend's Whitechapel Art Gallery, exhibited in Pittsburgh in 1900, might have been a source of inspiration for Horace Rudy's tree of life.

The tree of life motif was not uncommon in turn-of-the-century iconography. The Rudy tree of life bears fruit (apples? oranges?); its slender trunk rises out of gnarled roots, its twisting branches support an almost rectilinear crown of branches and fruit. A scroll bearing the motto—"Life is a measure to be filled, not a cup to be drained"—surrounds the trunk. Tiffany's tree lamps of 1901–04—in particular the Apple Blossom lamp—are variations on a similar motif. Even closer to Rudy's tree are designs published in the November 1902 and August 1903 issues of *The Craftsman*, and one created by Roycroft designer Dard Hunter in 1905 for an edition of Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*.

The four-panel east dining room window is Art Nouveau; the geometric elongated flowers of the lower panels and the gentle billowing, intertwined curving lines of the top panels share affinities with the mid-1890s work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the "Glasgow Four." After 1901, similar motifs are found in textile designs in *The Craftsman*.

The glass in the Rudy house is not an isolated example of high standards and technical skill but is characteristic of the caliber of glass Rudy Brothers offered customers (including architects such as Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. and Kiehnel & Elliott). The Rudy house designs, as we have seen, are not without precedent. Nonetheless, Horace Rudy's creative work and the work of Rudy Brothers Company compares most favorably with that of their better known contemporaries.

Do you recognize these architectural details?
Call Landmarks to Play the Tour Trivia Game



Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

1.
These photos were featured on Landmarks' spring and summer events invitations. And, they are architectural details that you would have seen if you had attended one of our spring or summer tours.

Steve Kravitz, Richard Linder, and Angela Marvin all knew that Photo 3 is a grotesque on the Smithfield Street Bridge. Since Mr. Kravitz was the first member to call Mary Lu Denny at Landmarks with the correct answer, he received a complimentary tour ticket.

No one called with the correct identifications for Photos 1 and 2. Photo 1 is a detail on the Union Trust Building, downtown, and Photo 2 is a detail of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in McKees Rocks. Photo 4 was just printed on our Autumn events invitation, so carefully sort through your mail and call us if you know what building the architectural detail is from.

Keep your eyes open as you travel around town, and be on the lookout for the architectural details on our events invitations. Call us with your best guess. You too could be a tour trivia contest winner!



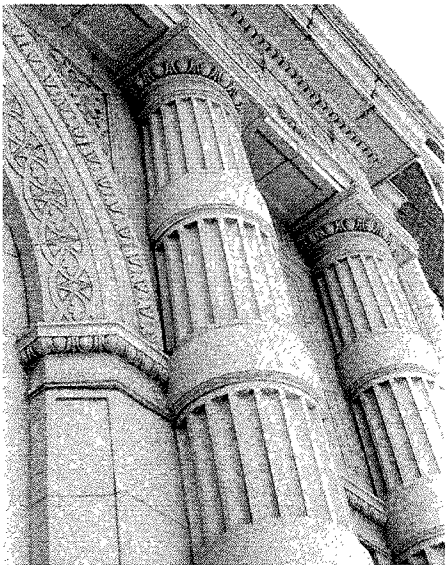
Photo by William Rydberg, PHOTON

2.



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3.



4.

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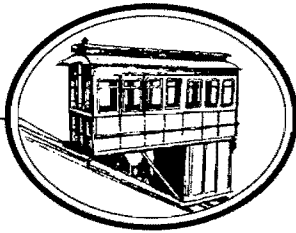
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