



# PHLF News

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

No. 149 March 1998

## Priorities This Year

On December 5, 1997, the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation approved a work plan outlining major program priorities in the new year.

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks, informed members and friends about the 1998 work plan on January 8 during an author's reception for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. (Please see the article on page 3 of this issue.) Arthur reported that Landmarks has a sound financial base due to the sale of Station Square in 1994 that resulted in the creation of an endowment for historic preservation. "Based upon our endowment this year," Arthur said, "we have a working budget of \$2,000,000. An additional \$1,000,000 will be used to augment the Preservation Loan Fund, so more loans can be extended in our historic neighborhoods." He emphasized that membership contributions and charitable gifts now are being used solely to support specific projects in the community and are no longer allocated to fund operating expenses. "We will invest in preservation programs for the Pittsburgh region," said Arthur.

Landmarks' program priorities for 1998 include the following:

### Neighborhood Preservation

Under the capable leadership of Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., with assistance from Elisa Cavalier and Tom Keffer in specialized areas, Landmarks will:

- extend new loans to neighborhood organizations for the restoration of historic properties and continue to provide technical assistance as needed;
- implement a porch, facade, and garden restoration program to promote on-going, appropriate restoration on Liverpool Street;
- assist Homewood Brushton Revitalization & Development Corporation in restoring houses on Bennett Street, North Murtland Street, and Fleury Way;
- provide an expanded technical services program in construction management;
- offer a scholarship-assistance program so that several board members and executive directors from neighborhood organizations can attend educational conferences;
- work with the Apostolic Alliance Village, Inc. to restore the birthplace in Plum Borough, Allegheny County, of William Dickson Boyce, the Boy Scouts of America founder;
- continue to extend loans and technical assistance utilizing the "Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative" and the "Working in Neighborhoods" program; and
- work with selected historic neighborhoods to secure historic designation status.

### Advocacy

Arthur Ziegler, Elisa Cavalier, Barry Hannegan, Walter Kidney, Howard Slaughter, and Ron Yochum will:

- continue to testify on preservation issues before City Council, the City Planning Commission, the City Historic Review Commission, and local government agencies;
- work with Preservation Action on proposed historic tax credits for homeowners and on a grassroots lobbying network;

- work with the Pittsburgh Public School Board on issues regarding the preservation and renovation of numerous historic school buildings in the City of Pittsburgh;
- continue to try to change the Pennsylvania Department of Education guidelines that result in historic school abandonment;
- work on the anti-sprawl/saving small towns and rural buildings program in association with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Pennsylvania, and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania; and
- prepare a list of historically significant buildings in the right-of-way of the proposed Mon Valley expressway, and work with PennDOT for their preservation.

### Critical Building Needs

Arthur Ziegler, Cathy Broucek, Elisa Cavalier, Walter Kidney, and Howard Slaughter will:

- work with parties interested in preserving major endangered buildings, including various public schools, historic religious properties such as B'Nai Israel in East Liberty and St. Michael Archangel on the South Side, and special landmark structures such as the Shouse house in Glenwillard and the Lowen house in Beechview;
- provide technical assistance in regard to the Garden North (formerly Federal North) project on the North Side;
- work with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Mayor's office, and Urban Redevelopment Authority to evaluate the feasibility of restoring historic downtown buildings for residential, hotel, and office purposes;
- work with the Committee on the Allegheny County Courthouse Restoration and with the Allegheny County Commissioners in regard to the reuse of the old jail; and
- consider an expanded facade easement program.

### Historic Religious Properties Initiative

Thanks to lead gifts from trustee Constance O'Neil and the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, together with year-end gifts from our members, Landmarks will again provide assistance to historic religious properties in Allegheny County. Howard Slaughter is planning an historic religious properties seminar this September that will include a program of financial and technical assistance concerning the restoration of stained glass and murals.

### Historic Landscape Preservation

Barry Hannegan joined Landmarks' staff in June of 1997 as director of historic landscape preservation. This year he and Greg Yochum, our horticulturist, will:

- work with public agencies and neighborhood organizations (including the Strategic Parks Alliance and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy) for the restoration of historic parks;
- develop educational programs regarding designed landscapes and provide information services to owners for the restoration of historic gardens;
- co-sponsor an historic house and landscape preservation symposium on April 22 to aid in Landmarks' restoration of the Neville House in Collier Township;
- develop model front yard planting plans for Manchester;
- work with The Community Builders and East Liberty Development Corporation on a landscape plan for Pennley Park;
- advise Kennywood Park, during its centennial season, on appropriate Victorian planting for its Victory Garden; and
- create a neighborhood greening program with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Conservation Consultants, Inc., and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

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### Education, Membership, and Library Services

Louise Sturgess, Cathy Broucek, Mary Lu Denny, Mary Ann Eubanks, Barry Hannegan, Walter Kidney, Melinda McGee, Al Tannler, and our dedicated volunteers will:

- offer a variety of educational programs (tours, lectures, student/teacher workshops, etc.) to more than 10,000 members, tourists, students, and teachers;
- co-sponsor the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street National Conference in Pittsburgh from May 17 through 20, and host the annual National Trust Board meeting on May 20 and 21;
- complete the manuscript for a book on Pittsburgh bridges and begin design work;
- publish new education and membership brochures and encourage more people and businesses to join;
- reorganize the library's book collection due to additional new shelving and integrate approximately 2,900 new volumes recently donated by Walter Kidney;
- promote sales of books published by Landmarks, including *Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture*, *Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh*, and *A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County*; and
- continue to operate The Landmarks Store in The Shops at Station Square for the benefit of our members and the general public.

### In Conclusion

With the support of our trustees and members, Landmarks' staff will implement these programs and others this year, and continue to respond to daily telephone calls for action and information. Please call Louise Sturgess at (1-412) 471-5808 for a complete copy of the 1998 work plan.

## Welcome New Members

(as of February 9, 1998)

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

Diane Alder  
David Baker  
Victoria L. Batcha  
Barbara Bonnett and family  
Marilyn Brusche  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Burdine and family  
Sherry and Arnola Burton  
Sam Cammarata  
Denise Capurso  
Carol Carlson  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cavalier  
Joan P. Dailey  
George D'Angelo  
Patricia Davisson  
Yolanda Day  
Norma Devall  
Charles Dudas  
Sarah Duffy  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Duke  
Frank Fairbanks  
Dr. Richard and Marian Finegold  
Elvira and Harry Finnigan  
H. Ruth Flamberg  
Faith Gallo  
Margaret Gardom  
Lee M. Haller  
Beth and John Hallerud  
Donna Hartman  
Russell C. Heeschen and Kathleen R. Dobbin  
Janet J. Jai and family  
Wallace Jones  
John T. Keegan  
Paul Kovach  
Margaret M. Lubawy  
Laura Magee  
William and Sue Ann Marszalek  
Lynda Matijevich and family

Kate McDonald  
Bobbie P. Mikita, AICP  
Willis McCook Miller  
Jerry A. Moye and family  
Bobbi and Peter Murphy  
Pamela Murphy  
Peter Niederberger  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard Nolder  
Becky O'Connor and family  
Partners for Sacred Places  
Martha J. Pasula  
Rogers Elementary School  
Ann Fay Ruben  
Wilma M. Rybar  
Maria Santiago  
Marjorie L. Schmidt  
Mark G. & Cynthia W. Schoeppner  
Gayle and Michael Schurko  
Mary Ann Seinar  
Gary F. Shaffer  
Gloria Smith  
Caroline Steiner and family  
Randy Strothman  
Chris Stroyne and family  
Richard P. Suess  
Anne J. Swager and William L. Wilson II  
Christine M. Torie  
Cheryl R. Towers  
Rose and Robert Wagner  
Mrs. Russell G. Wichmann  
Wanda E. Wilson

*If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a member, please call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808.*

## Welcome Corporate Members

(as of February 9, 1998)

**Benefactors**  
The Ellwood Group, Inc.  
Matthews Educational and Charitable Trust  
Mylan Laboratories, Inc.

**Patrons**  
Molly's Trolleys

**Partners**  
Allegheny Valley Bank of Pittsburgh  
Bell Atlantic  
Chatham Village Homes, Inc.  
Duquesne Light  
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce  
Hilb Rogal and Hamilton Company  
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart  
Landmarks Design Associates  
Rossin Foundation

## Make Your Gift Count Twice!

You may be able to double the value of your membership or gift contribution to Landmarks if you or your spouse is employed by one of the many companies that generously match employee contributions to non-profit institutions. Check with your employer to secure the appropriate form; then, submit this form to Landmarks with your contribution. We will complete our section of the form and forward it according to your company's instructions.

We thank the following companies that matched employee contributions to Landmarks in 1997: The Buhl Foundation; Chevron Products Company; Consolidated Natural Gas Company; Fannie Mae Foundation; H. J. Heinz Company; PPG Industries; R. R. Donnelly & Sons Company; and Westinghouse Corporation.

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; historic landscape preservation; and education and membership programs.

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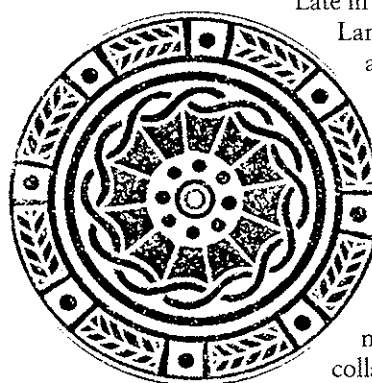
## National City, Victoria Hall, Martin Media, and Landmarks Co-sponsor Old House Fair

Landmarks' third annual Old House Fair at Victoria Hall in Bloomfield was held on Saturday, February 28. Visitors met with restoration architects, craftsmen and contractors, conservationists, glass and lighting designers and fabricators, and representatives from lending institutions and neighborhood organizations. They attended lectures and demonstrations on related restoration and preservation topics and enjoyed twenty-minute tours of Bloomfield and Garfield aboard Molly's Trolleys.

We thank National City Bank of Pennsylvania and Victoria Hall for co-sponsoring the Old House Fair, and are grateful to Martin Media Outdoor Advertising for donating billboards.

## A Donation of Books

Walter C. Kidney

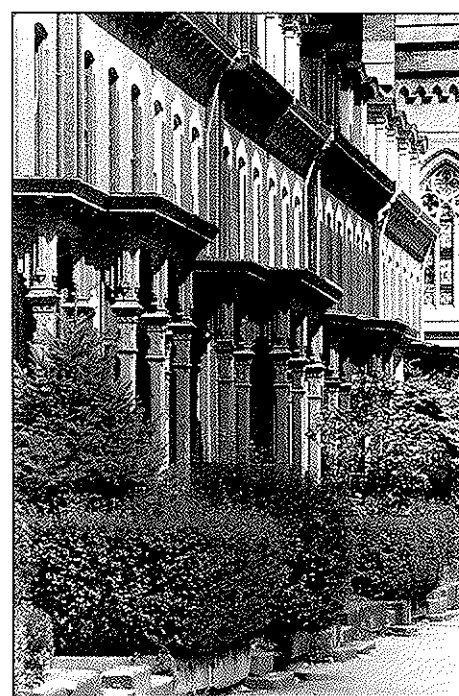


Late in the fall of 1996 I donated the greater part of my library to Landmarks, the accumulation of fifty years. Somehow I had come to a new point in my life, where the avid accumulation of books on design seemed to matter less than attention to current affairs at Landmarks and the keeping of a good, general collection.

I had given Landmarks a good many books a few years before and now I felt the silent accusation of those that remained, and resolved to donate about 2,900 more. Most were on architecture, engineering, garden design, sculpture, decoration, and furnishing as one might expect, but other areas of design were included. For instance, I have always seen naval architecture as architecture, and had at one time hoped to collaborate with a naval architect to articulate this belief.

What I envision is a Landmarks library that might not only attract people interested in local architecture and history but people interested in the architecture of other parts of the country and of the world. A good many maps, too, were part of my gift. Further I hope that art students, commercial artists, graphic designers, and lovers of good design generally may find it worthwhile to visit the library.

Merging all these books into the James D. Van Trump Library is a formidable task that will occupy our time in 1998. Members wanting to visit the library may schedule an appointment to do so by calling Al Tannler at (1-412) 471-5808.



CLYDE HARE, 1985, FOR THE PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS FOUNDATION

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

Landmarks can put your securities and property to good work while bringing you:

- Lifetime income from your gift
- Public acknowledgment of your gift
- Federal and state tax savings
- Avoidance of probate cost and estate taxes
- Disposition of real estate and

**YOUR GIFT CAN RESTORE OUR HERITAGE**  
elimination of ownership costs and liability  
■ The satisfaction of making a significant  
gift to preserving our Western Pennsylvania heritage  
■ Honorary life membership.

Call Cathy Broucek to discuss these donor options. 412-471-5808



CREATING A FUTURE FOR PITTSBURGH BY PRESERVING ITS PAST

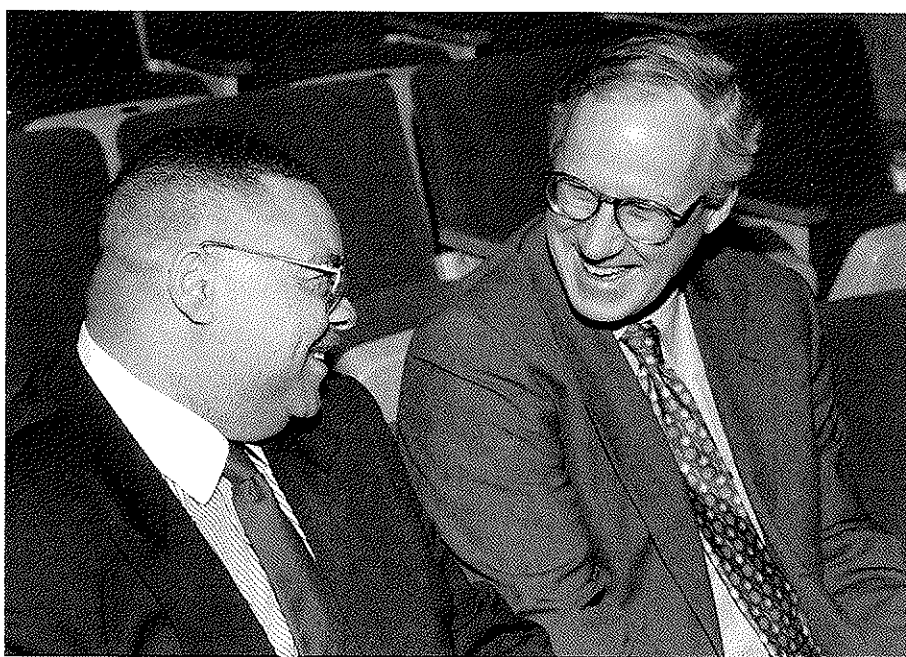
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## Richard Moe Returns to Manchester

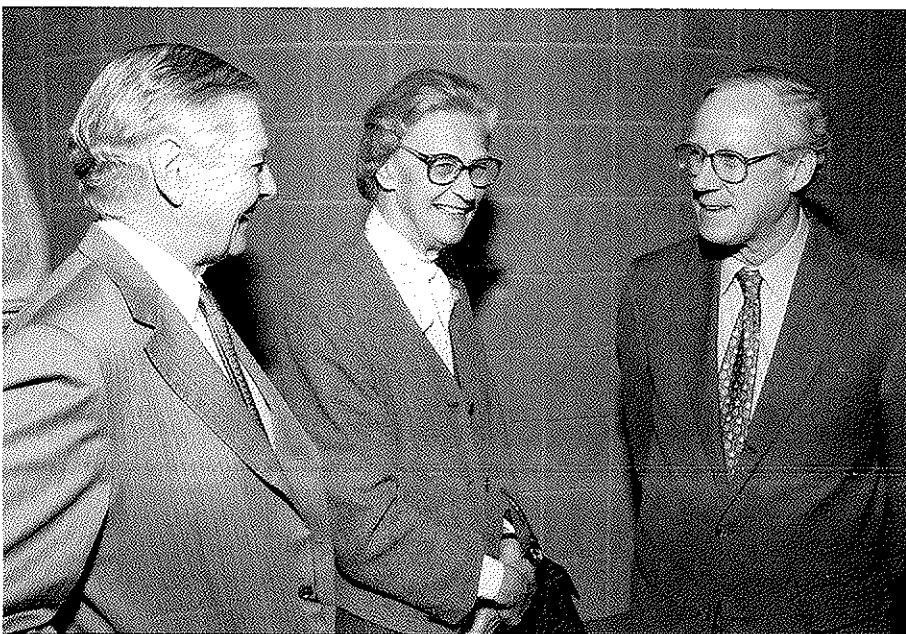
Just over 200 people attended an author's reception on January 8 at Bidwell Training Center in Manchester for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and co-author with Carter Wilkie of *Changing Places: Rebuilding Community in the Age of Sprawl*. "Through my trips to Pittsburgh and Manchester," said Richard Moe, "my eyes have been opened to what preservation can be and do." In *Changing Places* (please see the review on page 15 of this issue), the historic preservation accomplishments of Pittsburgh's neighborhoods are cited as strategies for strengthening urban centers. "As neighborhoods in Pittsburgh have shown," writes Moe, "preservation of a place builds pride and pride builds hope."

Before autographing copies of his book, Moe spoke eloquently about the threat of urban sprawl and challenged Pittsburghers to make certain that the "core city survives and thrives." Moe stated: "We cannot function as a society without strong, viable central cities." He emphasized that "Sprawl sucks the economic and social life out of the core cities. The threat of urban sprawl is as great a threat to historic preservation as urban renewal was in the 1960s. A downtown gives a region its identity and is the economic engine that drives the metropolitan area."

Moe concluded by saying that people across the nation are thinking very creatively about how to save their downtowns and noted that "Preservation is increasingly being used as a tool for community revitalization." He mentioned that Station Square is an example of a downtown trying to reinvent itself: "This process of reinvention must happen if a society is to maintain a viable and interesting city. And there's nothing wrong with preservation making money, as long as that money goes right back into the community, which is exactly what the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is doing. There is not a preservation organization on the local level anywhere in the country that can match the work of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation."



Stanley Lowe (left), a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Richard Moe, its president.



Henry Hoffstot, a trustee of Landmarks, introduces the Countess d'Oultremont from Belgium to Richard Moe.



Just over 200 members and friends attended the author's reception on January 8 for Richard Moe.

## Farmland Preservation Bill Introduced in Ohio

Sprawl development has become a national concern. While urban buildings set upon an already existing infrastructure are deteriorating and being abandoned, sprawl development demands these things—roads, sewers, community services—new, with huge public services. And there is, in addition, the large and alarming loss of farmland that sprawl development brings as a consequence.

A bill with bipartisan support was introduced in the Ohio legislature that

begins to address the issue of preserving farmland and redeveloping cities. The bill utilizes regulations, tax and zoning measures, and local purchase of development rights from farmers as the tools.

A new improvement in such legislation is that the bill includes an important ingredient to encourage urban investment in housing, a sales tax exemption on all material that is used for refurbishing and redevelopment of residential dwellings within central cities.

Another important provision of the bill is that landowners who have received a major reduction in their real estate tax by qualifying their properties as farmland and then decide to develop it must pay ten years of recapture of the tax.

By creating disincentives for sprawl development and incentives for the reuse of buildings in cities, the bill establishes an interesting model for Pennsylvania.

Photos by William Rydberg, PHOTON

### NATIONAL TOWN MEETING ON MAIN STREET



Pittsburgh - May 17-20, 1998

**Westin William Penn Hotel  
Pittsburgh**

Presented by  
the National Trust for  
Historic Preservation's National  
Main Street Center

Co-hosted by the  
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks  
Foundation  
and the  
Pennsylvania Historical and  
Museum Commission

in association with the  
South Side Local  
Development Company

with additional funding  
support from

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania  
Bell Atlantic

Pennsylvania Downtown Center in  
partnership with the Department of  
Community & Economic Development

Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership

and with in-kind contributions from

Art Cohen & Co.

Mellon Bank

WQED Communications

With more than 100 educational sessions and "hands-on" technical field trips, the conference will bring together over 1,200 Main Street professionals to network and learn about issues and trends in the field. Topics include:

- Growing Business on Main Street
- Building Professional Skills and Expertise
- Finding New Solutions for Revitalization
- Building Rehabilitations and Housing

Members of Landmarks have been mailed a conference brochure and registration form.

**Questions?**

**Call Cathy Broucek at  
(1-412) 471-5808.**

**The Annual Conference of the  
Downtown Revitalization Field**





A view down East Carson Street from South Fourteenth Street.

# Local Main Streets

Walter C. Kidney

On May 17 through 20, the National Trust for Historic Preservation holds its Main Street conference in Pittsburgh. It is appropriate, therefore, to feature a few local Main Streets, almost all unknown outside the area.

The name "Main Street" carries several implications, no one of them, we suppose, absolutely indispensable. It suggests a street that links a community with places beyond; one that bears a highway number as well as a local name such as, often, Main Street. It suggests a commercial street: not purely commercial, but concentrating the community's commerce along its pavements. And it may well be conceived as a showplace of the community.

East Carson Street is known to National Trust members: an object of Landmarks' attention since 1969; a National Register District since 1983; a pioneering urban beneficiary of the National Trust's Main Street Program; a City Historic District since 1993; and a recipient of the National Trust's Great American Main Street award in 1996. Thus, this Main Street, shared by the former boroughs of Birmingham, East Birmingham, and Ormsby before annexation to Pittsburgh in 1872, is familiar to many people.

Homestead, eight miles up the Monongahela River, shares Eighth Avenue with West Homestead and Munhall as a Main Street within a National Register Historic District.

The street has a Far West look, wide and fringed with low-built commercial structures, that yields suddenly to public housing at the Munhall end and a little less suddenly to a broken pattern of houses in West Homestead. Efforts at a coordinated streetscape were made some twenty years ago, but not with great success.

Carnegie is an object lesson and a worthy subject for clinical study. A street called Broadway divides Main Street, an attractive and busy place, from East Mall, where gray, closed shops front on a failed pedestrian pavement, patched and sinking. A road from a grandiose public library, which may or may not have to close, ends at Broadway, where hope meets failure; the kind of twentieth-century planning Landmarks has long opposed.



The 200 block of East Eighth Avenue in Homestead.



East Main Street at Washington Avenue in Carnegie.



East Mall, Carnegie.

Photos by William Rydberg. PHOTON





*The 500 block of Allegheny River Boulevard in Oakmont.*



*The 500 block of East Ohio Street on the North Side.*

Allegheny River Boulevard in Oakmont, twelve miles up the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh, has a not-unfamiliar configuration for the Main Street of a railroad suburb. The Allegheny Valley Railroad tracks divide the street, with commercial and residential on both sides. A few years ago, Landmarks presented an Award of Merit to the civic organizations that tidied and landscaped this central strip.

East Ohio Street on the North Side terminates neatly, at its western end, in the East Common, but to the east it is bedeviled with highway construction of the 1970s, above, below, and at grade, and after running this gauntlet continues up the Allegheny River as Route 28. But in the Victorian neighborhood of Deutschtown it is a Main Street still, not a showplace but a street getting better.

Western Avenue bisects the little Late Victorian neighborhood of Allegheny West, again on the North Side. It obviously began as a residential street like those beside it, and kept most of its houses even as shop conversions began,



*Western Avenue on the North Side.*



*The 500 block of Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue.*

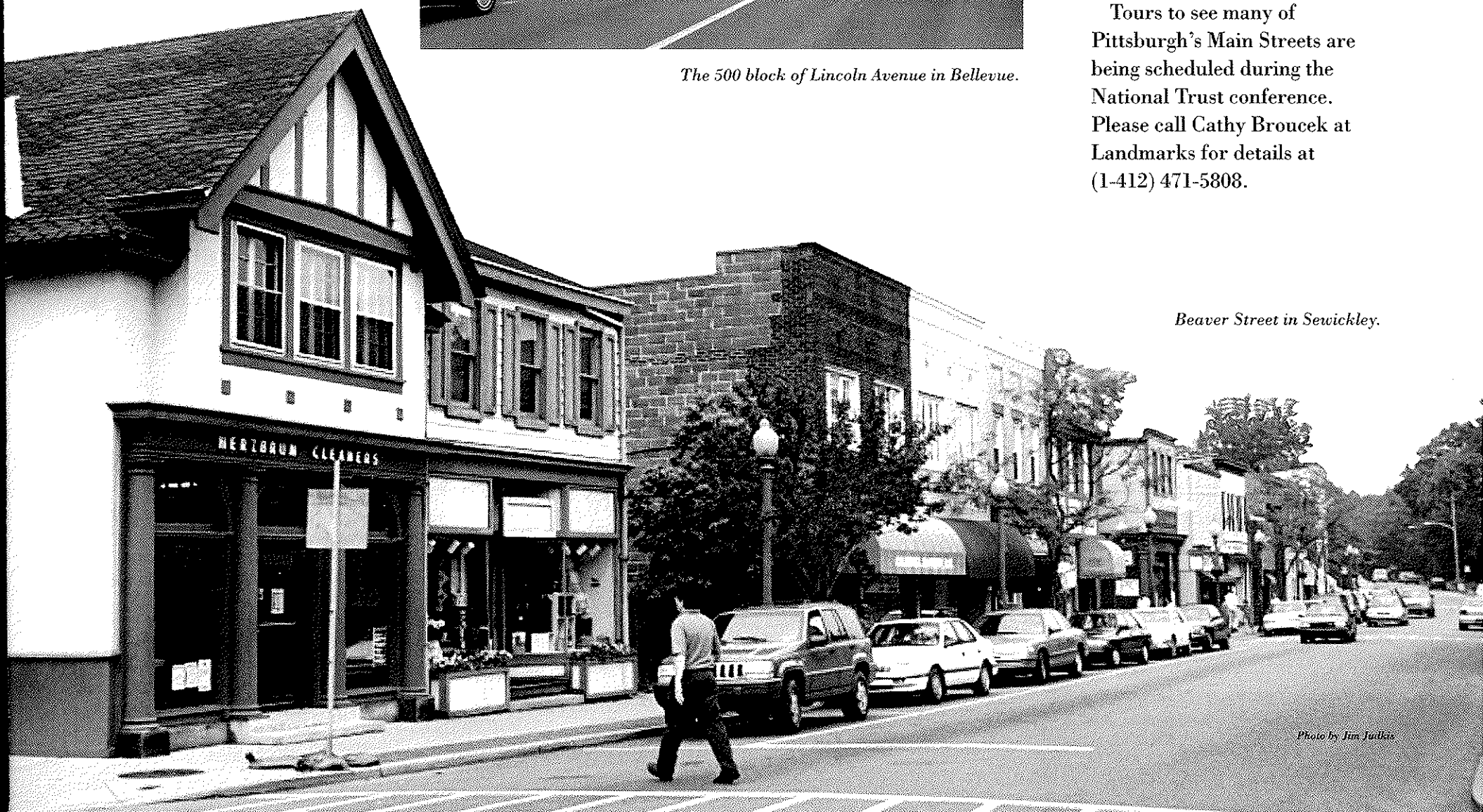
seemingly around 1900. Its terminations are indistinct: to the east, a block beside the West Common, cleared but never built on anew; to the west, a burble of industry and parking.

Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue, four miles down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, is a busy and agreeable street, mainly commercial but even in its commercial part subject to interruption by churches and homes. The mixture is nothing that a planner would specify, permit, or imagine, but the passer-by at least can take pleasure in such a variety. It is the more commendable for having shops open in the evening and pedestrian activity day and night.

Beaver Street in Sewickley, twelve miles down the Ohio, is basically a street of well-composed houses with a commercial incident a few blocks long at its center. The buildings here are rather humbly small-townish though given to up-market uses. The town itself is a tree-lined beauty almost everywhere, with comfortable Victorian houses in most parts and mansions and grand country houses in adjacent boroughs, so that Beaver Street seems all the more modest.

Tours to see many of Pittsburgh's Main Streets are being scheduled during the National Trust conference. Please call Cathy Broucek at Landmarks for details at (1-412) 471-5808.

*Beaver Street in Sewickley.*



*Photo by Jim Judas*

# 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 Loan Fund initiatives and programs;
- 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*.
  - 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.
  - Many volunteer opportunities.
- \*Please call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808 for specifics.

### Membership Categories

Senior Citizen \$10 or more  
 Individual \$20 or more  
 Family \$25 or more  
 School and Non-profit \$25 or more  
 School District \$50 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.

Yes! Enroll me as a member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. I have enclosed a contribution in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_

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*

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.



*The Elroy School in Brentwood is now fully restored. By restoring two Brentwood Schools (instead of building one new school), taxpayers saved \$3.5 million and no tax increase was required. However, because of the Department of Education's Basic Education Circular guidelines, all "ordinary construction" had to be removed and steel substituted, even though both buildings met all building code requirements. The total cost over the life of the bond for this unnecessary bureaucratic requirement will be over \$1 million.*

## Pennsylvania Department of Education Guidelines Result in School Abandonment

We recently discovered "guidelines" of the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) that powerfully and negatively affect local school districts in decision-making about the reuse of existing school buildings, many of which are neighborhood schools and many of which are architecturally significant.

First, the PDE is opposed to almost all "ordinary construction." This means that any school of more than one story that has interior wood framing does not qualify for State reimbursement if the School District wishes to restore it for continued use.

This rule flies in the face of local building codes and the State labor and industry codes and national (BOCA) building codes, all of which indicate that two- and three-story buildings, with up-to-date sprinkler systems and appropriate enclosed fire stairs, are safe to use. In fact, our Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry code permits the use of a two-story "ordinary construction" building for educational use if the fire rating on the building is one-hour and totally protected by an automatic system.

To check on this safety issue, Landmarks commissioned an analysis of the "fire incidents" in public schools throughout the United States.

The findings show that, of 6,200 fire incidents recorded by the US Fire Administration in elementary and secondary schools for the years of 1991 through 1995, there was no correlation between the construction type and the number of injuries sustained. In fact, the Fire Administration's five-year study indicated that both "protected ordinary construction" and "unprotected ordinary construction" scored similarly with 3 and 3.5 injuries per 100 incidents respectively. The score for "fire resistive construction," the most fire resistant type of construction possible, was 3.8 injuries per 100 incidents.

The PDE has said that it has made exceptions for buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, but why would a listing on the National Register make a building more fire safe than a non-listed but reusable building?

The second "guideline" is what is commonly known as the 20/60 rule. Under this arrangement, no school renovation project is eligible for reimbursement where the cost for the renovation (excluding the cost for asbestos abatement, roof replacement and site development) exceeds 60% of the replacement value.

This peculiar guideline results in local school districts being forced to abandon their historic neighborhood school buildings in order to build new ones. Because new school buildings must meet the new PDE standards requiring large acreage around them, former school sites must be abandoned as well. No longer can a school function by standing in a neighborhood or being located as a part of an architectural continuum along a street, but it must be set back and surrounded with open land, much like a Wal-Mart.

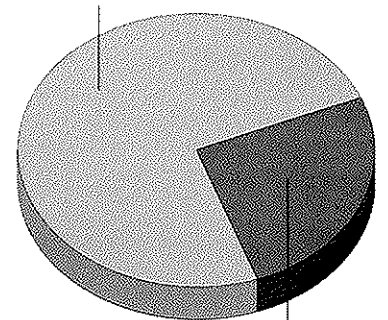
The State Historic Preservation Officer has said that school abandonment and resulting demolition is the number one problem for abandonment of buildings listed on the National Register statewide.

You can easily see the impact of the PDE guidelines on Allegheny County school buildings. An initial inventory completed by Landmarks shows that 74% of the school buildings in Allegheny County were built before 1950, and many will have trouble qualifying for reuse.

Caroline Boyce, executive director of Preservation Pennsylvania, recently said "Schools are first in the number of buildings being demolished across the Commonwealth. . . . At a time when building livable communities is the goal of so many community economic development strategies and programs, we believe that the PDE needs to make some policy changes."

The PDE guidelines are in conflict with the policies stated by the Governor. In fact, the Governor has issued an *Urban Opportunities* policy statement and page 43 calls for the reuse of existing facilities. Furthermore, Article One, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania

Districts with buildings built before 1950: 74%



Districts with buildings built after 1950: 26%

Constitution states that the people of this Commonwealth have a right to the preservation of the natural scenic, historic, and aesthetic value of the environment in our towns and cities.

When we discovered the PDE guidelines and their impact on historic buildings and neighborhood schools, we contacted Preservation Pennsylvania and together have been meeting with representatives of the Governor's office and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Both have agreed to review the guidelines to see if changes should be made. We will report on the progress we make in future issues of *PHLF News*.

Because of the importance of this issue across the Commonwealth, Preservation Pennsylvania will feature endangered historic schools in its annual endangered properties list, "Pennsylvania at Risk." Call Preservation Pennsylvania at (1-717) 234-2310 if you know of any endangered school buildings.

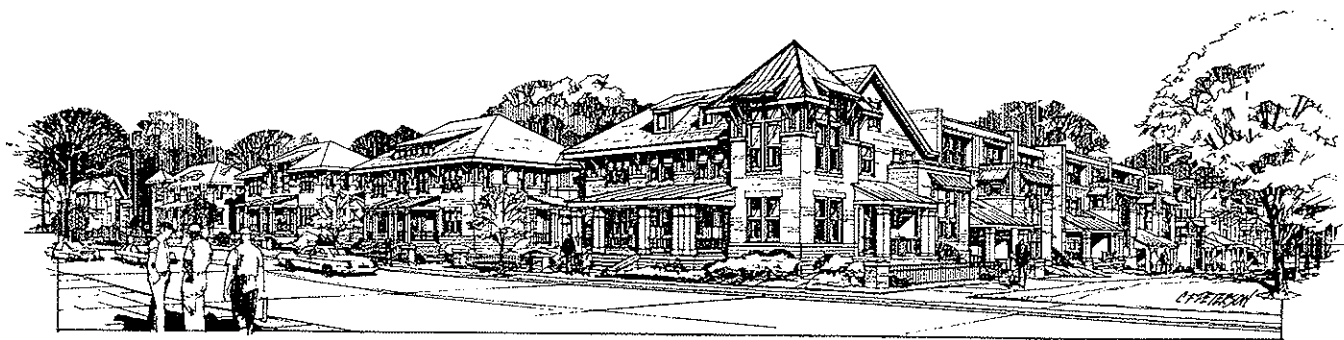
## Park Avenue School, Bethel Park

Despite arguments from the Bethel Park Historical Society, this building of 1926 came down in January. The dilemma was familiar: whether to keep 110,000 visible square feet, asbestos and all, and adapt the ready-made spaces to new uses, or build a new one for the community purposes that are being envisioned. Controversy over the demolition was vigorous, and more activity on the part of the local Historic Architecture Review Board might have resulted in an Historic Landmark designation.

The question of what to do with these large old schools from earlier in the twentieth century is coming up increasingly. It is tempting to keep them, whether in the same or in different functions. They look rational and solid. They obviously contain a lot of sizeable spaces, connected by simple corridor systems. Their architectural treatment may look a little fancy to present-day eyes, but is still acceptable to our tastes. So often, we have known them from our youth. They are there already, ready-made. If only an adaptive use would work!



# PRESERVATION LOAN FUND AND SERVICES



New housing will be constructed on Negley Avenue (left) and the facades on the existing buildings on Penn Avenue (right) will be improved. Rendering by Carlos Peterson; courtesy of Perkins Eastman Architects PC

## New Vision For East Liberty

Diane Daniels

The corner of Negley and Penn Avenues in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh will never be the same. With the first of three phases of redevelopment work to begin in the Spring of 1998, the former Pennley Park apartment complex will undertake a new look. By the year 2000 this prominent property will be smaller and architecturally more compatible with the historic neighborhood. A nuisance bar and three wings of the existing complex are to be demolished; 197 units will be renovated and thirty-eight new apartment units will be constructed. Future plans also envision the construction and sale of fifteen new townhouses along North St. Clair Street. The redevelopment strategy has been guided by the desire to make Pennley Park a quality development which attracts a racially and financially diverse group of residents.

The major partners in the development are East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) and The Community Builders, Inc. (TCB), in cooperation with the New Pennley Place Resident Council. ELDI and TCB have formed a partnership called Negley Corner Limited Partnership Phase One. Future limited partners will be attracted with \$790,000 in tax credits approved by the Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency. TCB will serve as property manager.

Originally, Pennley Park was part of the unfortunate renewal plan then conceived by URA. Blocks of historic buildings were cleared in the 1960s only to produce a troubled 314-unit HUD-insured multi-family development designed by Tasso Katselas. Due to its dilapidated state of repair, approximately 100 units were vacant, tenant morale was low, and real estate preservation and development of adjacent properties was stagnant. One such adjacent building is B'Nai Israel designed by Henry Hornbostel and located at 327 North Negley Avenue. B'Nai Israel was awarded an Historic Landmark Plaque but has been vacant since 1996.

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was approached to provide funding for the Pennley Park project. Since the 1964 building is not historic, Landmarks' \$265,000 pre-development loan was contingent upon ELDI and TCB considering B'Nai Israel as an adjacent community space and establishing a design committee on which Landmarks will have a seat. Landmarks also believes that improving Pennley Park will be a catalyst for future preservation work with the nearby buildings of East Liberty.

Other significant funders for the project include: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD), the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority, the Howard Heinz Endowment, and Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

The project will also receive mortgage financing and Section 8 assistance from the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust.

On October 15, 1997, public officials attended the Pennley Redevelopment Kick-off Celebration. The development was renamed New Pennley Place and Mayor Tom Murphy praised the project as the beginning of an investment in East Liberty. Richard Nemoytin, area coordinator of HUD stated, "Partnerships are important, but it takes commitment, strength and forward thinking to embark upon such a project."

## Rippl Building

On December 9, 1997 Landmarks' Preservation Loan Fund extended a \$25,000 loan to the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC) so renovation of the Rippl Building at 1319 Allegheny Avenue could be completed.

Prior to MCC's involvement, the Rippl Building was nearly vacant (except for a small convenience store) and deteriorating. In 1994, the prior owner was being foreclosed upon, and Landmarks helped MCC buy the building. Originally, MCC experimented with small tenants including the convenience store, a laundromat, a barber shop, and a beauty shop, but it was later decided that MCC would move its corporate offices to the second floor and the remainder of the building would be remodeled and remarketed as predominantly conference and commercial office space. The first-floor conference space can hold eighty people comfortably, and is available to rent.

## Mattress Factory Expansion

In November 1997, Landmarks extended a loan to the Mattress Factory that will enable the museum to improve the neighborhood and support its artistic programs.

The Mattress Factory is the museum of contemporary art located in the Mexican War Streets Historic District. It outgrew its building on Sampsonia Way, which not only was home to the museum's administrative offices but also contained revolving exhibition space and its own permanent collection. When the building directly behind the Mattress Factory on Jacksonia Street was placed on the market, Barbara Luderowski, the Mattress Factory's executive director, saw an opportunity to expand the museum by moving administrative offices to the Jacksonia building. In order to expedite the purchase, the Preservation Loan Fund extended a \$75,000 acquisition loan to the Mattress Factory on November 24.

The architecture of the single-family structure is consistent with that of the Mexican War Streets. Although the building is structurally sound, the Mattress Factory does intend to restore, paint, and maintain the exterior facade.

## Landmarks Funds PCRG Bank Lending Report

The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) is a coalition of over thirty-three neighborhood organizations that works with the lending institutions in Pittsburgh to help them fulfill their Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) commitment. Each year, PCRG publishes a lengthy and detailed analysis of lending practices in Pittsburgh. Shown in the report are loan approvals and declinations for home mortgages by neighborhood, race, and age.

The CRA grew out of an effort by the federal government to encourage bank lending in low- to moderate-income and minority neighborhoods. Landmarks took the lead when the act was passed to bring the neighborhoods together. Landmarks provided funding for the first five years for the PCRG director, Stanley A. Lowe, and we have worked with many lending institutions and neighborhood groups to develop financing for specific restoration efforts.

Each year Landmarks has funded this study carried out by PCRG and we are pleased to announce that we will do so again this year. To date, including this year, Landmarks has provided \$15,000 for the publication of these studies.

## Grassroots Advocacy

Grassroots advocacy—constituents contacting their elected representatives—is a proven means of educating members of Congress, state legislatures, and local governments about preservation issues important to the future of our nation, our commonwealths, and our communities.

Landmarks works with Preservation Pennsylvania, Preservation Action, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation regarding issues that affect historic preservation.

When preservation issues arise or legislation is proposed that need a grassroots response, Landmarks contacts other preservationists to alert them about issues, and they in turn write letters, send telegrams or faxes, or make calls to elected officials and their staffs. Rapid responses to these matters are often critical.

Please contact Elisa Cavalier at (1-412) 471-5808 if you would like to be on Landmarks' grassroots advocacy mailing list.

## Landmarks Announces Conference Scholarship Program

Excellent educational conferences in historic preservation are sponsored each year by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Livable Cities, the Victorian Society in America, and others. However, local organizations working on the front line of neighborhood revitalization often do not have the financial means to send their directors to these conferences.

Utilizing funds from its endowment, Landmarks is offering a conference-scholarship program to help support the costs involved in sending several community representatives each year to relevant historic preservation conferences. Landmarks will award several grants each year in the range of \$500 to \$2,000. Non-profit community organizations must apply to Landmarks for the funds and provide a brief summary of their candidate's experience, specify the goals of the organization, and submit a budget showing need.

For further information, please contact Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services, at (1-412) 471-5808.

## Governing for Non-Profit Excellence

In November 1997, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. had the opportunity to attend a course entitled "Governing for Non-Profit Excellence, Critical Issues for Board Leadership," sponsored by Harvard University's School of Business Administration in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Howard was recommended by Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. of Pittsburgh, for which he serves as board chairman. According to Howard, "This class was beneficial for me because I am often called upon to provide assistance and advice to non-profit organizations. This program is indicative of the valuable training sessions available to non-profit organizations." Representatives from Turkey, London, and other places participated.

A quote from the Harvard Business School states: "Today's non-profits operate in a more challenging environment than ever before. Increased competition for philanthropic funds, government cutbacks, innovations and technology, and increased public scrutiny are just a few of the forces created in some cases in unstable environments for the non-profit sector."

## Slaughter Appointed to Mon Valley Investment Fund Committee

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, has been appointed to serve on the Mon Valley Initiative's Community Investment Fund Committee. The Committee maintains the fiduciary responsibility of the loan funds and gives guidance to the community development corporations that constitute the Mon Valley Initiative.

# PRESERVATION SCENE



810-18 Liberty Avenue.

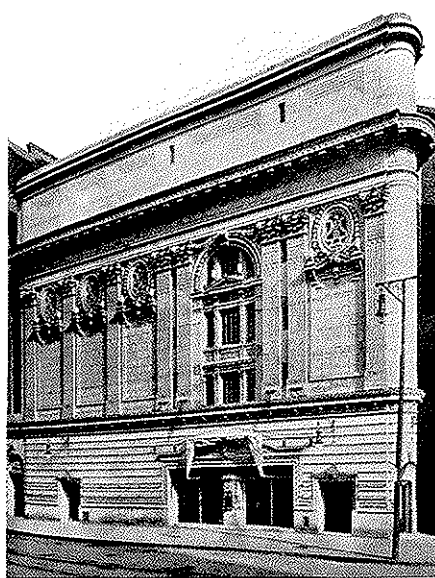
## Landmarks Studies Downtown Buildings

Many downtown buildings are underutilized or have no tenants at all. A large number of such buildings are in the Cultural District and on Forbes Avenue and Wood Street. For over a year, Landmarks has been studying the possible reuse of underutilized downtown buildings, working together with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Urban Redevelopment Authority, and Mayor's office. We looked at office, hotel, loft housing, and rental apartments.

The studies entailed preparing existing floor plans, environmental analyses, plans for new uses, economic pro formas, and financing studies. The basic problem with reuse is high acquisition cost compared with projected income; cash flow is insufficient to repay investors for their total investment. Thus, financial subsidies are required for most adaptive-use projects. Insufficient market and lack of parking are two additional concerns.

However, many of the downtown buildings have considerable architectural character and would provide good spaces for the uses studied if financing could be arranged.

Dana Crawford, who initiated Larimar Square and the loft housing boom in Denver and who developed a downtown hotel in an historic building, served as our consultant; Landmarks Design Associates was architect, and Theodore Merrick, economic analyst.



810 Liberty Avenue as built in 1912.

Part of the cost of the studies was underwritten by a contribution from our good member Doris Feick Harris. The studies have been completed and the results made available to the Cultural Trust and the City of Pittsburgh. Any member interested in reviewing this report may call Cathy Broucek at (1-412) 471-5808 to arrange an appointment. A copy is on file in the James D. Van Trump Library.

## Byham Restorations

As 1997 came to a close, restorations were taking place to some interior decoration of the Byham Theater (originally the Gayety and for many years the Fulton), on Sixth Street near Fort Duquesne Boulevard. Reproductions of metal balustrades and scenes, marbleizing, and gilding are the principal means used for restoring the interior of the inner lobby to its showy state of 1904. The work in this space is being done by Evergreen Studios, New York decorators, at a cost of \$150,000.

## Adaptive Use and the Building Code

A tantalizing problem in a downtown area is the full adaptation of tall, narrow, deep buildings typical of commercial architecture from the past. An elevator, perhaps, and a single stair were likely to be the only ways to and from the upper floors, which were used for storage, not occupation. These buildings, which may be in a City Historic District and thus under legal protection, offer a challenge for developers. The question is: How to offer safe egress for those who live and work in the tops of such buildings without too much sacrifice of space for second stairs and the like? The Pittsburgh Downtown Plan project, which began early last year, is studying the adaptation of building codes to the old loft building and has tentatively recommended the following:

- development of a general attitude on life-safety systems, with assignment of responsibility;
- keeping current on developments in State and federal codes;
- devising an administrative approval process in instances where a building cannot satisfy Article 34 of BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators) or the Property Maintenance Code;
- publication of a guide to approval processes;
- creation of a program of technical assistance for building owners;
- improvement of professional assessment skills and continuing advocacy as building codes change;
- clarification of zoning questions as regard housing conversions;
- consideration of exceptions for stair enclosures in historically significant interiors;
- testing of volume of water supply in nearby fire hydrants to see if the water supply and pressure are adequate;
- establishment of policies regarding fire escapes rather than other means of egress.

Several case studies will be undertaken to determine in detail the problems that can arise, and the possible solutions. The work is being done by Pfaffman & Associates, which can be reached at (1-412) 471-2470; fax (1-412) 471-2472; e-mail [rsparch@aol.com](mailto:rsparch@aol.com).

## The Bridge That Never Was, But May Yet Be

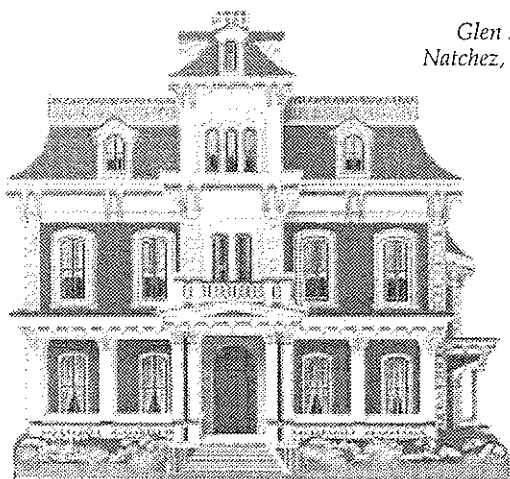
Early in January, the public was informed that the new bridge to serve the Airport Busway, what some people had long taken to calling the Wabash Bridge, might not be the phantom that we had come to suppose. In 1993, Landmarks' staff and others spent many hours discussing alignments, elevations, and structural types, eventually settling on a bridge whose basket-handle main span would make the best appearance. The bridge was abandoned, eventually, much to our satisfaction.

Now, the bridge project is revived, through deliberations of City, County, State, and U.S. transportation officials. Two general proposals are being considered. One would be a four-lane bridge, for all types of road vehicles, its outer lanes descending across Station Square to Carson Street, its inner lanes rising to a direct run to the Wabash Tunnel. This threatens to divide the Station Square property in half, save for a traffic corridor next to the P&LE tracks, which the bridge approaches will have to clear. The other scheme is for public transit only. This would touch only the east end of Station Square, crossing the river alongside the Panhandle Bridge now used by the Light Rail.

Both bridges threaten to be awkward in profile: the four-lane one because the inner and outer lanes are headed for southern termini with a seventy-foot difference in level; the Panhandle one because the new structure would surely be different from the assorted trusses of 1903.

Both block the magnificent view of the Golden Triangle, and the four-laner increases congestion by inviting yet more automobiles into the city; and uses money that could be used to create a good public transit system. And both hurt development—and therefore job possibilities—at Station Square.

Talks among the officials continue.



Glen Auburn  
Natchez, Mississippi



## The Landmarks Store

*SHELIA'S COLLECTIBLES!*

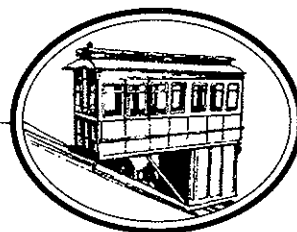
Architecturally Accurate  
Historic House and Building Miniatures

*Shelia's houses and accessories are handmade and feature hand-painted replicas of buildings from all over the United States. The Landmarks Store is a new retailer for Shelia's Collectibles, and limited quantities are available. Sign up for our Shelia's mailing list.*

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## 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:

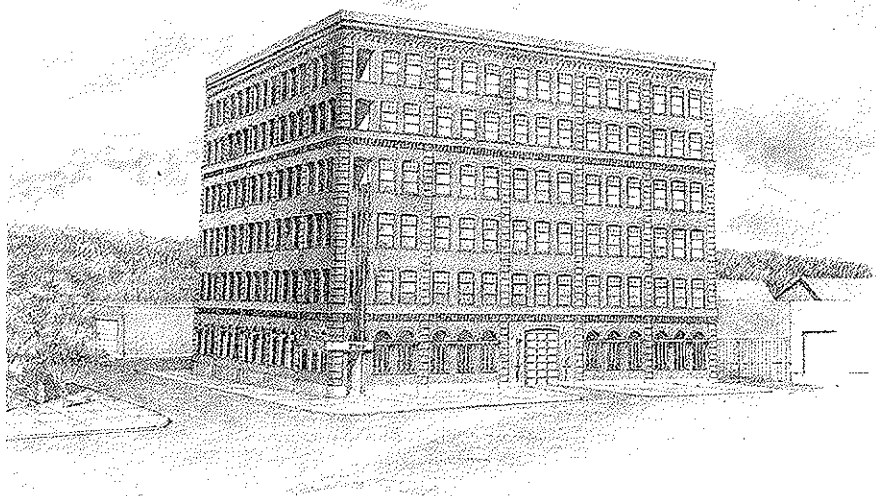
- they are remarkable pieces of architecture, construction, or planning, or if they impart a rich sense of history;
- alterations, additions, or deterioration have not substantially lessened their value in the above respects;
- they are at least fifty years old;
- they are within Allegheny County.

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.**







The Strip Lofts, 2901 Smallman Street.

## The Strip Lofts

The December 1997 issue of *PHLF News* told of an advance look at the Bedford School's re-creation as the Bedford Lofts. Frontier Lofts, Joedda Sampson's development company, has since introduced the public to the Strip Lofts, at 2901 Smallman Street. This was built in 1910 as the Ruud Instantaneous Hot Water Heater Company, and affords five floors of condominium space with seven units each, from 1,580 to 2,055 square feet in area under thirteen-foot ceilings. The ground floor will be a garage. Sales have been brisk. The architects are Edge Architects with Allegheny City Restoration as contractors. For information: (1-412) 434-LOFT.



## Bus Liveries

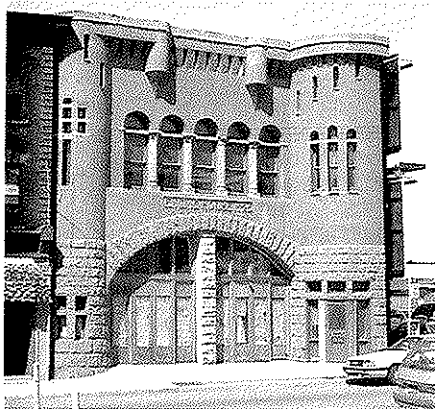
Recent weeks have seen buses with unfamiliar liveries—paint jobs—picking up Port Authority passengers. It develops that these are, in fact, Port Authority buses, trying out several in-house-developed designs. We are relieved to find that none has been adopted. There are free-form pastel-on-white designs that look like nothing from a distance and that, close-up, would be all right for the courtesy bus of a resort hotel but are pretty swish for Pittsburgh. To our mind, a city bus livery should be recognizable at a great distance, bold in its geometry and its color contrasts so that one is ready for it by the time it arrives. A further refinement would be signs that do not fog into illegibility in humid weather; the Port Authority might spend its ingenuity on this problem, meanwhile taking care to display its cardboard signs in the bottoms of the windshields to make assurance doubly sure.

## 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.

## Firehouse into Studio

December 1997 brought the news that a rather strange firehouse in Lawrenceville had entered a new life as the studio of Rieder & Walsh Photography LTD. Engine Company Number Twenty-five stands at 3343 Penn Avenue, a work of 1896 by William Y. Brady that looks almost Mannerist in the things that have happened to its Romanesque treatment. The archway for the fire engines has a central pier as a crutch. Its left abutment seems to be a turret that halts abruptly at the property line. The right abutment is a tower shorn vertically so that the right half is missing. Both towers lack tops, and the windows of winding stairs

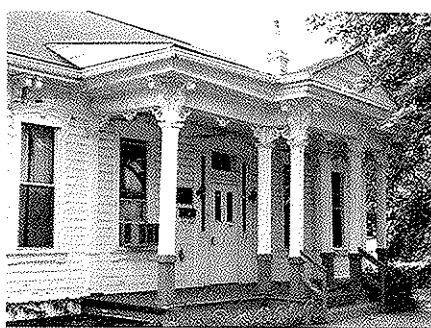


step up to their cornices, and that is simply that. There are two decorative turrets, or the bottoms of them, that terminate like everything else in an unmodified level roofline. Richardson Romanesque is not usually considered the stuff for executing pranks, nor are firehouses, but one is tempted to speculate.

In any case, a local search to match the building and a suitable occupant, in progress since 1989, is now happily concluded.

## Award of Merit Nominations

Call Walter Kidney at (1-412) 471-5808 if you would like to nominate an individual or organization for consideration by Landmarks' 1998 Award of Merit Committee. Each year, Landmarks recognizes individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation of Pittsburgh's historic architecture and increased public knowledge of our heritage. The Award of Merit Committee will meet in June, so call us soon.



## Davis Farmhouse in Brentwood

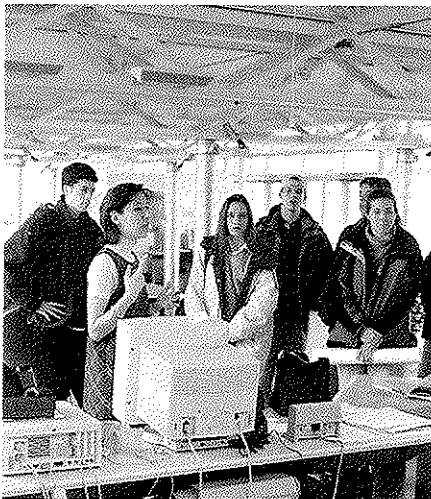
The Borough Council of Brentwood has determined on a compromise measure regarding the Davis property at 3423 Brownsville Road. The property will be sold to the Volunteer Fire Department as it had long wished, but the Council will retain the right to the 1880-period house, and we hope that the house will be moved to a new site. However, Brentwood is the loser. This house, in the residential area, enhances the neighborhood; standing on an excellent hilltop site with extensive grounds, it distinguishes the borough. It and its site are irreplaceable; a new fire station could be located in one of several other sites and function well.



## Intelligent Workplace

The Intelligent Workplace is an experimental office environment intended to promote worker performance in every possible way, most notably through optimum convenience and comfort. In practice this has resulted in a light, open metal structure on top of the rear wing of Margaret Morrison Carnegie Hall at Carnegie Mellon University, which one reads as a series of pavilions on account of its numerous hipped roofs.

One is apprehensive imagining a Hornbostel building carrying a conspicuous new construction on its back, but the effect is in fact not bad. Hornbostel's Margaret Morrison scheme was only about half executed, and his range of paired columns had a sort of disappointing phlegmatism, intended as they were to function as a link between two ornamented pavilions rather than as a center of attention. A fretted crown is some compensation for the vigorous terminal feature once intended but never executed.



Students in Landmarks' Architectural Apprenticeship toured the Intelligent Workplace during their visit to Carnegie Mellon University on January 24.

## Establish a Named Fund at Landmarks

- Help restore an historic house in an inner-city neighborhood.
- Underwrite a neighborhood walking tour and mapping exercise for Pittsburgh Public School students.
- Support the James D. Van Trump Library at Landmarks.

*These are just a few of the projects that you can help us accomplish by establishing a Named Fund at Landmarks and supporting our work.*

*A Named Fund is an unrestricted contribution to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation endowment fund, and is managed according to Landmarks' then-applicable policies. Each Named Fund is given a name, usually the name of the donor unless another name is stipulated. The Named Funds are invested, and their principal balances adjusted annually to reflect gains and losses in the market. Income from the Named Funds support Landmarks' programs. Although the ultimate responsibility for determining how the funds will be used rests with Landmarks' Board of Trustees, Landmarks will 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 or questions regarding your existing Named Fund, please call Arthur Ziegler, Phipps Hoffstot, or Cathy Broucek at (1-412) 471-5808.*

## LANDMARKS Welcomes

THE ELLWOOD GROUP, INC.,

MATTHEWS EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE TRUST,

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MYLAN LABORATORIES, INC.

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

*Landmarks appreciates the commitment of The Ellwood Group, Inc., Matthews Educational and Charitable Trust, and Mylan Laboratories, Inc. in helping us create a future for Pittsburgh by preserving its past.*



# Membership Contributions and

## New Members

We thank the following people, businesses, and organizations for joining in 1997. We greatly appreciate your membership support and hope that you renew your membership this year and continue to enjoy the education programs and preservation services we offer to you.

Diane Alder  
Madalon Amenta  
Arnheim Insurance Associates, Inc.  
Dorothy and Glenn Baggeley  
Baker Mellon Stuart Construction, Inc.  
David Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas S. Barbush and family  
Mary Bates  
Mr. & Mrs. Allan W. Beatty  
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Carol Carlson  
Madonna Carr  
Ross Carr and Adam Jacobs  
Lisa Castelli  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cavalier  
Meg Cheever and family  
Dave and Sally Clark and family  
Dr. Richard L. Cohen  
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Dr. Richard and Marian Finegold

Elvira and Harry Finnigan  
H. Ruth Flamberg  
Susan Fletcher  
Agnes Weber Floyd and family  
Faith Gallo  
Floyd R. Ganassi  
Margaret Gardom  
Klaus Giese  
Donna Gorman and family  
Gladstone Middle School  
Marion Grafe  
Kathleen Harris  
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Veronica Hastings and Todd Hess  
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Gloria Smith  
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South Park Historical Society  
Alexander C. Speyer III  
Bob Staresinic  
Steel Industry Heritage Corporation  
Caroline Steiner and family  
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Tempus Creative Services  
Kenneth S. Thompson, M.D.  
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Christine M. Torie  
Cheryl R. Towers  
Judy A. Traveny  
The University Honors College  
Paul J. Urbani and family  
Rose and Robert Wagner  
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We thank the following corporations and organizations for their membership support in 1997:

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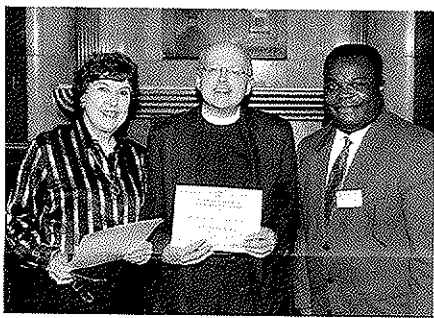


# Donations Help Landmarks Fulfill

## Major Accomplishments

Nearly three thousand people, businesses, and community organizations contributed to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1997. Through donations and membership contributions, they helped make it possible for Landmarks to:

- Award close to \$30,000 in grants and technical assistance to twelve historic religious properties in Allegheny County;



Alice Greller, trustee, and Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. of Landmarks present a grant certificate to Father Lynn Edwards (middle) of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hazelwood.

- Extend close to \$660,000 in loans to six community organizations so building improvements could be made in historic Pittsburgh neighborhoods;
- Assist several minority entrepreneurs in their efforts to strengthen their businesses in historic buildings or neighborhoods through the "Working In Neighborhoods" initiative;



Porch repairs at the Neville House.



Black Street in Garfield.

- Complete a reuse study for underutilized buildings in downtown Pittsburgh;
- Work with building owners and community groups to explore strategies for saving endangered historic buildings, including the Shouse house in Glenwillard, the Lowen house in Beechview, and the William Dickson Boyce house in Plum Borough;
- Pay for necessary structural improvements at the Neville House in Collier Township, an historic house museum owned by Landmarks;
- Advocate changes that strengthened Pittsburgh's Historic Preservation Ordinance;
- Support Deutchtown's designation as a City Historic District;

- Establish a department for Historic Landscape Preservation and successfully engage in discussions to keep Bigelow Boulevard open to traffic between Fifth and Forbes Avenue;



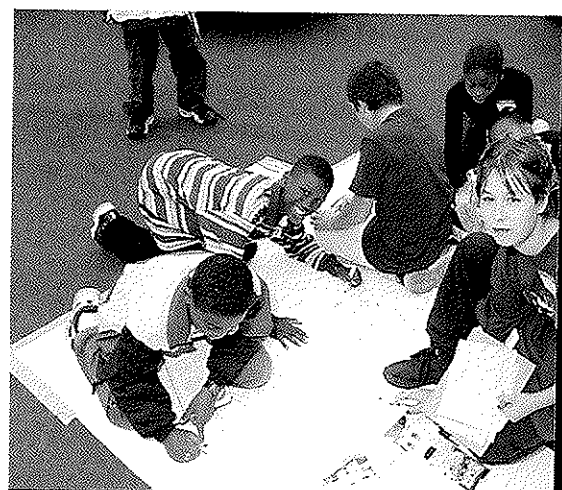
- Publish Pittsburgh's *Landmark Architecture: The Historic Buildings of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County*;
- Teach more than 11,000 people about Pittsburgh's history and architecture through membership events and educational programs;

- Reprint a timeline of key events in local African-American history and create the "Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit";
- Co-sponsor a symposium honoring the legacy of architectural historian James D. Van Trump;
- Host Landmarks' second annual Old House Fair at Victoria Hall in Bloomfield;



Drawing a house at the Old House Fair.

- Recognize the achievements of historic property owners and community organizations in Allegheny County by awarding six Historic Landmark Plaques and nineteen Awards of Merit;
- Report on preservation news throughout the county in *PHLF News* and articulate our views on Pittsburgh-area conservation and development;
- Meet with historic preservation leaders and urban planners throughout the United States, Europe, and the Orient to help strengthen urban and neighborhood revitalization efforts worldwide;
- Continue to manage a financially sound and healthy non-profit membership organization for the benefit of the Pittsburgh region.



# II Its Mission in 1997

## Major Donors

We thank the following people, businesses, and foundations for generously contributing to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1997:

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Harvey L. & Florence Zeve Philanthropic Fund of the United Jewish Federation  
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.  
Emma Ziegler Fund

## Contributions and Memorial Gifts

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks the following people for special year-end gifts:

Shawn Alder, for his gift in honor of Diane Alder;  
Joan Amore, for her gift in honor of Norma Devall;  
The H. M. Bitner Charitable Trust, for publications produced by Landmarks;  
Mr. & Mrs. James Campbell, for their gift in honor of Randall Campbell;  
Elisa Cavalier, for her gift in honor of Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cavalier;  
Linda Everhart, for her gift in honor of Mrs. Russell G. Wichmann;  
Henry P. Hoffstot, Jr., for his gift in memory of Barbara Drew Hoffstot;  
Bernard Kent Markwell, for his gift in honor of Rose and Robert Wagner;  
Martha Martinez, for her gift in honor of Patricia Davisson;  
Mrs. Regis D. Murrin, for her gift in honor of her husband;  
Mrs. L. M. O'Neil, for her gift in honor of Robert M. Dunkerly;  
PNC Bank Foundation, for its contribution to support a publication on the Neville House;  
Shirley and Thomas J. Phillis, for their gift in honor of Mark Phillis;  
Ron Roth, for his gift in honor of Doris Harris;  
Linda Ruhl, for her gift in honor of Simon Ruhl;  
Jim Steiner, for his gift in honor of Caroline Steiner;  
Jane A. Tiegel, for her gift in memory of Robert W. Baur.

*Westmoreland County students tour the Mexican War Streets: October 1997.*



*Knoxville students create a photo map of the neighborhood surrounding the Middle School: September 1997.*



## 2,550 Volunteer Hours

Over fifty generous volunteers offered their services throughout 1997, spending many hours of time working on office projects, computer data entry, and mailings; conducting tours; presenting "Portable Pittsburgh" and illustrated lectures; and working at the Old House Fair and the Manchester House Tour. This represents an average of fifty-one hours per volunteer which computes to a "grant" of more than \$13,000 to Landmarks.

Thank you, volunteers. We would not have had such a successful year without you! If any new members are interested in volunteering, please call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808.



**Total Tops \$38,000**

## Year-end Gifts to Aid Historic Religious Properties

We thank the following foundations, organizations, and individuals for responding to our year-end appeal and contributing over \$38,000 to Landmarks' Historic Religious Properties Fund. This is a marvelous record of support and an increase over last year's record of giving! Constance O'Neil, a trustee of Landmarks, made a very generous contribution for the second year in a row, and the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation, a long-standing supporter of Landmarks, also made a most generous contribution.

Thanks to all these gifts, Landmarks will be able to provide assistance once again for historic religious properties in Allegheny County. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services, is planning an historic religious properties seminar this September and a program of financial and technical assistance. Details will be announced in forthcoming issues of *PHLF News*, or call Howard directly at (1-412) 471-5808.

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## Religious Buildings Provide Social Services

The Philadelphia organization Partners for Sacred Places published a report, "Sacred Places at Risk," that points out the importance of religious congregations as providers of social services. A study of 111 city congregations revealed the following:

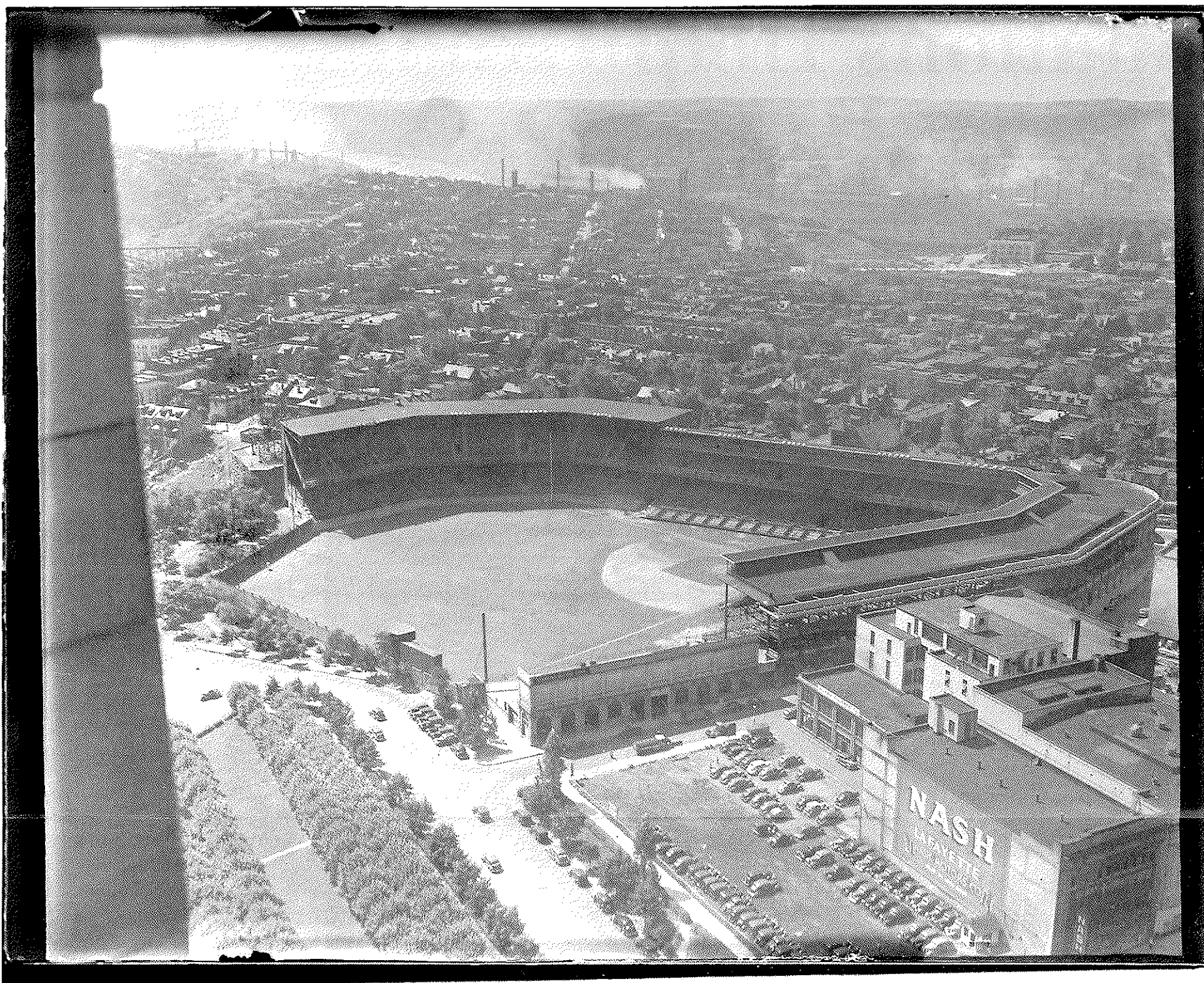
- nine out of ten congregations provide at least one community service;
- four out of five beneficiaries of such services are from outside the congregation;
- on the average, a congregation provides \$140,000 and 5,300 hours of volunteer work per year.

Thus, there is more to the presence of a congregation than its offering of facilities for worship, and the spiritual and ethical benefits derived from this. It is sometimes forgotten that the congregations providing these benefits have the all-too-familiar problems of building maintenance and repairs.

"Sacred Places at Risk" can be purchased for \$10 from Partners for Sacred Places, 1616 Walnut Street, Suite 2310, Philadelphia, Pa., 19103; telephone (1-215) 546-1288.

*Detail, Church of the Epiphany, the Hill.  
Photo by Clyde Hare*





Forbes Field, from the Cathedral of Learning, with a landscaped Schenley Plaza to the lower left.

# Stadiums to Date

Walter C. Kidney

**Stadiums**—structures to accommodate organized spectator sports, spectators included—have come and gone in Pittsburgh, executed in steel, concrete, and ectoplasm. Here are a few.

To many, Forbes Field remains the historic stadium of Pittsburgh. Opened in 1909, it was a slightly unlikely constituent of a Civic Center that included a cathedral, a major library, two museums, a grand hotel, several clubs, and, incipiently, a public auditorium and two large institutions of higher learning, with more to come and all within a radius of a few hundred yards. Trolleys were handy and the automobile was expensive in 1909, and parking was not the problem it was to become. Forbes Field was built for 25,000 and enlarged in capacity later on to about 40,000.

Pitt Stadium opened in 1925, a reinforced-concrete skeleton within a massive screen wall of poured concrete with vast archways. This monumental exterior, reigning grandly from a high slope, contrasted emphatically with Forbes Field, steel and white terra cotta, on its plateau. The capacity was 60,000.

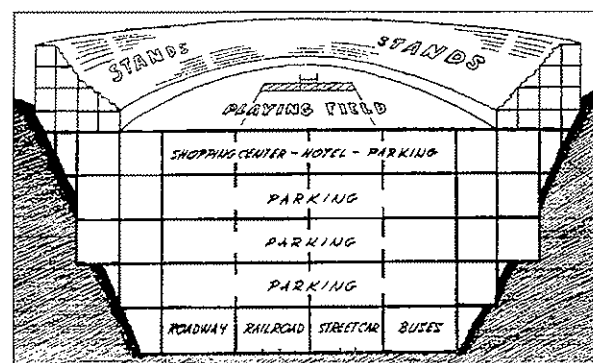
It was probably the parking problem that doomed Forbes Field at last, as the streets, vacant lots, and even front yards of Oakland tried to soak up the arriving traffic. A Baldwin Borough fireman, Fred Grossman, may—or may not—have been the first to see Junction Hollow, usually called Panther Hollow, as a mere void to be filled with exploitable real estate, and in this case a stadium with parking underneath. A *Pittsburgh Press* article of October 13, 1957 gives a six-level section, very sketchy, with no seating capacity given.

Around this same time, a postcard was in circulation showing the Smithfield Street Bridge replaced by a deck more than a quarter-mile long and wide enough to hold a circular stadium.

But by late 1959 the idea of a new stadium on the North Side, to be planned and executed by a Public Auditorium Authority acting for the County and for the City of Pittsburgh, was the idea most likely to be realized. Federal money was on the way to determine the economic practicality of such a stadium and study the form it would take. By 1964 a rendering of an early design by Deeter & Ritchey for the Municipal Stadium had been published; it was to contain 55,000.



Pitt Stadium, still popular, still majestic.



Putting a natural void to use: the Grossman idea for Junction Hollow.



While the Municipal Stadium was under discussion as a feature of the North Shore, plans were being completed for the very center of the North Side. A booklet of c. 1960 declared, "The ultimate salvation for Allegheny Center lies in its comprehensive renewal. . . . To this end. . . . [s]ome 518 structures housing 534 families and a large number of commercial buildings will be acquired and razed."

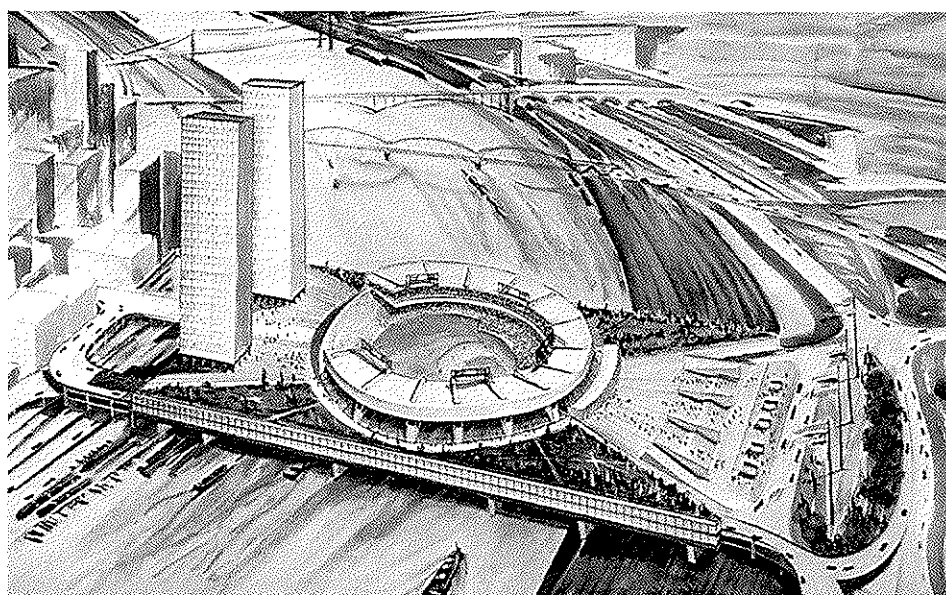
No urban renewal would be complete without a radicalized road system, and in the late 1950s such a system for the North Side was under discussion, and indeed in dispute. A slowly smoldering controversy would break out over the East Street Valley Expressway—I-279, as it would be labeled, and 1959 witnessed a row between the City and George S. Richardson, consulting engineer for the State. Richardson's idea of a north-south connector would ignore a possible link with the West End Bridge, leave the new Fort Duquesne Bridge literally up in the air pending a new planning solution, cramp the site of the Municipal Stadium, and most egregiously of all plow through the West Common and the Mexican War Streets on its way to a junction with an east-west roadway.

Meanwhile, there was the Civic Auditorium, as it was originally called, the focus of a grand project that replaced ninety-five acres of the Lower Hill and that opened in 1961. The architects were Mitchell & Ritchey and the engineers Ammann & Whitney. It was intended to double as an auditorium for the Civic Light Opera and as a sports arena. The CLO found problems with the acoustics, though, and opening the operable roof, intended to allow *al fresco* performances, merely aggravated performance conditions. The CLO left in 1969, and the roof is opened less and less as the years pass. There was some talk of demolition as the Civic Arena approached its fourth decade of existence, but renovation is now planned. It is the home of the Penguins.

The Civic Auditorium was not meant to be alone on the Lower Hill. Behind it was to be an Arts Center, which would include a 2,300-seat Symphony Hall, an exposition hall, a restaurant, and a 2,000-car underground parking garage; in 1964, completion was anticipated for 1968. Furthermore, residential and commercial development was anticipated for twenty-five acres, the buildings rising to as much as twenty stories. In 1962, said a newspaper article, "a Pittsburgher is going to walk from his air-conditioned living room and see a sight once reserved for slum dwellers."

The actual Three Rivers Stadium opened in 1970, a baseball-football stadium with seating in the round and a capacity of about 50,000. Concrete is the material most on view here: not wrapped in an arcaded package as at Pitt Stadium, but skeletal and untreated. Whether the stadium can be fitted for new uses is under discussion.

In 1997, citizens and municipal staff met on the Pittsburgh Downtown Plan project, attempting to rethink and re-equip the Triangle and adjacent areas for its foreseeable future. A constant in the changing ideas were separate baseball and football stadiums on the North Shore. The campaign of the Regional Renaissance Partnership to use a sales-tax increase to finance these large new



Presented by NADCO Engineering Co.,  
Pittsburgh 27

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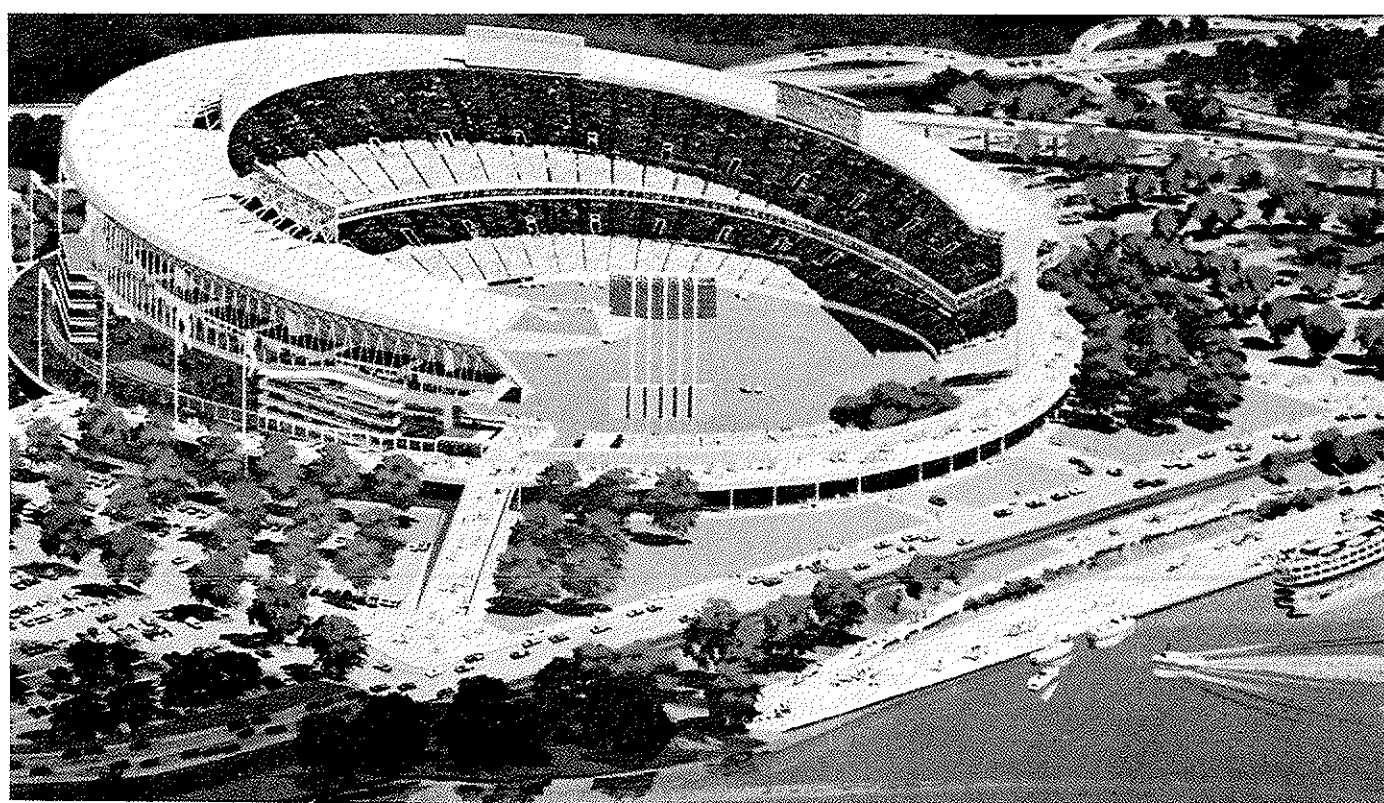
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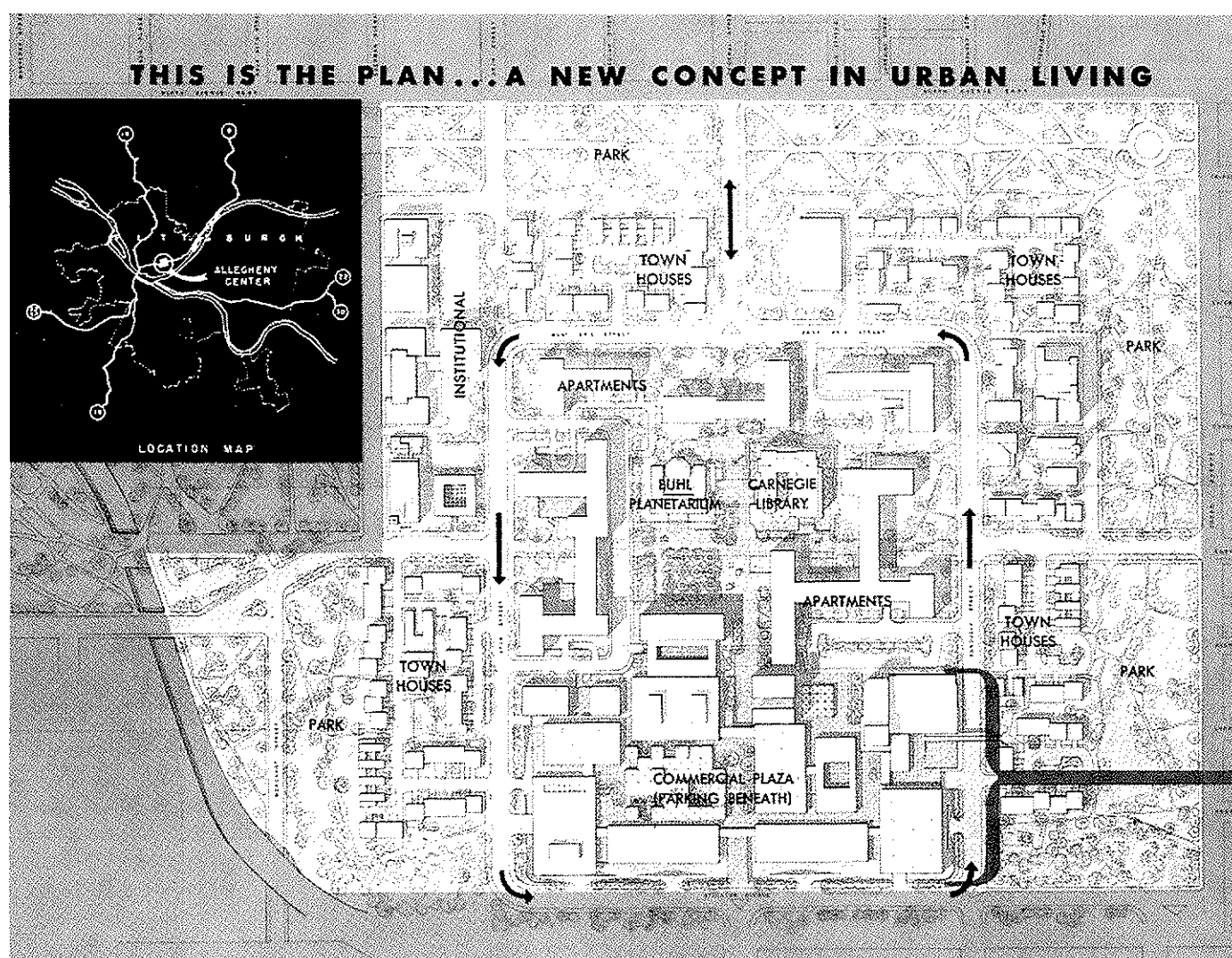
Idea Originated by Mr. Eric M. Sirko

This Card Compliments of:  
Minnette Manufacturing Corp.

*Putting a natural void to use:  
the Nadco project for the  
Monongahela River.*



*An idea for Three Rivers Stadium, 1964, by Deeter & Ritchey.*



(continued on page 14)

*The vision of Allegheny Center, c. 1960.*



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The vision of the Civic Arena, with light opera beneath the stars.

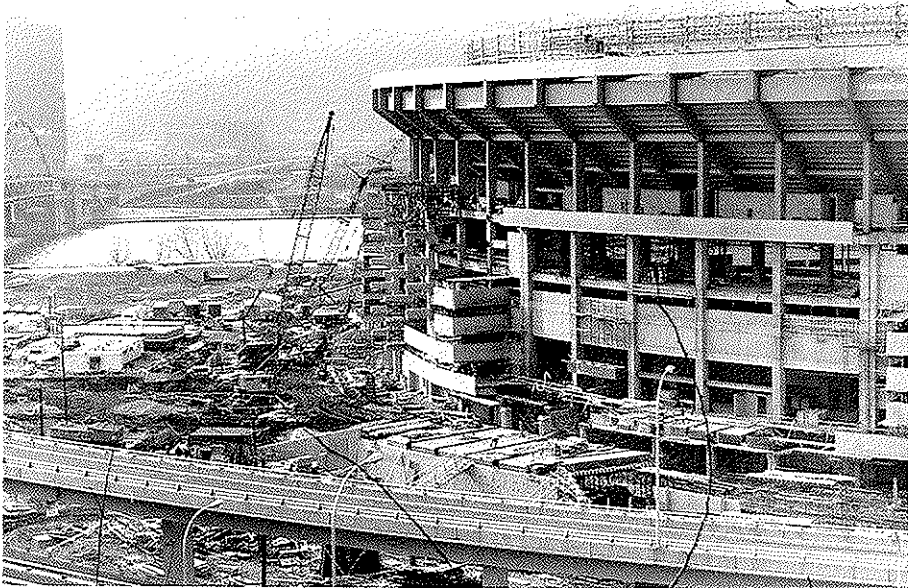
# Stadiums

(continued from page 13)

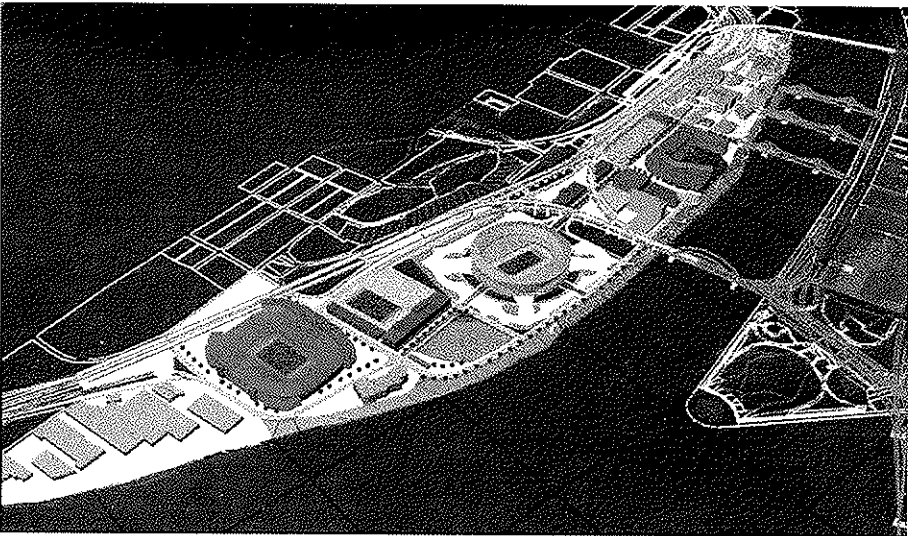
constructions, though presented to the voters as nothing less than Destiny, was voted down in November 1997, and varieties of "Plan B," possibly requiring no public money, were proposed in its place. Private corporations seemed to many to be the only way to go. The baseball stadium might have cost as much as \$200 million; the proposed football stadium might have cost as much again, and a third element, a Convention Center expansion, would have added perhaps \$262 million.

One Plan B idea was simply to modify Three Rivers for baseball-only purposes, cutting one side away to afford a view toward town. The Steelers would still build anew.

And the process of discussion and planning continues. One phenomenon to note is the impermanence that besets stadiums and sports centers. In city after city, not just here, enormous amounts of money are invested in stadiums and arenas and field houses, yet they seem to last only twenty-five and thirty years before being declared unfit for use. Three Rivers Stadium is about thirty years old and there is talk of demolishing it; the Civic Arena, opened in 1961, almost was considered for demolition, too. The Pitt Field House will be demolished, we have learned. And yet Pitt Stadium has been carrying on since 1925, well adapted it seems to its purpose in a timeless way. The rules of the games do not change, and the answer to the early obsolescence that stadiums face must be found outside the playing field: the decay of the structure, the demand for more seating, or the call for more luxuries for those who can pay. Why are these stadiums so expendable?



Three Rivers Stadium under construction, late 1960s.



A vision for the North Shore, from the Pittsburgh Downtown Plan project of 1997.

Courtesy of the Department of City Planning, Pittsburgh



# BOOK REVIEWS

Walter C. Kidney

Richard Moe and Carter Wilkie, *Changing Places: Rebuilding Community in the Age of Sprawl*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997. xii + 288 pp., 20 photos. \$25.

This is a history-plus-nationwide survey of real-estate development in the last half-century from a preservationist viewpoint, stressing the prodigal waste of handsome old architecture and valuable rural land that conventional economic wisdom of the time has brought about, and citing preservation successes in a multitude of cities, Pittsburgh included.

The principal author is the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Richard Moe, and it is natural that his attitude is conservative, or at least conservationist, preferring to keep city and country much as they are for cultural as well as economic reasons. Unchecked development encourages sprawl, bastard realms of formless structures and layouts that waste land, demand new infrastructure, and promote through indifference a sense of being nowhere.

The story begins with an account in detail of the "Fourth Battle of Manassas," the complicated struggle that arose over the Walt Disney Company's proposal to build a resort in unspoiled Virginia countryside, acquiring 3,000 acres for the purpose. The story then goes back a century, to the chaotic industrial city and the successive advents of the City Beautiful; the Garden Suburb; the Corbusian Radiant City that isolated the inhabitant within grids of high-speed traffic; the Wrightian Broadacre City that made being in traffic a part of the human condition; the Regional Plan that attempted rational use of large geographical areas; and the Federal Housing Administration of 1934 that encouraged sprawl by its regulations. The story continues after World War II, with more and more sprawl.

There are chapters on the vicissitudes of Memphis, New Orleans, and Pittsburgh (a happy story regarding Landmarks' work). The small-town Main Street and its chances for revival, with case histories, has a chapter to itself. There is a chapter on Reinventing Downtown, creating reasons for people to come downtown again, with Denver, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Portland, Oregon as principal examples.

The book concludes briefly with the possibilities for "preservation in the age of sprawl." It begins with statements that assert a broader role for "historic" preservation that goes beyond traditional antiquarian/aesthetic values: "Preservation is the business of saving special places and the quality of life they support. It has to do with more than bricks. . . . It has to do with the way individuals, families, and communities come together in good environments." And, "Preservation is not just about buildings. It's about what buildings mean to people." Older, more concentrated communities, if restored or at least preserved, are likely to have amenity and coherence that new developments lack. There are forceful economic arguments for preservation, arguments that also advocate the containment of sprawl, and the real-estate market must heed these. Yet in the long run, preservation is more than a workable element of the economy; it is also an element of our continued self-awareness as inhabitants of a place and a time.

Donald Miller, *The Architecture of Benno Janssen*.

Pittsburgh: Privately published by the author, 1997. xii + 177 pp., 65 color and 65 sepia illustrations; new photography by Edward Massery. \$49.95 cloth, \$39.95 paper.

Little by little, Pittsburgh architectural offices with a claim to a permanent, organized record of their accomplishments are receiving recognition: Longfellow, Alden & Harlow; Frederick Scheibler; and now Benno Janssen (1874-1964). Despite competition from Ingham & Boyd, Brandon Smith, or Louis Stevens, Benno Janssen once was the pre-eminent society and institutional architect around here. One was likely to turn to Janssen & Abbott and later to Janssen & Cocken for that Old World house, that club building, that mercantile palace. Only Henry Hornbostel could defeat them in the competition for institutional jobs.

Janssen can be thought of as the right man at the right time. Pittsburghers had been entrusting their mansions and their public buildings to Alden & Harlow or

## *Changing Places,*

## *The Architecture of Benno Janssen,*

## and *Pittsburgh Revealed*

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to order by phone.**

Frederick Osterling, whose products tended to be ornate and heavy, but even in this grave city people were ready for architectural compositions that were fresh, better-integrated, and more subtle by the time Janssen & Abbott was formed in 1907. Those swanky Oakland neighbors—the Pittsburgh Athletic Association and the Masonic Temple—were smooth and Classical indeed, but where Janssen was to be outstanding was in choosing just the right textures and ranges of shade in facings of brick or rubble; in playing off big and seemingly simple chimneys against roof surfaces of chipped, ill-matched slates and flags that seemed about to yield to the assault of centuries; in placing a burst of carving in a huge passage of masonry otherwise undetailed; in planting a decorative caprice of Yellin ironwork on the surface of a door. A Janssen composition looked crisply geometrical up to a point, but this was the summary of something apt to be incessantly varied.

You can look back on these contrivances of the Eclectic period, of course, and be peevish. Such artifice of surface treatment, such oversize chimneys and oversteep roofs, such imitation of details for this or that other place or time, seem madly disdainful of reality, about as plausible in modern construction as Gregorian jazz would be in music. The willing suspension of disbelief is needed: but Janssenian fantasy is among the best, at least.

This is a welcome book, and those who care about the architecture of the Pittsburgh area will enjoy reading this handsomely illustrated volume.



Luke Swank: *Neighborhoods—Street Scene, 1930s.*

*Pittsburgh Revealed: Photographs Since 1850.* Introduction by Jan Beatty.

Pittsburgh: Carnegie Museum of Art, 1997. 210 pp., 113 illustrations, historical essays and biographies. \$39.95 paper.

A game you get to play in a place like Landmarks is that of looking at old photographs and, from what is there and what is not, homing in on a year. The book under discussion has a cover photo that shows our building, the P&LE Station, complete (1907 or after) and the Smithfield Street Bridge with its portals as modified in 1891 (before 1911). In town we see the dome of the Keenan Building (1907 or 1908) but no sign of the Oliver Building (begun 1908). The cover photo therefore dates from the end of 1907 or the start of 1908.

This book gives the reader other chances to play the dating game, and in addition portrays the people of the area, the neighborhoods they have lived in, the ways in which they have made their livings, and of course the awesomeness of industry and the accompanying self-defilement of the city. The tone tends to be grimly utilitarian, and one can argue that the City Beautiful element of Pittsburgh, exemplified by the Carnegie Institute itself, is neglected. Yet dressed-up infants and a dressed-up Andrew Carnegie hint at a bourgeoisie immune to local soot (Carnegie, as it happened, lived in New York). And there is a hint of transcendence in the 1904 picture of the Home Library Group of Compromise Alley, Hazelwood—eight slightly dressed-up boys holding books, posed against littered ground, shanties, and a mighty colonnade of sulfur-fuming coke-oven chimneys.

This is a rich book, in sum, basically but not wholly on account of the photographs. The introductory essay "My Pittsburgh" is one person's experience, and quotations throughout the photo section add other perspectives. At the end are three sections that enrich the knowledge of the specialist: a history of photography in Pittsburgh, a chronology of photographs in Pittsburgh, and biographies of photographers who have worked here.

If you care about Pittsburgh's past, you are going to want this book.

## PITTSBURGH'S LANDMARK ARCHITECTURE

THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Walter C. Kidney

Book description:

- 736-page casebound book; 9" x 11"
- Historical essay; guide to 645 significant sites; maps; bibliography; index
- Approximately 68 color photographs; 200 duo-tones; 1,300 b/w photos

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# Disaster in Highland Park?

Barry Hannegan

Regulations of the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) call for covering and sealing all open sources of purified drinking water. The impact of this regulation is easily seen in the photograph of the historic reservoir in Herron Hill. This same fate may overtake the much grander reservoir in Highland Park. The plastic membrane covering, deemed unreliable by many, will erase forever the broad, invigorating surface of the water enjoyed by the thousands of walkers who have found the peripheral trail around the reservoir to be an ideal recreational site. The minimum estimated cost of this covering is in the neighborhood of \$12,000,000, but given the history of such public works projects, the final price will almost certainly be much higher.

The ideal solution, for which at least the technology exists, is the creation of vast concrete tanks in the present reservoir; these would be ceiled over by reinforced concrete slabs that would allow a shallow layer of water to float on their tops, thus preserving the appearance of the reservoir as it has been known since its creation in 1879. This solution would be costly: \$30,000,000 or more. However, it would entirely satisfy the goals of preservation, and Cincinnati has done this with one of its older reservoirs with great success. The loss of Highland reservoir removes much of the historical integrity of all of Highland Park and would jeopardize any further efforts to restore its remaining historic portions, such as the grand entrance plaza.

Currently the city is pursuing five options. These include both total and



*Highland Park reservoir with its open surface of vibrant water, a mirror to Pittsburgh's mutable sky and a major tonic for our urban lives.*



*Herron Hill reservoir mummified beneath its cover of yellow plastic and placed off limits by chain link fences and barbed wire.*

partial covering of the reservoir; both are unacceptable as destructive to the historic (and scenic) integrity of the site. Also being studied are twin water towers, intended to be built at grade at the reservoir's edge. One scheme calls for tanks having a diameter of 300 feet with an elevation of thirty feet, while a second idea suggests towers sixty feet in diameter and 200 feet high, the height of the Benedum Trees Building on Fourth Avenue. There has been some speculation that these towers might be "disguised" with a false stone veneer

and conical roofs. Should such tanks be installed, the reservoir would be redundant and could be converted to a body of natural water, complete with muddy bottom and marshy plants, that would probably in two year's time be as much a mess as Panther Hollow Lake.

Of course, all of these options are entirely inappropriate for the historic reservoir. A representative of the DEP has said that we and the city are some four or five years too late to apply for an exemption or variance, and, sadly, the fifth option, submerged tanks, will

almost certainly prove to be too expensive for the city's meager resources. Would that the administration had the initiative to approach one or another of our great, environmentally oriented foundations to seek support. Unless a miracle of changed thinking and reasigned moneys occurs, there is every reason to fear that by September the fate of Highland Park reservoir will be, sealed (literally), and it will join the Wabash Terminal and the Nixon Theater as lost monuments of Pittsburgh's erstwhile greatness.

## The Landscape History Collaborative: A Personal Account

Barry Hannegan

Over lunch some time last fall, Behula Shah and I were complaining about the lack of a means of sharing information and general enthusiasm about landscape design and its history in Pittsburgh. We both knew that there was at least a small constituency for such information, but we both felt that we, and everyone else who might share our interest, were out of touch. Certainly I had been complaining since my return to Pittsburgh better than four years ago about the absence of any forum for discussion or effort in the landscape design community that would allow a sharing of concerns and expertise.

Behula and I had met some seven years ago at a meeting of the New England Garden History Society and had kept in touch, thanks to her residence here in Pittsburgh and my frequent trips back to Boston where she was taking a double program in landscape design and landscape history in the Radcliffe Seminars program. By last fall, she had finished this quite onerous effort, of which not the least factor was the weekly commute between Pittsburgh and Boston. Free now of academic obligations, Behula was available as a

full-time ally in our efforts to make more noise about the local historic landscape and its preservation. Although parenthetical to this note, I should record that not long after that lunch, Behula found the perfect stage for her interests and skills at Chatham College where she has assumed the directorship of the landscape certificate program, in which she has already made significant improvements.

By the conclusion of our lunch, we had resolved to try to form a group that would provide us with the intellectual companionship that we had both enjoyed and profited from in Boston. Through the grapevine and the telephone, we contacted a number of people who we thought might have some interest in our plan. Irene Jacob, creator of the Biblical Garden at Rodef Shalom, found space at the temple for a meeting, and Susan Banks ran a notice of it in her Saturday gardening column of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. In October 1997, we headed to Rodef Shalom for a seven o'clock evening meeting, full of curiosity to see who, and how many, might attend. As it turned out, there were some twenty-five people on hand,

and the meeting of two hours was given over to introductions and discussion of how the group could be organized and what its agenda should be. It was generally agreed that the group should represent interests in the history of landscape architecture, gardening, ornamental horticulture, urban planning, and land use. Meetings would be held some four or five times between September and May and would be organized around the presentation of a paper by either a member of the group or by a visiting authority. Topics for these talks should not be limited to local or regional matters but should range as widely as possible from both cultural and geographical points of view. There would be no bylaws, no dues, and no officers; the goal was a minimum of structure.

The unexpected feature of the evening was the concern and involvement of many of those present with current issues of planning and design. While the intention of the group is to remain historical, avoiding any possible duplication of the missions of other organizations, it was encouraging to learn that there is not only such a lively preoccupation with current issues but that it is widely felt

that a better knowledge of our region's past accomplishments in landscape design would be an important incentive for both restoration and future planning.

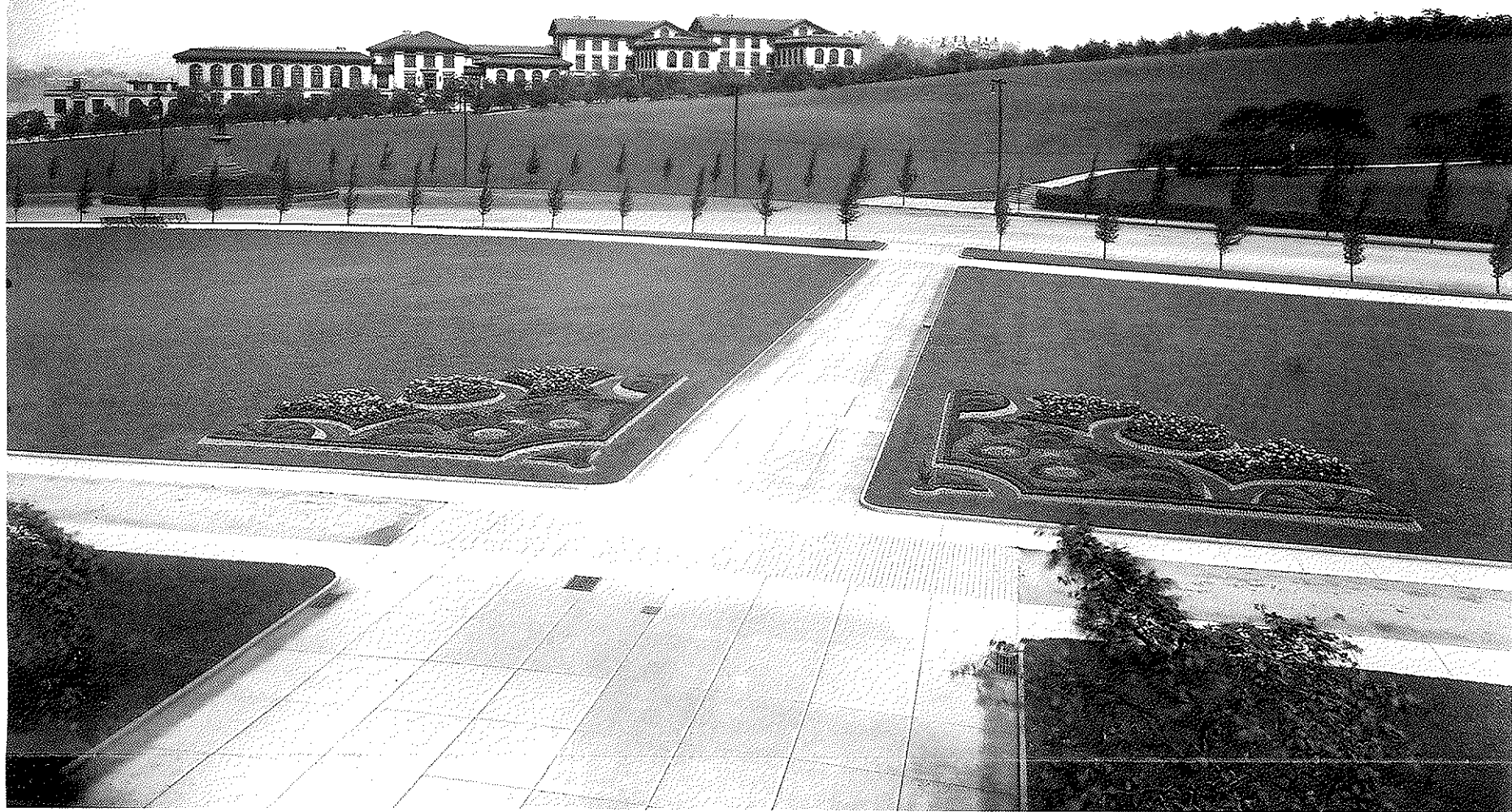
The second meeting of the group took place at the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation where the librarian, Charlotte Tancin, had volunteered to speak about the library, its history, and its holdings. Charlotte produced a splendid mini-exhibition of items from the collections so that we could actually handle some of the material she had talked about. At this meeting, it was agreed that the group should adopt as its name the Landscape History Collaborative.

A third meeting was held on February 4 at Chatham College. Behula described the new curriculum of the landscape certificate program and I spoke on the Mellon family's historical role in landscape architecture.

**Members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation are welcome to attend meetings of the Landscape History Collaborative. Please call me for details at (1-412) 471-5808.**



Photo courtesy of the Archives of Industrial Society



## A Lesson in Municipal Landscaping

Barry Hannegan

To judge from the date of this illustration, 1910 would have been a good year in which to appreciate the constant increase in amenities in Pittsburgh when it was truly a boom city. This view was taken from the roof of the lost Romanesque Revival entry pavilion of Phipps Conservatory in Schenley Park. It is perhaps worth remembering that in 1910 there was another, the original, Phipps Conservatory still standing and active in the West Common of the North Side; in 1910, too, Pittsburgh was still spelling itself without the "h." This photograph was chosen for illustration here for its tremendous charm, but, above all, because it records an absolutely splendid example of carpet bedding, the elaborate and quite unnatural disposition of plants shown here in the approximately fan-shaped configurations at the intersection of the walks.

Yes, those complex patterns are formed entirely of plants. The hinge corner of the fan is anchored by a small agave, and the beds themselves are edged with a double row of Echeveria—hens-and-chicks—meticulously set out on a steeply sloping bank, a practice, this mounding of a flower bed, dear to Victorian taste for the enhanced effect of the display. Those crisply formed edges! Just think how vulnerable they were to an errant child, a marauding dog, or simply a heavy rain. It clearly didn't matter. Inside the rows of Echeveria is a rope-like border of a darker foliaged, unidentifiable plant that might possibly have been a small-leaved variety of fibrous begonia, kept tightly in bounds by frequent, very frequent trimming.

Within this compound border, along the sides and at the base of the fan are palmettes and spiral patterns, again formed of contrastingly colored foliage of another uncertain plant which, to judge by its texture, could have been *Alternanthera*, now obsolete if not extinct, but a mainstay of Victorian carpet bedding. The three larger beds, one round and two shaped rather like a double axe head along the perimeter of the fan, have matching borders, but are filled with mercifully recognizable pelargoniums, geraniums to us. At the far, inner edge of the palmette/spiral beds, there is a different bordering material that suggests, again by its texture, English ivy, although this was not a staple material for these displays. The large outer beds are separated from the rest of the design by turf ribbons, an arrangement probably derived, perhaps not consciously, from the seventeenth century's *parterre à l'anglaise*, in which convoluted designs of variously shaped beds were threaded through by bands of clipped lawn.

And how many plants do you suppose went into each of these ornamental features, destined to last only the frost-free summer months? 4,000? 6,000? However many, they were carefully raised during the winter, probably in the Conservatory's propagating houses, and then laboriously set out. And after that they were not ignored, even if no major accident befell some part of the installation. Dead flowers and leaves needed prompt removal, the occasional presumptuous weed needed to be plucked,

and the plant masses had to be kept to their preordained heights and shapes. This was done by tedious picking and pinching by hand; it would not do to go in with shears clacking away as if this were merely a privet hedge. Each stem would be reduced, by finger nails or a small knife to a desired point between the leaves. Leaves were never cut through or into. The cut edge might discolor and the prevailing texture of the plants would be altered and impaired as a design element. Throughout the growing season, the flower beds would have been manicured every couple weeks. This all says something (in a long-dead language) about the skills and availability of labor some eighty-eight years ago.

Our photograph is of some interest beyond these examples of municipal horticulture. The Ginkgo trees along Schenley Drive already had been three or four years in the ground, and have begun to make a significant showing although here they look for all the world like model trees made of feathers, fit for a miniature village under a Victorian Christmas tree. Above the meadowy slope of Flagstaff Hill, the new buildings of the Carnegie Technical Schools are just rising, although the ebullience of Machinery Hall and the grandeur of the Fine Arts Building are still to come. And those chimneys and roof lines on the horizon? Are those houses on Morewood Heights, or are they, as I think, standing on the hill that once veiled the campus from Forbes Avenue and that was leveled in the mid-1950s?

### Historic House and Landscape Preservation: A Symposium

Wednesday, April 22  
9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Carnegie Museum of Art Theater  
Oakland

Co-sponsored by the  
Pittsburgh History &  
Landmarks Foundation  
and the Carnegie Museum of Art's  
Heinz Architectural Center

#### Speakers:

- Susan Borchardt, Deputy Director of Collections and Education, Gunston Hall Plantation
- Edward A. Chappell, Director of the Department of Architectural Research, Colonial Williamsburg
- Roger C. Courtenay, Principal, EDAW, Inc., Landscape Architects
- Rudy Favretti, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut
- Camille Wells, Assistant Professor, Department of Architectural History, University of Virginia

Supported by contributions from:  
American Society of Landscape Architects; Eisler Nurseries; Environmental Planning & Design; Garden Club of Allegheny County; GWSM, Inc.; and Landmarks Design Associates, Architects.

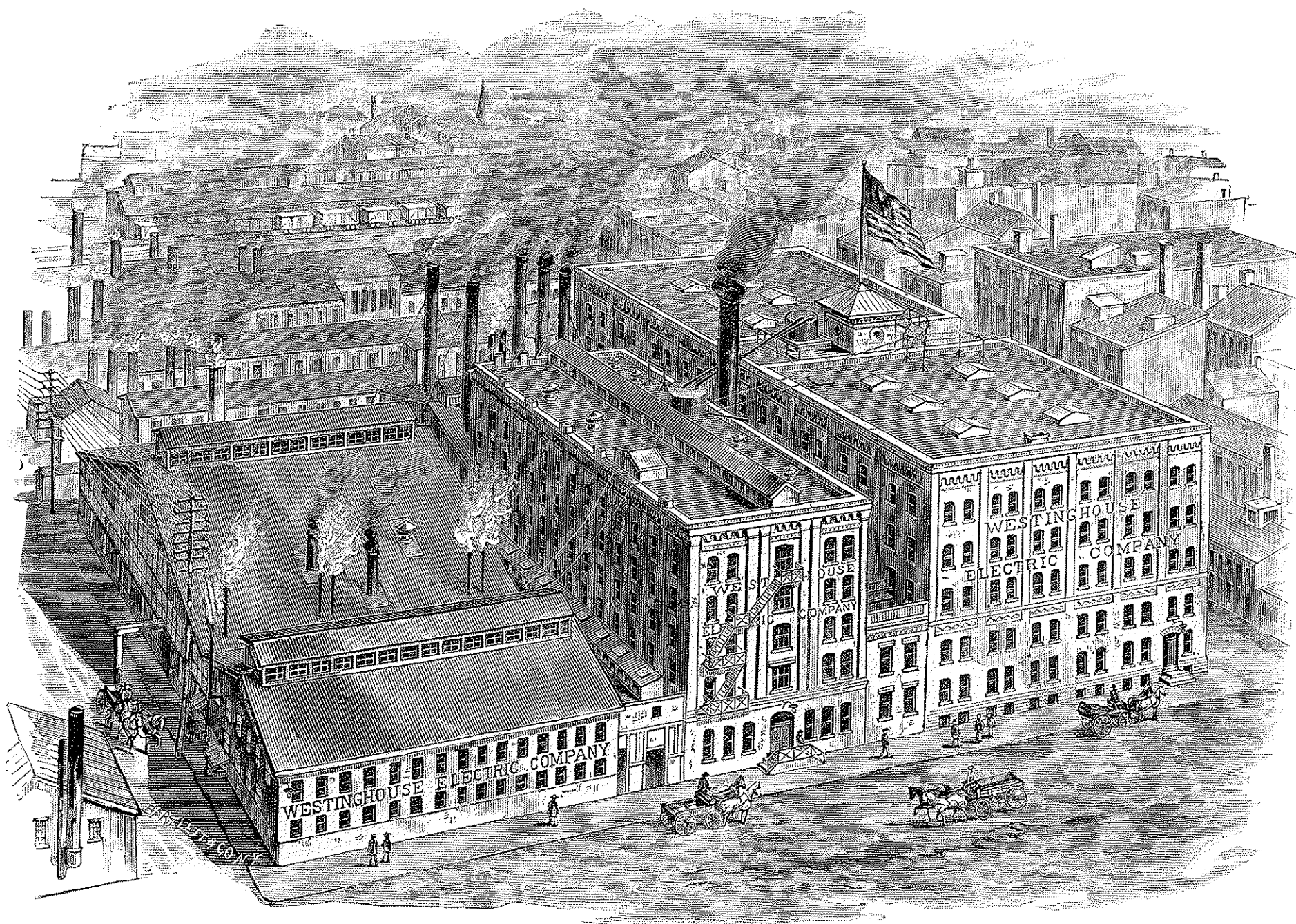
Registration fee: \$15 for members  
\$25 for non-members

An additional fee of \$20 per person will be charged to those people wishing to attend a luncheon with the speakers at The Pittsburgh Golf Club. Luncheon reservations must be made in advance.

Members will be mailed an invitation and registration form with further details.

Questions?: Call Barry Hannegan  
at (1-412) 471-5808.



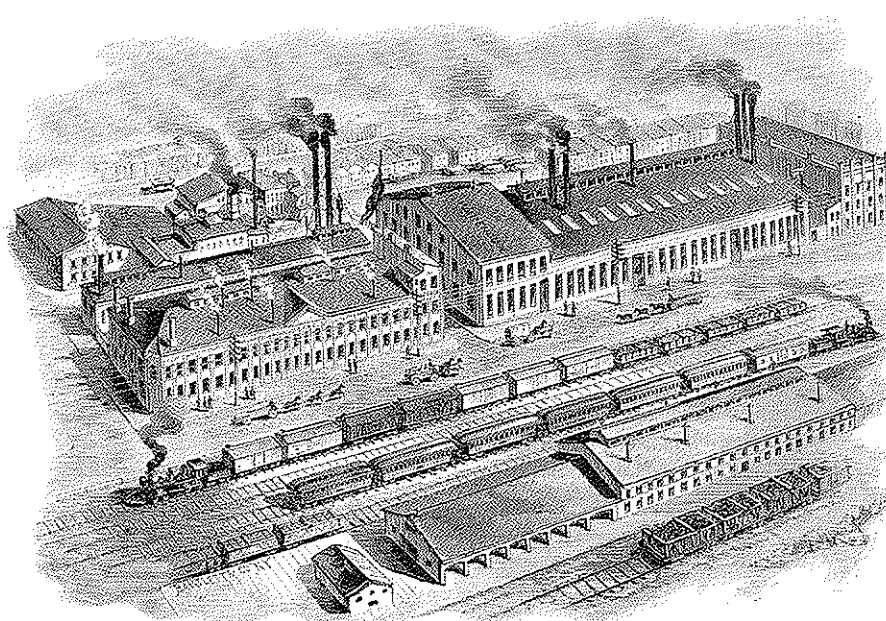


*Here was Westinghouse Electric in the late 1880s, on Garrison Alley between Ninth and Tenth Streets by what is now Fort Duquesne Boulevard. There were already five branches of the enterprise in various places that were run from the massive nine-story Westinghouse Building at Penn Avenue and Ninth Street.*

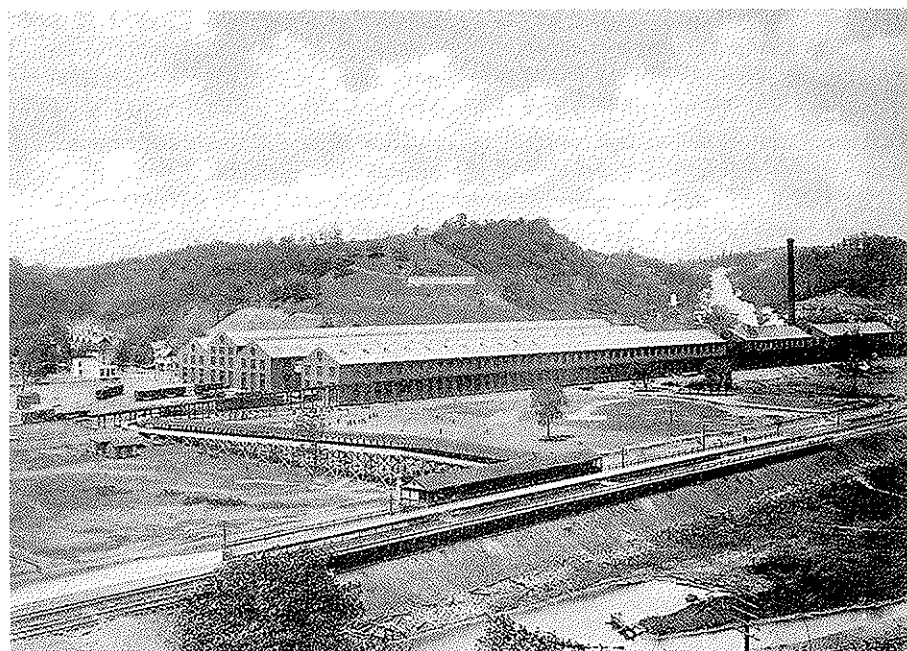
# Westinghouse Electric: A Look Back

Walter C. Kidney

At last year's end the name Westinghouse disappeared from the industrial scene save in the case of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company, which continues in business at Wilmerding. As a memorial, we present a few images from the past.

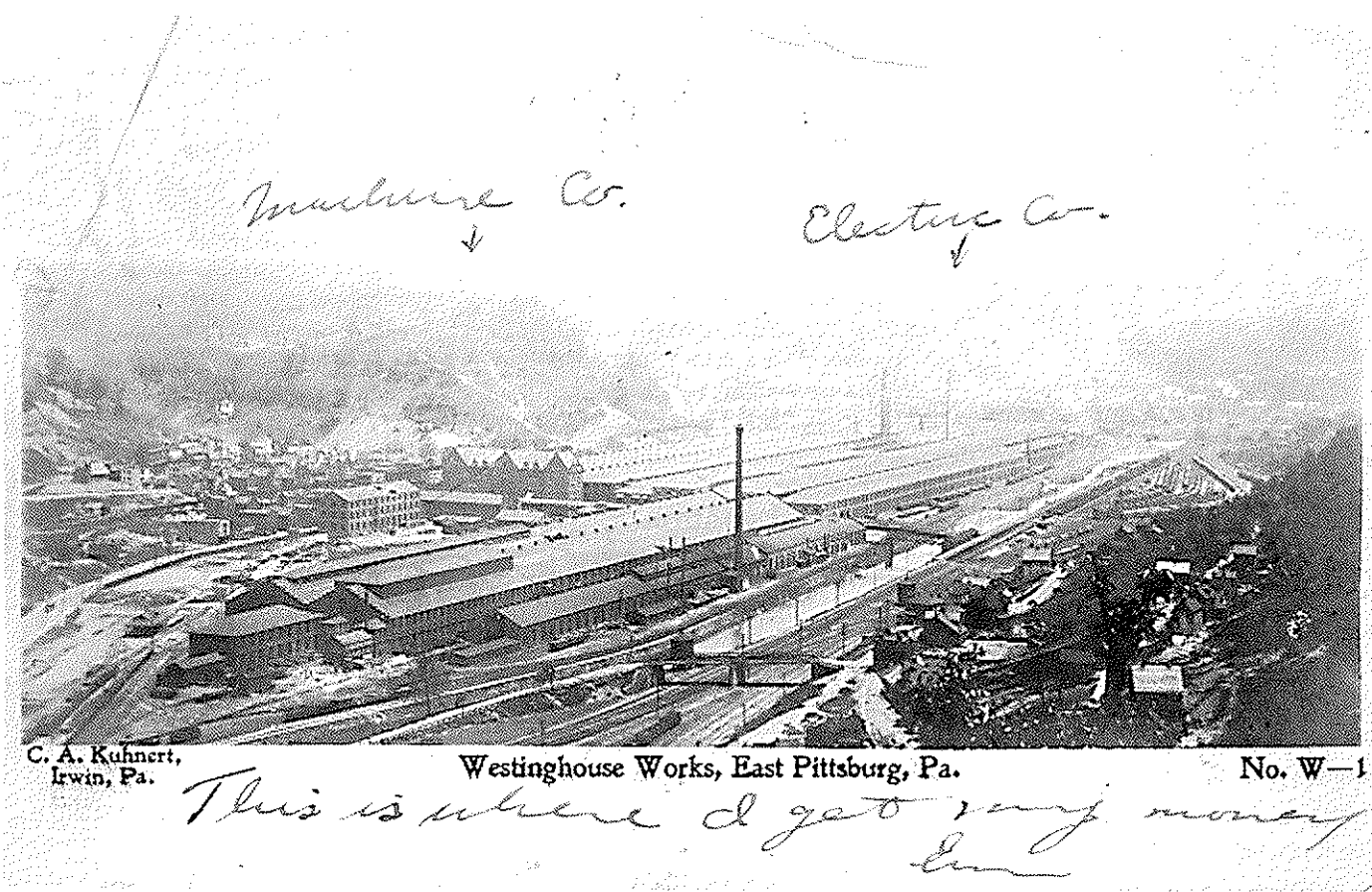


*In the late 1880s, the Westinghouse Machine Company was between Liberty and Penn Avenues, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth Streets.*

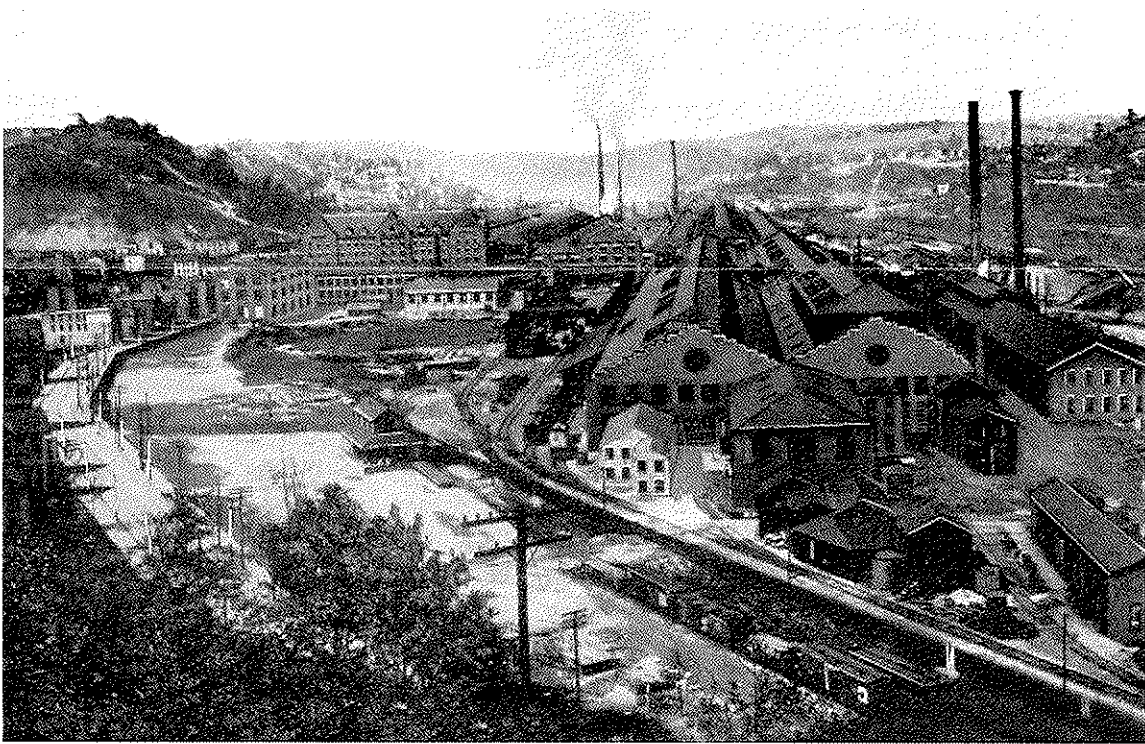
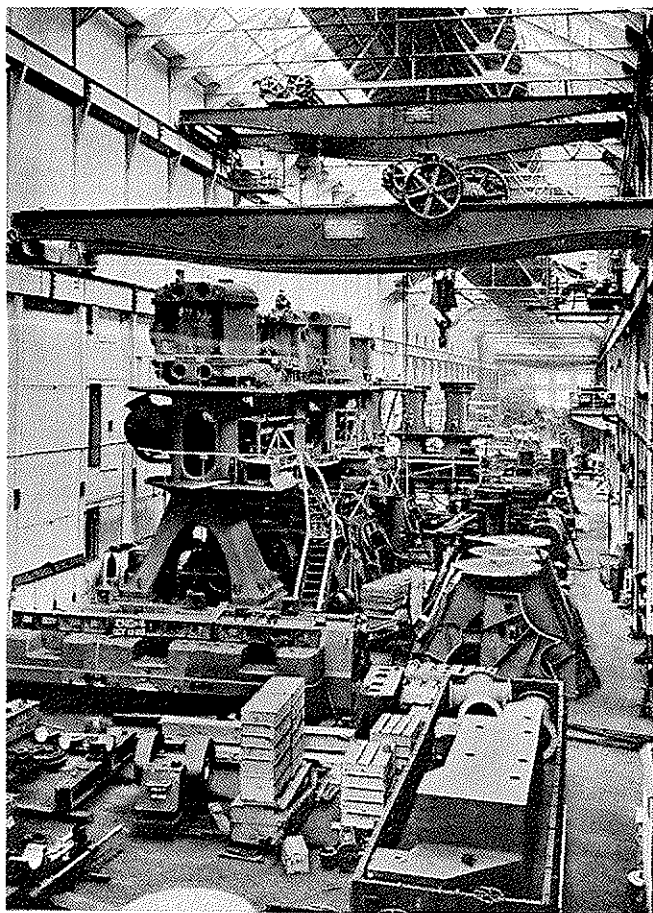


*These operations were crowded in an inner-city setting, and Westinghouse Electric moved to East Pittsburgh, in the Turtle Creek Valley, in 1895. In the foreground is the long walk that led to the Pennsylvania Railroad commuter stop.*

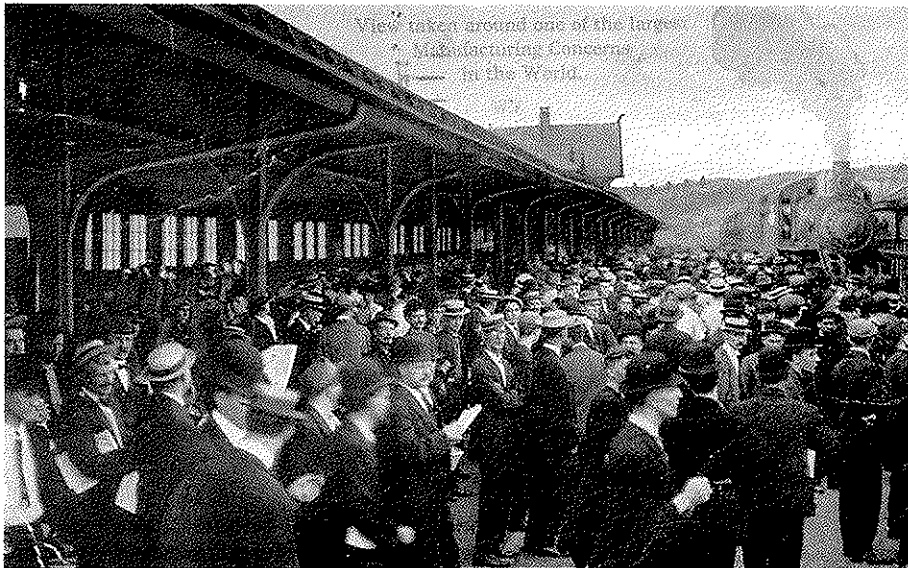




A postcard marked 1906 shows a complex nearly 4,000 feet long. In the foreground is the Westinghouse Machine Company, builder of engines. Then, beyond the footbridge over Turtle Creek, the expanded Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. The three-gabled building is a new office block.



Above: Another view of the complex, from about the same date.  
Left: An interior of the Westinghouse Machine Company.



On the way home, from a postcard stamped 1920. The once-small platform shelter was enormous at mid-century.



From 1932 on, Pennsylvania Railroad travelers have been nobly greeted by the George Westinghouse Memorial Bridge, a simple and grand statement crossing the Turtle Creek Valley 200 feet above its floor and the dark sheds and red-brick accumulations of a growing and changing industrial plant.

## EDUCATION NEWS

# 1998

## E V E N T S

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is planning the following events for 1998. Call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808 if you have any comments or suggestions. Invitations will be mailed to members with complete details.

**March**

26 & 28: Gardens Under Glass (Pitt's Informal Program)

**April**

1: "Urban Parks: Keys to the Quality of Urban Life," a symposium co-sponsored by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Landmarks. (Please see below.)

20: Grand Concourse Anniversary and Benefit

22: Historic House and Landscape Preservation Symposium (Please see page 17.)

23 & 25: Interior Architecture of Downtown Pittsburgh (Pitt's Informal Program)

24: "Making Cities Work," a lecture by Mary Means, creator of the Main Streets Program

**May**

2: Westinghouse Museum and Wilmerding (bus tour)

11-15: Preservation Week Free Downtown Walking Tours

17-20: National Trust Main Street Conference in Pittsburgh

28 & 30: Architectural Heritage I (Pitt's Informal Program)

**June-September**

Weekly Wednesday Walking Tours, Downtown

**June**

4 & 6: Architectural Heritage II (Pitt's Informal Program)

11 & 13: Architectural Heritage III (Pitt's Informal Program)

17: Deutchtown Historic District (walking tour)

**July**

13: Ellen Biddle Shipman Garden Exhibit and Stan Hywet Garden Tour, Akron, OH (bus tour)

Ezra Stiles Garden Tour (date to be determined)

**August**

8 & 9: Family Architectural Origami Workshop

18: Grand Spaces Seldom Seen (bus tour)

**September**

3 & 5: Pittsburgh Bridges Lecture and Boat Tour

28: Historic Religious Property Seminar

From Forbes to Phipps: A Green Trail (walking tour; date to be determined)

**October/November**

26: Award of Merit & Historic Landmark Plaque Ceremony

"Making Cities Work," a series of breakfast lectures on architecture, urban planning, and landscape design

**November**

5 & 7: Art Deco (Pitt's Informal Program)

**December**

12: Downtown Walking Tour & Tea

20: Holiday Church Tour and Carol Sing (bus tour)

## PITTSBURGH PARKS CONSERVANCY

### URBAN PARKS: KEYS TO THE QUALITY OF URBAN LIFE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON

Tenth Floor Auditorium, Two Mellon Bank Center (Union Trust Building)

**SPEAKERS:**

Charles Jordan, *Director, Portland Parks and Recreation*, Portland, Oregon  
Betsy Barlow Rogers, *Founding Director of the New York Central Park Conservancy*  
Flip Hagood, *Vice President for Urban Programs, Student Conservation Association*

*Free to the public*

A symposium co-sponsored by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation with funding support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

Call (1-412) 383-7158 for further details.

### Knoxville Middle School Plans Spring Tour

On January 30, education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks participated in an inservice at the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center for teachers from Knoxville Middle School, in preparation for a downtown walking tour for sixty sixth-grade students on April 21 and 22. Landmarks and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania are working together to assist Knoxville Middle School in its study of local history.

### Mount Lebanon Students Tour the Strip District

About seventy third-grade students from Markham Elementary School in Mount Lebanon toured St. Stanislaus Church and the Strip District on February 4.

Brother Tom Hartman told students about the history of St. Stanislaus, the first Polish Catholic parish in Pittsburgh. He sang a hymn in Polish and rang the church bells.

Students also explored the Strip District where they discovered a "whole world in a block," through the variety of ethnic shops and restaurants:

Stamoolis (Greek), Alioto's (Italian), Lotus Foods (Chinese), Hermanowski's (Polish), Khyber Interiors (Indian), etc.

"I never realized," said one student, "that Pittsburgh is made up of so many people from so many different ethnic backgrounds."

### Pittsburgh Public School Teachers Attend Inservice

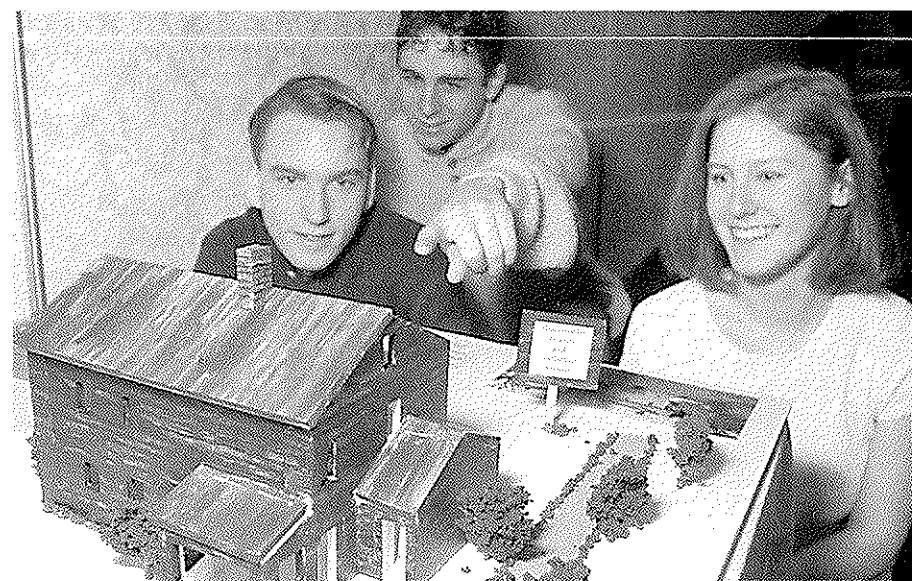
Louise Sturgess, executive director, participated in Gateway to the Art's inservice program on February 11 and 18. She met with twenty-seven Pittsburgh Public School teachers and informed them about Landmarks' educational programs featuring architecture and local history.

### Architectural Apprenticeship

Landmarks' Architectural Apprenticeship for twenty high school students in Allegheny County came to a successful conclusion on February 11, thanks to the leadership of instructor David Roth, architect. Final sessions were held at Carnegie Mellon University and Carnegie Institute, including visits to the Hall of Architecture and The Heinz Architectural Center. Students exhibited their design projects showing an adaptive use of the Lawrence Paint Building at Station Square.

### Downtown School Tours

The "Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit" is already booked through June of 1998, but Landmarks is still taking reservations for the "Downtown Dragons" walking tour. Call Mary Lu Denny at (1-412) 471-5808 for inquiries or reservations. Members receive discounts on all educational programs.

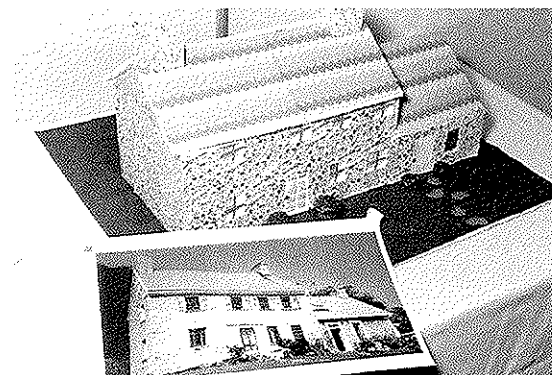


Students from Franklin Regional High School built a model showing how the Murry farmhouse (c. 1790-1810) could be restored and adapted for use as the Murrysville Historic and Audubon Society.

### Students Envision New Uses for Vacant Historic Structures

January 27 marked the successful completion of Landmarks' second annual design competition, involving about 200 middle and high school students from Westmoreland County. After touring the North Side with Landmarks in October, students were challenged to identify a vacant or under-utilized historic structure in Westmoreland County and envision a new use for it.

Working in groups, students spent three months building models of the historic structure, preparing written and oral reports, and documenting their progress in log books. They presented their models, reports, and log books to a jury of architects and community planners on January 27 at the Station Square Sheraton. The projects were outstanding, and we plan to document the buildings and proposed uses in a forthcoming issue of *PHLF News*.



Students from Bellmar Middle School built a model showing how the Cook farmhouse could be restored and reused as a home for first-time juvenile offenders. Residents would work the farm, raising seed for the homeless, and live an eighteenth-century lifestyle.