Landmarks Assists Manchester and South Side in Obtaining $5 Million Commitment

Duquesne Light and PNC Bank, major corporate sponsors, utilize State tax-credit program to assist Pittsburgh neighborhoods

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Our Partners Comment
Governor Ridge is excited about the role that the Neighborhood Assistance Program’s Comprehensive Service Program will play in our ongoing efforts to revitalize the communities in the Pittsburgh region. Landmarks’ knowledge of Manchester and the South Side fostered the partnerships that we now share with Pittsburgh National Bank and the South Side Local Development Company, and with the Manchester Citizens Corporation and Duquesne Light. The Pittsburgh Housing Authority plays a significant role by setting the stage for a new approach to public housing for the NACP/SP communities.

The Department of Community and Economic Development is proud to participate in this public-private partnership to build strong, healthy communities for all residents.

Sue Mays, Gordon Jones, DCED
Duquesne Light has a long history of supporting projects and programs that respond to the needs of people in the communities it serves. We are pleased to partner with the Manchester Citizens Corporation, an organization with a proven track record. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the technical and financial resources needed to support the revitalization efforts on the Northside.

Evelina Smith
Public Affairs, Duquesne Light

Through our partnership with the State and Duquesne Light, the Manchester Citizens Corporation will be able to move our neighborhood development strategy initiative forward.

We are very appreciative of all the technical assistance that has been provided to us by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Brianson Brandt, Executive Director, MCC.

PNC Bank is excited about this investment opportunity. The strength of the partners—South Side Local Development Company, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, and Brearway Corporation—in terms of their operating performance and dedication to improving the South Side community—is impressive. PNC Bank’s commitment to fund $250,000 each year for ten years is significant, but the seed for quality programs and services is even greater.

Therefore, we must utilize our contacts to leverage other resources to ensure that this Comprehensive Service Program is successful.

The service area extends beyond the South Side, and the South Side Housing Authority in other Pittsburgh public housing communities. We support the direction taken by Starkey Losen through the resources available in this program, we can offer public housing residents choices and opportunities that they have long desired.

Cathy A. Niederberger
Vice President and Manager, Community Development Department, PNC Bank

South Side’s revitalization is an arduous process. Whether or not the revitalization can continue and be sustained depends on our ability to continue important efforts, including the Main Street Program, and expand our programming to address quality of life issues that affect all residents of the service area. Not only are we extending our programming, but we are extending our service area as well. The South Side Local Development Corporation is excited about this opportunity to reach beyond and work in new ways to revitalize the South Side.

Carae Harris
Executive Director, SSLDC
Welcome New Members
(as of July 14, 1998)

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

Ron Baraff
John A. Baranowski
Victoria L. Bartha
Jennifer Baratta
Barbara L. Balas
Mr. & Mrs. Russell J. Bradley
William P. Buckely
John Capetti
Nan Carbone and family
A. M. Carlson and S. E. Beandon
Virginia Cecro
Glaura K. Clark
Grady C. Cumber and family
Green Dale
Professor J. L. Daniels
Sandra M. Dioso
Marlene Detre
Cheryl Detre and family
Robert D. Donaldson
John A. Donaldson
Beata C. Dwyer
East Lawrence Elementary School
Evenshower Elementary School
Stephanie K. Ellegood
Jennifer Georges
Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Frick
Fr. Carl Gentile
Evelyn and James George
Jennifer Georges
Philip J. Hallet
Lee M. Hallet
Beth and John Hallrd
Betty E. Havryluk
Mary Ann and David Henderson
Rebecca Huen and David Celeno
Heilet Academy
James F. Isreal and family
Edward F. Jacob, Jr.
Robert A. Jacobs
Barbara Johnstone
Evelyn Jnic
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Koch and family
Mark Steven Koleck
P. M. Kunkle and family

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The Hearst Foundation Awards Grant to the Preservation Loan Fund

On June 30, Robert M. Frizer, Jr., executive director of The Hearst Foundation, Inc., notified Landmarks that the Foundation awarded a grant of $35,000 to the Preservation Loan Fund for work in Pittsburgh's historic neighborhoods. The Hearst Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1945 by publisher and philanthropist William Randolph Hearst. The Foundation is an independent, private philanthropic institution operating separately from the Hearst Corporation. The charitable goals of the Foundation reflect the philanthropic interests of William Randolph Hearst: education, health, social service, and culture.

"This is a significant gift," said Edward B. Slaughter, Jr., director of Landmarks' Preservation Services, "because it is the second major gift we have received from a foundation outside of Pittsburgh. We believe this award is in recognition of the national prototype we have developed for assisting historic inner-city neighborhoods, low-income neighborhood residents, and minority entrepreneurs to develop and finance sound restoration programs that help sustain neighborhoods."

The suggestion of Howard, Ms. Livia Cavo of The Hearst Foundation came to Pittsburgh to tour various neighborhoods and meet with leaders and residents. She was impressed with Landmarks' ability to leverage grant dollars with other funding sources.

Years ago, The Hearst Foundation gave a grant to Landmarks in support of its restoration efforts. We appreciate this new and continuing support.

Barenfeld Family Fund Established

We are pleased to announce that a new Named Fund intended to benefit historic Northside religious properties has been generously created with a major gift from the Elwood Group, Inc.

Through the Named Funds program, the unrestricted gift becomes part of Landmarks' endowment fund. The Named Funds are then invested and their principal balances adjusted annually to reflect gains and losses in the marketplace. Each year we also confer with Named Fund donors about the potential uses and projects to be supported by their Named Fund.

In this case the Barenfeld family, represented by David Barenfeld who is a member of the Board of Trustees of Landmarks Financial Corporation, would like to use priority given to the historic churches in Old Allegheny where needs are great and where the churches provide a home for many social and civic services.

We are particularly grateful to the Barenfeld family and the Elwood Group, Inc.

Robert L. Spear Fund

A long-time friend and member of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Robert L. Spear, passed away on January 30, 1998, leaving Landmarks a generous unrestricted bequest of $25,000.

Mr. Spear managed a portion of Landmarks' investment portfolio and remained an active and vocal supporter of our work, to the point of encouraging his employers, Prudential Securities, to make a large donation to Landmarks as his retirement party. Over the years, Mr. Spear not only assisted Phipps Hoffstot with our investment program, but also donated books and photographs to the James D. Van Trump Library.

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Your Gifts Strengthen Landmarks

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation thanks the following people and organizations for their recent special gifts:

- Madeline O. Half, Elephant and Ronald Zimmer, the West Penn Hospital CRNAs, and the Western Pennsylvania Anesthesia Associates, Ltd., for their individual gifts in memory of Robert L. Spear.
- Rents Campbell, for providing a scholarship for Barry Hamann, director of Historic Landscape Preservation, to attend the Renovation and Restoration Conference in Boston, Massachusetts in March.
- Consolidated Natural Gas Company, for its gift in honor of Robert M. Jacob.
- R. N. Donnelly & Sons Company, for its gift in honor of Rolland Beatty.
- Mrs. Betty B. Goldfeld, for her gift in honor of Philip H. Timmis.
- Susie Gauffer, for her gift in honor of June Werrin.
- The Heinz Company, for its gift in honor of Cecelia Gauffer.

Landmarks Trustees Honored

On May 13, the CCAC Educational Foundation honored Dr. Frances Holland with its first "Legends in Leadership" Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Holland is recognized of Frances' long-time devotion to the Community College of Allegheny County and its students. Proceeds from the awards dinner were used to provide up to sixteen scholarships for high achieving members of the high school class of 1998.

Mary Wehler, a fourth-generation resident of Troy Hill, is featured in the May/June issue of Pennsylvania Magazine. Described as a raconteur who seems to "speak through the streets, spinning her tale, and swapping jokes with her neighbors," Mary is committed for her efforts in preserving many of the architectural landmarks on Troy Hill.
Landmarks Commemorates 34th Anniversary with Gift to Manchester

In commemoration of Landmarks’ thirty-fourth anniversary and in recognition of Preservation Week, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation committed $34,000 in grant funds to the Manchester Citizens Corporation. Landmarks was founded in May of 1964, impelled by a threat to Victorian rowhouses on Liverpool Street in Manchester, to protect major architectural landmarks throughout Allegheny County. “While Landmarks is not an organization that generally makes grants,” said Arthur E. Ziegler, Jr., president, “we wanted to help the Liverpool Street project because it was our own area.”

Philip B. Fallen, chairman of Landmarks, said that Landmarks’ $34,000 grant will be used to help with three projects: the further restoration of the Liverpool Street houses, dating from the 1880s; the creation of front-yard gardens that will complement the historic architecture; and the completion of restoration work on the new Manchester Citizens Corporation offices and Community Center in the Rippl Building. The Rippl Building has been restored in part with loans from Landmarks’ Preservation Loan Fund. Affordable housing will be created in some of the houses on Liverpool Street. The $34,000 grant being made from Landmarks’ endowment fund, largely created in 1994 with the sale of State Square, the riverfront development initiated in 1976 with grants from the Allegheny Foundation, a Scatte Family Trust.

The Manchester Citizens Corporation and Landmarks have worked together for the restoration of Manchester, a National Register District, since the 1960s. The Manchester Citizens Corporation has accomplished an enormous amount of work with limited resources.

Throughout the years, Landmarks has aided the Manchester Citizens Corporation significant technical assistance and over $65,000 in low-interest loans to help ensure the restoration of this historic neighborhood, one of the first in the nation to be restored for a largely African-American population.

Barry Hannegan, director of Historic Landscape Preservation, said, “This will be the first neighborhood-landscaping project of the new department. Landmarks not only supports building restoration but also wants to see the landscaping restored, so that each historic neighborhood has appropriate and distinctive landscaping to enhance its architecture. We are pleased that our first model project will be in the neighborhood in which Landmarks’ first restoration project took place in 1964.”

Formal announcement of the anniversary grant was made at a luncheon hosted by Manchester Citizens Corporation for the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation on May 18, at Pittsburgh’s Grand Hall, at the Priory. The Trustees convened in Pittsburgh in order to get a ‘first-hand look at Landmarks’ work and its partner organizations, particularly those working in historic neighborhoods.

Landmarks’ endowment fund covers a significant portion of administrative and operating costs. Contributions from donors, therefore, are used almost entirely to support historic preservation and education programs.

Thanks to the generous support of our members and friends, we only have needed to spend a small percentage of our resources on fund-raising. Funds continue to be needed, however, as we strengthen our programs and create new ones in response to the growing needs of the community.

“I believe that people and organizations donating to Landmarks will be pleased to know that their contributions go directly into program services,” said Landmarks’ president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. “We continue to manage a historically focused endowment that is responsible to community needs, and the impact of our work extends throughout the Pittsburgh region.”

In 1998 our budget for programs has been increased by $400,000 and $1,000,000 has been added to the Preservation Loan Fund, where the need for neighborhood restoration assistance is great.

1997 Year-End Donors

In the March issue of PHLF News, we were pleased to acknowledge ninety-one organizations and individuals who contributed to Landmarks’ 1997 year-end gift campaign. We have received several more gifts since then, and would like to thank the following:

The Buhl Foundation
Rachel J. Donaldson
Robert E. Greiner

Horty Springer & Mattern, P.C.
Shelton E. King
Eleanor Howe Nimick

The Allegheny Foundation
William F. Unrath
Albert C. Van Iksen

On September 26, during Landmarks’ Historic Religious Properties Conference at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, we will award approximately $30,000 in gifts to various churches and synagogues to support technical assistance needs or restoration projects. These gifts are made possible by the 1997 year-end gifts from members and friends.
New Orleans and Marlborough Learn from Landmarks

In March, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of Preservation Services, spoke on the "Integration of Historic Preservation and Economic Development," at a conference sponsored by the University of New Orleans. The University decided to host such a conference after reading an article written by Howard and published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Howard discussed the importance of working with financial institutions on historic preservation initiatives. He described the "Working In Neighborhoods" initiative, a collaboration between eleven local lending institutions and Landmarks creating a $1 million fund to provide loans to minority businesses moving into historic districts and buildings.

Scott Brown, vice president of Community Development at Mellon Bank, Stanley Lowe, executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, and Howard participated in the Marlborough, Massachusetts Neighborhood Conference on May 9. They helped participants develop a clearer sense of neighborhood priorities in three areas: bank investment; public safety; and public services. Urban leaders and preservationists from the Boston area and the Providence Preservation Society also participated.

Howard B.
Slaughter, Jr.
Attends Harvard's Kennedy School of Government

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of Preservation Services at Landmarks, attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government's Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government at Harvard University June 7 through 26. He was awarded a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship.

The 1998 class included people from all over the world, from state, local, legal, private, and non-profit sectors. However, Landmarks was the only historic preservation organization represented.

According to Howard, "It was truly an experience of a lifetime. It was three weeks of case studies, analysis, and managing new terminology. I was challenged to apply the concepts we learned to my work in Pittsburgh, and I gained more insight into the ways that state and local government agencies can work together to create affordable housing initiatives. The class was inspiring, and I will always remember that 'One who has defined his goal as achievable, has already limited his opportunities for success.'"

Making Cities Work

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Pittsburgh Branch, and Landmarks Host Breakfast Lecture Series

We are grateful to Milton C. Worthy, community affairs liaison of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Pittsburgh Branch, for her leadership in co-sponsoring the "Making Cities Work" lecture series with Landmarks.

The format of the lecture series—breakfast served at 6:00 a.m. followed by a program concluding by 9:00 a.m.—was inaugurated in 1996 when Landmarks invited architect Philippe Robert to share his acclaimed urban adaptive reuse work in Europe with local community representatives.

Mary Means

On April 24, Pittsburgh civic officials, business people, community representatives, architects, and urban designers heard Mary Means, who created the National Trust's Main Street program and is now principal in the urban planning/consulting firm of Mary Means & Associates, outline a forthright, practical approach to effecting positive urban change.

Mary called for a "humanist with a pretty decent mind." Her knowledge of urban life is experiential rather than academic. Basing her assessment on work in cities such as Little Rock, Savannah, and St. Louis, she lamented that many American cities today are no longer characterized by diversity but composed rather of segregated self-interest groups.

It is the portrayal of the city by the media that "spreads the message that the city is a mess and it's easier to run away to the suburbs." In fact, the downtown, the city neighborhoods, and the suburbs are vital and related components, and a sound any plan must address equally the needs of the city center, which is the psychic (symbolic) as well as economic heart of the region, the neighborhoods, and the suburbs.

Mary noted that "regional planning is too important to be left to municipal officers or civic planners." There is often a real gap between the "leadership" and the "followship." She pointed out that the top down approach to city planning doesn't work anymore. More and more "local" corporations are now owned by national companies headquarted elsewhere and their chief executive officers are neither able nor inclined to devote substantial effort to
downtown planning programs. Like the smile on the face of Alice in Wonderland's Cheshire Cat, the sight of a familiar corporate logo doles residents into thinking that the full company presence is still there.

How can cities change for the better? Mary notes that change is stressful and this must first be acknowledged; otherwise, civic leaders may waste time blaming cities for other problems or retreating from problems by subjecting them to repeated "technical assessments"—continually studying problems rather than acting to really change them.

To effect change, we need to manage the stress that change causes; at the same time, we need to educate the community as to the value of the proposed changes. Mary makes concrete suggestions to city leaders:

- Pay attention to the process rather than the result, i.e., avoid being overwhelmed by the goal and for incremental changes take place;
- Establish a temporary table of power, i.e., open up the leadership to new voices and positions;
- Import Weinberg's hesitation to replace long-cherished but ineffective ideas with policies that have worked elsewhere.

Hiring famous personalities to "sell" civic improvements by declaring that since they like it, others should also like it (and be willing to pay for it) is not effective. Civic leaders should realize that "no matter how wonderful your ideas are you still have to communicate how this plan will benefit the citizens."

Bonnie J. Wilkinson

Bonnie J. Wilkinson, historical architect with the Bureau for Historic Preservation of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, spoke at the second breakfast meeting on June 3. She discussed how to structure comprehensive rehabilitation projects to quality for the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit Program.

Robert Brander Gratz

Ron the morning of October 7, Roberta Brander Gratz will speak on why urban centers have been allowed to decay and what can be done to revitalize them. Ms. Gratz is one of the most clear-eyed and incisive urban critics writing in America today. A community activist, executive director of an historic restoration project, and a former water for the New York Post, Ms. Gratz has written two exceptional books: The Living City: How America's Cities Are Being Revitalized by Thinking Small in a Big Way (1989, revised 1994) and Cities Back from the Edge, New Life for Downtown (1998). Both books include sections on Pittsburgh.

Studies Find New Roads Don't Help

We reprint the following article by Chuck Beretz that appeared in the Spring 1998 issue of American Farmland:

Do new roads really reduce traffic congestion longer-term? A major study by the British government concluded they do not. As a result the government cancelled more than seventy road construction projects.

Last year a U.S. study added to the growing body of evidence that building new roads to ameliorate traffic on this side of the Atlantic will not do the job. The study, "Road Supply and Traffic in California Urban Areas," determined that every ten percent increase in road capacity was followed by a nine percent increase in traffic volume within a five-year period. The study can be found in Transportation Research (Vol. 31A, No. 3, 1997, pp. 205-218), a leading journal in the field,

Page 4 of the PHLF News August 1998
The Courthouse: A Progress Report

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

Editor’s Note: Arthur, president of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, is chairman of the Allegheny County Courthouse Restoration Committee, recently renamed the County Historic Properties Advisory Committee.

In our city of significant architectural buildings that command an international reputation, the “architectural lions” of Pittsburgh as the late James D. Van Trump called them, are the Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail by H. H. Richardson.

Richardson won the competition of 1885 because of the simplicity of his plan, whose details led directly to the picturesque features of his compositions. Yet his forceful use of the texture and crisp detailing of granite, different in each of the two buildings, have been especially impressive to the public. In our County Buildings, Richardson came closest to the overall coherence, with decorative work subdued but not suppressed, toward which he seems to have been working.

The County Buildings, together with “Fallingwater,” are those thatimple association most with Pittsburgh, and people come from many nations to visit them. Unhappily, the Courthouse is not in the best condition, though the County has through the years maintained the exteriors of both buildings reasonably well.

The Jail, long to be visited only under special circumstances, is going to be renovated as a family court building, and care will be taken to preserve the exteriors and to create a museum for the public just inside the main door. There will also be a park in the courtyard.

The Courthouse itself has been another matter. Over a decade ago, the Commissioners appointed a committee to provide advice to the County on the restoration of the building and its main tenance, and the committee advised about the roof repair and painting of some of the masonry. Several years ago the murals in the front hall were restored under the auspices of the committee, a new directory was installed in the lobby (the old one listed judges who had been dead between eight and seventeen years), and the County Records Bureau acquired stacks of poorly stored records on the ground floor, though selection has not been approved alternative lighting for the ground floor, though selection has not been implemented.

The upper floors, the committee is addressing signage. All kinds of signs are posted on the walls, hung from various fixtures, and installed on doors with no control and frequently with inappropriate graphics. Over the years, ceilings have been dropped in hallways and offices, and areas have been re-lighted with tube fluorescent fixtures and painted colors that H. H. Richardson did not use. (Landmarks is now trying to determine the original colors of the hallways so that they can be specified in repainting.) Vending machines have been installed in the hallways with their bright lights, but no waste receptacles have been added, and corridor window sills and floors are lined with empty car cases and other litter. Inappropriate fenestration has at times been installed, visible from the exterior and the interior, and major public rooms such as the Gold Room and meeting rooms have been relaid to the nondescript, through dropped ceilings and unsupervised color treatment, lighting, and carpeting.

We are fortunate that we have three Commissioners deeply committed to the restoration of the Courthouse, and a committee of County, private, and preservation representatives who volunteer their time to assist the Commissioners and to guide the County agencies and skilled crews. We have recommended to the Commissioners that all work on the building be approved by the committee for appropriateness. Landmarks is underwriting some of the research costs, and the County trades are more alert to restoration versus remodeling.

A new effort is now underway to bring visitors to Pittsburgh to see the splendid collection of historic architecture that we possess; but if we are going to do so, we must make our foremost landmark a statement of our commitment to preserve and restore our major buildings.

Grant Street could be an architectural magnet; the private historic buildings are in excellent condition. The experience of walking through the Frick Building, Union Tear Building, William Penn Hotel, and Koppers Building is inspiring. The Courthouse should offer the best of all.

Richardson’s Jail

Open for Public Tours

The Allegheny County Commissioners, the Deputy Warden of the County Jail, and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation have developed weekend walking tours of H. H. Richardson’s Jail, Saturdays mornings and Sunday afternoons, beginning in August. Call Cathy Beecook at (1-412) 471-5808 for further details.

From left to right: a painter from the County; Arthur Ziegler; Son Taylor, principal architect for Allegheny County; and Tom Keffler, Landmarks’ superv-

intendent of property maintenance, examine paint scrapings to ascertain the original colors of the hallways in the Courthouse.
Landmarks' and Preservation Pennsylvania's Complaints Being Heard by Legislature

The "BEC" (Basic Education Circular) Guidelines of the Pennsylvania Department of Education are becoming a focus of attention not only in the preservation community but also in the State Legislature. The guidelines favor the abandonment of historic neighborhood schools across the Commonwealth and the development of new schools with acres of land around them. We reported on the guidelines in the March 1998 issue of PHLF News.

At the statewide conference of Preservation Pennsylvania in early May, executive director Carolynn Boyd presented changes for the BEC Guidelines that the preservation community recommended to give historic neighborhood schools fair treatment by the Department. Currently, the Department denies funding reimbursement to communities that try to restore such schools but fail to meet the BEC requirements. Such a policy not only causes the older school buildings to be abandoned, but also adds millions of dollars in costs to the taxpayers. More than 100 people attending the conference signed the recommendations proposed by Preservation Pennsylvania. They were then forwarded to the Department of Education and to the Governor's office.

Arthur P. Ziegler Jr., president of Landmarks, said, "We now know why so many schools look like Wal-Mart, are built of materials like Wal-Mart, have acres of empty land around them like Wal-Mart, and require a vehicle to access them like Wal-Mart."

Several legislators were in the audience. At the end of the meeting, Representative David G. Argall, chairman of the Joint Conservation Committee, proposed to hold hearings on the issue to have the Department explain its pro-abandonment stance and to invite citizens and school directors to indicate the hardships and costs the BEC has caused. The Senate and House Education Committees offered to co-sponsor these hearings. The first hearing was held on Monday, June 29, 1998 in Harrisburg. A second hearing was held in the western part of Pennsylvania in late summer.

Preservation Pennsylvania released its annual listing of Pennsylvania's most endangered historic resources in June. The list focused exclusively on schools, thus marking the first time the "Pennsylvania at Risk" historic resource listing has had a single focus.


Belchwood School, 1905 and 1909, W. J. Shaw and Thomas Lloyd, architects. A hillside school, visible from far away. The tower may have been the last locally to be built for a bell. A heavy design.

PITTSBURGH ARCHITECTURE

Walter C. Kidney

Now and then, Pittsburgh's educators rethought a school on a hilltop or a lofty ledge, and one would like to believe that they were making a statement. In Istanbul, such a site would be reserved for an imperial mosque, and in an American county seat, in hilly country, it might boost the courthouse dome or tower still higher. A temptation, then, to see this siting of a school as an exaltation of free public education, a chance offered to every bright and determined person to gain knowledge and get ahead. This interpretation of the siting would be particularly plausible in the case of those open, rational, yet graciously dressed schools of earlier in the twentieth century, places like Prospect School or South Hills High School, where the big sliding window sashes have something of the factory, objective and methodical, about them.

Older schools on the heights—Belchwood or Fort Pitt come to mind—are dramatic with their towers to be sure, but are more secretive, more repressive, and survive to us from a time when the school seems to have commanded less respect as an architectural problem. Something seems to have happened around 1985, then happened further...

Langley High School, designed c. 1915, built 1923, 1927, MusClare & Spahr, architects. Sheraden Boulevard and Charters Avenue. Here is a lingering trace of Late Victorian picturesque, with a quasi-tower at a prominent corner and hints at buttressing and crenelation. But the plan shows spaces neatly aligned, and more airy and free than the tower. The tower may have been the last locally to be built for a bell. A heavy design.

Below: South Hills High School, 1916-24, Alden & Harlow, architects. Ruth and Eureka Streets. The Gothic style, with its academic associations, is strikingly juxtaposed with modern fenestration of the pre-air conditioning period. The school sits in a lap, so to speak, on the south side of Mount Washington.
RE: Public Schools

around 1910. A harsh Victorian box with a belfry on top was no longer inevitable. Proportions became more relaxed, brick was not always hard and raw red, ornament began to bloom. Windows became, not slots in the enclosing masonry but distinct areas of the enclosure, sliding sashes welcoming light and air. Gothic and Georgian, lightly applied, softened the rational scheme, but so sometimes did a Chicago School liberty of detailing that made the public school a tempting genre.

The Modernes came in the 1930s through the Board of Education architect Marion M. Steen, and the progressive style, in numerous variations, became the official one.

The schools shown here have grown old. As with City and County bridges, the best date from a Golden Age of building in the 1910s, '20s, and '30s. Landmarks entered most of these schools in a National Register Thematic Nomination in 1986, and more recently has proposed forty-three present and former Pittsburgh public schools as a Scattered-site City Historic District.

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Photos

Record

Parochial School Demolitions

When a school is demolished, a cloud of memories cease to exist. These demolitions happen to be of parochial schools: Lawrenceville Catholic, or St. Augustine's, of 1883, reduced to a single arch; St. Joseph's, a Frederick Sauer building of 1897 in Bloomfield, with its spires and auditorium laid bare.

Below: Greenfield School, designed c. 1916, built 1922-23, Kiehnl & Elliott, architects. Alger Street near Greenfield Avenue. The daunting main doorway looks original, but other details show intelligent attention to the Chicago Prairie School.

Schiller School, 1929, Marion M. Steen and Edward J. Weber(?) architects. Peralta and Watts Streets, East Deutschtown. The design, with its charm-like forms that suggest Gothic arches, seems to derive from German Expressionism of the 1920s.

Concord School in Carrick, 1929, Marion M. Steen, architect. Brownsville Road and Biscoyne Drive. Mellow brick, a little simple brick ornament, and well-proportioned fenestration and overall massing are all this Neo-Georgian school required to look good.

Fort Pitt School, 1905 and 1920, Charles H. Bartberger, architect. 5161 Hillcrest Street, Garfield. A hilltop schoolhouse, still heavy in effect but with grouped windows giving a more open character.

Rogers School, c. 1915, Janssen & Abbott, architects. 5525 Columbus Street in Garfield. This brown brick school is almost undetected, and relies on proportion for its good effect.

Schenley High School in Oakland, 1916, Edward Stott, architect. A mixture of applied dignity and modulor order.


St. Augustine's in Lawrenceville, above and below.

Photos by William Riedweg, PHL00195

St. Joseph's School in Bloomfield.

Photos by Will May
Kevin McCartan
The third in a series of community profiles

Kevin McCartan, executive director of PHASE, speaks passionately about construction, restoration, and affordable housing. When discussing the projects PHASE would like to embark upon next, Kevin speaks of restoring the historic John Brustner mansion, the brownstones on the Mexican War Streets, and a Carpenter Gothic house on Wilson Avenue with gingerbread details still intact. The descriptive quality of Kevin’s speech belies the fact that he is blind.

Kevin McCartan and his brother used to own and operate a successful construction business. In 1980, however, the diabetes that had plagued Kevin since his youth destroyed his eyesight. Significant life changes had to be made. The McCartans closed the construction business, and Kevin began learning to adapt to life without sight. Kevin jokes that with the callous fingertips of a contractor and guitar player, he could never learn to read by using six braille dots. Fortunately for Kevin, the age of computers and voice synthesis gives him a way to communicate and operate in the business world.

In spite of his significant change in circumstances, 1980 was also the year Kevin helped to establish the Perry Hilltop Association for Successful Enterprise (subsequently renamed PHASE). Its mission is to encourage economic revitalization of North Side neighborhoods, including Perry Hilltop, Fin Fis, and the Central North Side by the acquisition and renovation of commercial and residential real estate. Kevin used his construction business background to make PHASE a composite organization: half community development group, half construction company. This diversity allows the organization not only to identify homes in need of restoration but also to restore them. “Being a construction company,” Kevin points out, “allows PHASE to control costs and also furthers our community development mission by employing young people who are trained and mentored by us in the construction trades.”

Although creating affordable housing is the primary mission of PHASE, Kevin believes that the housing must also be energy-efficient. In 1997, PHASE embarked on a long-term endeavor to create the BetterHousing Education Center in the laboratory/factory of John Brashear, a famous Pittsburgh telescope maker and renowned astronomer. At the old lens factory, PHASE has built a facility that is capable of constructing panels, to be used in new construction, that provide additional cost reduction and increased energy efficiency. “This is the wave of the future in new construction,” Kevin says.

According to Kevin, “quality housing in affordable housing” was his goal when he was a contractor and has become his driving mission at PHASE.

New Porches for Homewood Row Houses
Bennett Street is one of the primary thoroughfares in Homewood. At its intersection with North Murlind, two-story row houses exist on both sides. On one side of the street the buildings are of red brick, on the other side of yellow. All are joined by simple box-elegant wooden entrance porches and are crowned by friezes of unique brickwork. The Bennett/North Murlind buildings, together with similar ones on the adjacent Fleury Way, contain nineteen residential units in all, owned by the Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation (HBRDC). Unfortunately these houses were in disrepair. Landmarks agreed to join the Urban Redevelopment Authority, National City Bank, and the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development to ensure that the nineteen units were rehabilitated and the porches either restored or reconstructed to match their original designs. This required new costs, but all funders and the HBRED agreed that the porches were an essential ingredient of the historic row houses.

In all, Landmarks has committed $59,900 in construction financing for the Bennett/Fleury restoration. If construction remains on schedule, all tenants will have improved units and new porches by the end of August.

Landmarks became involved in the restoration of the Bennett Street row houses because of its continuing technical assistance to Homewood-Brushton Revitalization and Development Corporation during the past four years.

Residential Resources
On February 25, 1998, Landmarks made its first loan in the newly designated Deutschtown Historic District. Landmarks’ $50,000 loan was extended to Residential Resources for facade renovations to three houses located at 513, 515, and 517 Lockhart Street. Landmarks worked in conjunction with the East Allegheny Community Council, Inc. and the City’s Historic Review Commission on the renovation plan.

The masonry on the three contiguous buildings—currently painted a loud brick red—will be cleaned and repointed to expose the original brick; the deteriorated window braces and roof trim will be custom-reproduced to match the original architectural elements; and appropriate doors and light fixtures will be added. Significant interior renovations are planned as well.

The Lockhart Street loan represents Landmarks’ third loan to Residential Resources, which renovates buildings for use either by families with physically or mentally challenged family members, or by challenged individuals needing an assisted living environment. Residential Resources’ significant investment and willing attention to exterior details will improve the aesthetics of Lockhart Street and contribute to the Deutschtown Historic District.

Restoration of Calvary United Methodist Church
In the mid 1990s, the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society began its restoration of the Calvary United Methodist Church, of 1895. At that time, Landmarks extended a $55,000 bridge loan to the Society to help finance the cleaning of the sandstone facade and spire. On March 16, 1999, Landmarks extended another bridge loan to the Society in the amount of $93,000. Landmarks’ current loan has enabled the Society to plan its forthcoming restoration project, and seek additional funding support. The elaborately designed Gothic church is located at Allegheny and Beech Avenues in the Allegheny West Historic District and is known, among other things, for its Tiffany windows.

Conservation Consultants Expands Headquarters
Conservation Consultants, Inc. (CCI) is a non-profit organization providing a broad range of environmental, energy conservation, and lead-paint remediation services to the public. Since 1993 it has been located on Pittsburgh’s South Side on Fourteenth Street in a house, three-story, yellow brick building erected in 1910.

CCI’s existing building needed repair, and the organization was expanding its operations. Consequently, it embarked upon an aggressive renovation and construction plan to renovate the historic building and add a 12,000-square-foot addition. The finished building will be known as the CCI Center. It will be outfitted with solar panels, recycling chutes, and other “green” building systems. TAI + LEE architects served as the project’s architect and Clearview Project Services Company was the contractor. To assist CCI with its development, the Preservation Loan Fund extended a $150,000 loan to the organization.

Although renovations and new construction are not yet complete, three groups with related missions including the Pennsylvania Resource Council, Green Building Alliance, and CLEARCorp, have moved into the CCI Center, creating a one-stop shop for environmental and energy conservation assistance.
A Majestic Restoration

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

A remarkable event is taking place in Braddock. Work has been under way for several years on restoring the historic Braddock Library, the first library opened in the United States by Andrew Carnegie. The exterior is now being cleaned and the roof is being recovered in red tile to match the original.

To see the library undergoing such a magnificent restoration is inspiring to the entire community and to all of us. Unfortunately, the business area and portions of the residential area below the library are looking forsaken today, and many buildings have been demolished in recent months. Braddock has suffered a great deal, and people long thought the library could not continue.

Its endowment had been transferred to the Homestead Library, and USX eliminated its annual subsidy. Built originally in 1888 and designed by William Halsey Wood with additions by Loegfellow, Alden & Harlow, the library served as a full community center. After the 1894 addition, the library was not only a place of study but also a theatre, a workingman’s club, a gymnasium, and a bath house, compensating for the shortcomings of the community elsewhere. The library section by Wood is distinctive in its Romanesque. Other sections are conventional Richardson Romanesque.

The restoration of Braddock Library reminds me of a great cathedral restoration in Europe.

—Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

The Model Cities program contracted with Landmarks to develop a plan for using the building for public-service agencies, both government and non-profit. Although Landmarks completed the planning, no implementation was ever carried out, and the Model Cities program was terminated by the Federal government.

In the 1970’s, various efforts were made by government to revive the building for new uses. At one point the Model Cities project was eliminated. In 1987, we asked Richard Scaife and Joanne Beyer of the Allegheny Foundation to visit the library. We found one room open, heated with a kerosene heater and staffed by volunteers. People were there immersed in books and youngsters were utilizing a children’s section. The Allegheny Foundation gave a grant to begin the restoration program, and the library contracted with Landmarks Design Associates, Architects, to begin to develop a restoration plan.

Through the years the leaders of a number of Pittsburgh’s foundations have moved by the tremendous citizen use and commitment to this building and have contributed to the restoration effort. Cleaning of the building, restoration of the roof, and painting of the music hall are being funded by the Allegheny Foundation and the Heinz Endowments, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Keystone Historic Preservation Program, Eden Hall Foundation, the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, USX, the Braddock Rotary, and individuals.

You will have an inspiring experience if you travel down the main street of Braddock and look up at this tremendous work.

A Majestic Restoration

Progress in the music hall this spring.

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Then, on a cold winter day in 1987, we asked Richard Scaife and Joanne Beyer of the Allegheny Foundation to visit the library. We found one room open, heated with a kerosene heater and staffed by volunteers. People were there immersed in books and youngsters were utilizing a children’s section. The Allegheny Foundation gave a grant to begin the restoration program, and the library contracted with Landmarks Design Associates, Architects, to begin to develop a restoration plan.

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The Blachthouse in 1893.

The Blachthouse in 1893.

Braddock Library at Library Street and Parker Avenue.

Nascent Preservationism

How far does historic preservation go? In Japan, the thirteenth-century Shinto shrine at Ise is preserved, in a sense, because an exact copy takes its place every twenty years. We recall vaguely a Swedish landmark ordinance of the seventeenth century. In the United States, in 1839, Oliver Wendell Holmes’ poem “Old Ironsides” started a successful campaign to save the historic frigate Constitution.

In Pittsburgh, the first efforts may have appeared in this note in Fohnstock’s Pittsburgh Directory, for 1832:

Note to the Map

The mark on the Map of Pittsburgh, between Point street and Point alley, about forty-six feet west of Point street, and about one hundred and twelve feet north of Penn street, indicates the position of the Redoubt, built by Col. HENRY BOQUET in 1765, and is the only remaining monument of British skill and labor, at the head of the Ohio.

To see this Redoubt, it is necessary to pass from Point street along a nine feet alley, called Brewery alley, leading towards the Monongahela; and when at the distance of forty-six feet from Point street, the Redoubt will be seen about eight feet north of the visitor. The Redoubt is that square portion of the building, next to Brewery alley. The back portion of the building, which is higher than the Redoubt, was built by TURNBULL, MARMIE & CO. in 1765, and was occupied as a dwelling by WILLIAM TURNBULL, and afterwards by MAJOR ISAAC CRAIG.

It is greatly to be desired, that it should be preserved and kept in repair.
Thank You, Conference Sponsors

The 1998 National Town Meeting on Main Street was presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in association with the South Side Local Development Company.

Major funding support was provided by:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
In Praise of the Conference and Landmarks

We are pleased to reprint the following excerpts from various letters we have received:

Dear Author,

... I have long admired all that I have heard and read about your work in Pittsburgh. I had high expectations, and was greatly impressed by your accomplishments and, of course, wanting to see and know more. . . .

Nancy N. Campbell
Chairman of the Board,
National Trust for Historic Preservation

Houard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of Preservation Services (shown here), Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president, and Louise Sturgess, executive director, spoke at the Main Street Conference. They addressed neighborhood revitalization, main street development, and education, respectively. Houard encouraged participants to "think outside the box" when developing neighborhood initiatives, a creative concept that was affirmed at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. (Please see page 4.)

De-ar Arthur,

I am so pleased to pass on to you the virtual chorus of praise we have heard about the Pittsburgh conference since our return. Both on-site and through conference evaluation comments, people have described Pittsburgh as a beautiful surprise, an ideal venue for our gathering, and a great city with "real" neighborhoods that work. Most of all, people have recognized what a truly outstanding host you and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation have been. And so that, I might add "great partner" as well.

I have never had the pleasure to work with a more dynamic, sincere, and professional conference partner than your organization. You have set a new standard of performance for both us and our future local conference partners. . . .

Doug Loescher
Assistant Director,
National Main Street Center

Dear Ms. Broceck,

... In this visit, I met many people who play an active part in community development. Participation in the National Main Street Conference really stimulated me and the materials were also very valuable.

Hiroaki Mori
Fukuoka, Japan

... Thank you for making National Town Meeting 1998 a roaring success.

Nancy Carmichael
Main Street, Corning, Iowa

... Both the tours and the sessions were informative. You have a beautiful city.

Nancy Lowe
Main Street, Arkansas

Landmarks Awards
Conference Scholarships

Eight leaders from local neighborhood organizations were able to attend the National Town Meeting on Main Street thanks to scholarships offered by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The scholarship recipients were:

Edward R. Bruntt
Northside Leadership Conference

Barbara Burns and Randy Streelman
East Allegheny Community Council

Donald M. Carroll and Tonj Sippol
South Side Business Alliance

Recky Ming
Friendship Development Associates

Joanna Monroe
Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc.

Robert Stephany
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

We are pleased to reprint Robert Stephany's letter:

Dear Howard:

I just wanted to drop you a note to thank you for the scholarship to attend this year's National Town Meeting on Main Street.

All of the sessions I attended were very informative and helpful. The one on "Creating an Arts District" was particularly inspirational for me in how it related to the things we are doing to revitalize Garfield's Penn Avenue.

Again, thank you, and congratulations to you and your staff for pulling off a great event!

Robert Stephany
Development Coordinator,
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation

Joanna Monroe, executive director of the Garfield Jubilee Association, Inc., was one of eight neighborhood leaders who attended the conference through Landmarks' scholarship program.
New Life for the Maumaux Building

In April of 1995, the A. Maumaux & Sons Building, located at 123 First Avenue in Pittsburgh, was threatened with demolition in favor of a parking lot. Today, it appears that this three-story commercial building, built in 1865 and one of the few remaining downtown buildings from the Civil War era, is to be restored.

John Baranowski recently purchased the Maumaux Building from Melinda Beard who was instrumental in saving the building and having it designated as a City Historic Landmark. Mr. Baranowski is completely reviving the First Avenue facade which is a red brick Mid-Victorian Baroque structure with eight arched windows decorated with cast iron trim.

The facade facing the Boulevard of the Allies is the most visible of the building’s two facades and was once a fire station. Unfortunately, it presently is a rather plain 1930-period facade in poor physical condition. Therefore, the new owner has received approval from the City’s Historic Review Commission (HRC) to install a new Boulevard facade that will replicate the one on First Avenue and, according to Mr. Baranowski, unify the building.

Besides the facade, Mr. Baranowski is also planning to open the ground floor of the building to the public the historic importance of this building. Unfortunately, although Street Fairs grant funds are available for downtown facade restorations, the URA has turned down a grant request because it is a “single” building. However, the URA did provide a construction loan.

While testifying for the historic designation of the Maumaux Building in 1995, Landmarks’ Walter Kennedy said, “The Maumaux Building helps define an historic street, a narrow route between buildings in a part of town that is losing character and, for that matter, obscured, all in favor of the accommodation of automobiles.” Mr. Baranowski and his contractor, Smith Baron, Inc., have begun renovations and hope to complete work by October.

One of Our Wandering Ladies

Since the demolition of theFourth Avenue Post Office in 1966, the so-called Ladies of Stone, the pediment sculptures of 1891 by Eugenio Pedon, have wandered the area, settling here or there for a few years, then moving on. Our bus tour participants will be familiar with the pair outside the parking garage at Station Square, sporting their green wigs in the summer. Another of the Ladies, once outside the Edge Restaurant at the head of the Boulevard of the Allies, has found a new home on Mount Washington: the figure of Enlightenment now stands outside the Rite Aid store at Virginia Avenue and Keasegrad Street.

Firehouse Lofts

Loft-type condominiums are suddenly seen as viable real-estate ventures, and a distinctive example of the genre is well on the way on South Fourteenth Street, a beautifully scaled little street on the South Side. Number 49 was originally a firehouse from the horse-and-steamer days, say of 1900, probably with William Y. Brady though no municipal plaque remains to kill us. The developers are Cityscape Properties, and the present-day architect—whose hand is most conspicuous in the old fire-engine entrance—is John Martine. The ground floor is to be the Firehouse Studio, selling crafts and architectured salvage. Upstairs are two two-level condominiums, one facing westward of 1,200 square feet, one eastward, 1,000 square feet. Original and salvaged woodwork are being blended. For inquiries: Joe Ranni at (1-724) 443-5960.

Chureh Adaptive Use

The former church of St. Francis de Sales, prominently sited on Chartiers Avenue in McKees Rocks, has been bought by developer Gary Bianchin, along with three parish buildings. Striped of imagery, the church will become a baronial hall seating 400. A school and a rectory will be leased, with the rectory serving for the offices of St. John of God Parish, while a convent building will be a personal-care home for the elderly.

Operation Red

On March 26, Operation Red began in the city of Pittsburgh; the City began posting glaring red-and-white signs in front of properties where neglect has resulted in serious violations of building codes. Use of such signs has proven successful in Wilkinsburg as a means of shaming owners into compliance. There are two evident drawbacks, though, to what seems a good practice: first, the chance of mischief to those who cannot afford to repair and cannot sell at a decent price; and second, the chance that the owner may destroy something of historic or aesthetic value just to avoid the nuisance. The latter could aggravate a delicate situation, and we must be aware of the problem.

Mars Station Saved

The Borough Council at Mars, in Butler County, has donated land to the Mars Historical Society to restore its century-old wooden railroad station. Landmarks donated to the relocation and restoration of this building.

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) 473-5000.

A standard Rite Aid. This one happens to be in Mt. Lebanon.

Dedict by John Martine.
Minnetonka Building

One of the pleasures of walking on Walnut Street in Sowntown is the opportunity to admire the Minnetonka Building designed by Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr in 1908. It is a building influenced by the contemporary European avant-garde architecture of its time, in particular, the work of Austrian Joseph Olbrich and Scotsman Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Photographs of their buildings were published in the leading architectural journals of the day, and Scheibler probably saw the Mackintosh designs exhibited at the Pittsburgh Architectural Club Exhibition in 1907. Passers-by will note the large windows in the distinctive art glass transom windows, quite possibly by Rudy Boehehler who often executed Scheibler’s designs.

This is a special and important early twentieth-century Pittsburgh building, discussed in detail in Martin Aurand’s The Progressive Architecture of Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. (University of Pittsburgh Press 1994). pages 46 to 51. Periodically we check on the condition of the building, which houses shops on the ground floor and apartments above. The hallways are still distinguished by white marble walls and floors and art glass floral designs on each apartment door. The colorful glass mosaic tilework on the stair railing has been poorly repaired in some places, the wonderful art glass skylights support visible debris, and until recently one of the two art glass lighting fixtures retained its original shade, now both hallway lights are gone, replaced with inappropriate fixtures. A year or so ago we wrote to the present owner of the building expressing our concern about its condition. We received no reply and now, with the loss of the hallway lights, that condition appears to have worsened.
"Historic" Preservation: A Personal Attitude

Walter C. Kidney

Here, I am stating my own feelings:

It is good that many of our older buildings and districts have been well maintained or restored, and are still much as they were built. Positive beauties from the past remain, our communities retain much of their familiar look, and owners benefit we may hope from not demolishing and rebuilding. (It should be added, though, that old work and new can be creatively combined.)

We can readily admit that some of what we build, we build as monuments. We recall a person or event, or express a sentiment, in granite and bronze, sacrifice money and thought to form something solid that is vaguely intended to last forever. We are ready for further sacrifice to be sure that it does.

We can admit the existence of a whole category of quasi-monuments or "working" monuments, that perform utilitarian tasks of shelter but that did require, and will continue to require, extra thought and sacrifice because they symbolize things meaningful to the public. The provision of space is not all of their function.

The above two categories of buildings are carefully considered as works of constructed art. We may add a third vague class of places that the public may see as worthy of sacrifice to preserve: ones that, over time, have been associated with events and customs seen as rich with history. Here, artistry is nice but irrelevant.

But the scope of present-day preservation goes beyond such categories, and much of it is aesthetic rather than historic in nature. And my belief is that we have seen so much of such preservation not because of the public significance of the buildings to be saved, or because of their beauty—they are often very mediocre designs—or even because of the economy of saving the old shells, but because there is so little to hope for in the way of beauty in new construction, and it has been that way for a half-century. Look at almost anything, large or small, constructed in and around Pittsburgh from Gateway Center on, and itemize the buildings and public places, constructed from scratch, with which you are truly happy, that you really enjoy looking at. You and I may differ. I may simply have a closed mind. I cannot comprehend modern classical music; it disdains melody and harmony, and I find it weak and empty. Similarly, in architecture, I look for some human contact between the building and myself that comes to be through overall clarity, proportion, space, color and texture, moldings and other detailing, ornament or symbolism too perhaps.

(text continues on page 16)
A working monument, with assembly rooms and a museum: Allegheny County Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial, Oakland.

Homely, but rich in associations: Forbes Field, now gone.

No Parthenons here, but legally protected: Penn-Liberty City Historic District, downtown.

A sort of habitable sculpture, that might have been called Aspiration: Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh.
And is preservation not so important today because we have to look to the past to find these things, find them genuinely? There are firms that will design you an apartment group in implausible pastiche Victorian or a six-figure house in the suburbs with an antipasto of gables, Palladian windows, quoins, and pediments, as if to build your parvenu family, in a twinkling, into the hallowed past. Preservation springs from more cultured impulses, perhaps, and is less phony. Really old buildings are involved, and sometimes an amplitude of space and craftsmanship of building and decoration are not to be expected today. At present, in our new construction, we seem to be passing through a limp traditionalism, looking toward the past and trying to imitate it within, one may suppose, tight budgets. Certainly there is an air of apology about much recent architecture, a way of looking to a past it cannot equal and a look of inability to see any future.

That we see such massive effort to save old architecture, and that we even impose legal requirements for preservation on buildings and districts suggests an abnormal reaction to abnormal conditions. We are trying not to lose what we have rather than looking forward to what we might get.


The hand of the past.
Left: Apartments on Ellisworth Avenue, Shadyside.
Below: a new apartment complex on the North Shore.

"Mount Brodhead" in Fayette County: the real thing, dignified despite adversity.
Neville House Symposium
Barry Hannegan

On April 22, Landmarks and the Heinz Architectural Center jointly sponsored a symposium on historic house and landscape preservation. Held in the theater of the Carnegie Museum of Art, the event brought to Pittsburgh five authorities on the fine art of historic preservation. Although conceived principally as a means of gathering more information and insight into our continuing campaign of work at “Woodville,” the Neville House in Collier Township, the symposium actually ranged far and wide (and deeply) through its subject.

At the beginning of the program, I spoke briefly about “Woodville,” its history, and the achievements of two decades of restoration. Since the symposium was in part inspired by the current planning for the development of the grounds around “Woodville,” Tom Borelli, president of GS7SM, Landscape Architects, spoke informally on the master plan his firm has created for “Woodville.” His concept calls for introducing planted features that will illustrate something of the property’s agricultural origins and yet provide a handsome setting for “Woodville” itself. Tom’s and my remarks set the stage for the presentations of our guest architects.

The first of these was Susan Borchardt, deputy director for collections and education at Gunston Hall Plantation. Susan presented strong, practical arguments for the most detailed and scrupulous examination of data as the ‘98 means to arrive at an accurate understanding of an historic house. Documentary evidence, even if circumstantial, has allowed the staff at Gunston Hall to gain a much more extensive picture of the life that went on there in the late eighteenth century. Similar close readings of the building’s actual structure also have revealed a much more accurate record of the sequence of the original interiors.

Edward A. Chappell, director of the Department of Architectural Research at Colonial Williamsburg, gave us a vivid and detailed historical context for the construction of “Woodville.” Drawing on his encyclopedic knowledge of early Virginia buildings, especially vernacular structures, he demonstrated the kinship of “Woodville” to those examples and also underscored the absolute importance of a close examination of “Woodville’s” structure in order to determine all the phases of its construction history.

The morning’s third speaker was Roger G. Courtenay, a principal of the international firm of EDAW, Landscape Architects. His group has been involved in innumerable studies and interventions in historic landscapes and he reminded us how essential it is to take each case on its own merits and to arrive at a design solution for the landscaping of historic houses that respects the unique character of each property. In particular, he stressed the fundamental importance of deciding just what the property is meant to represent and to what period or continuum of periods the house is to belong.

Rudy J. Favesetti, who spoke next, is professor emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut. His vast experience with historic landscape restoration allowed him to assess the opportunities open to us at “Woodville” with ease and full understanding. He particularly endorsed the empirical approach that has guided the restoration of the property and urged that “the same patient and rational methodology be our guide in dealing with the landscape component of a fully restored “Woodville.” His reminder to keep in mind the visitor’s total experience of the site was especially welcome.

The final speaker was Camille Wells, assistant professor in the Department of Architectural History at the University of Virginia. She demonstrated the fundamental importance of archival research in arriving at a better understanding of the building’s functional usage and composition. Her knowledge of plantations in Virginia in the eighteenth century gave us a much better idea of what General Neville would have created at “Woodville.” Her presentation also suggested many ways in which we might expand the interpretative opportunities of the house and its grounds.

The day before the symposium, our guests visited “Woodville,” and Ray Shepherd gave them a behind-the-scenes tour of some of the restoration projects underway at Old Economy. As a result of the symposium, we had the pleasure of sharing the speciousness of “Woodville” with a group who immediately perceived and responded to its quality. We feel that the five papers contributed in significant ways to the local understanding of preservation in both its immediate and broader applications. We thank the following organizations for underwriting the event: the Pennsylvania/Western Section of the American Society of Landscape Architects; Esler Nurseries; Environmental Planning and Design; GS7SM, Inc.; Landscape Architects; The Garden Club of Allegheny County; and Landmarks Design Associates, Architects. Their endorsement of our initiative was deeply appreciated.

With appropriate estate planning, your appreciated securities or real estate can be used to create a lifetime income for you and provide the Pinhburgh History & Landmarks Foundation with much-needed resources to restore our historic houses, churches, schools, parks, and gardens. You can help retain a main street in one of our neighborhoods, provide restored housing for low-to-middle-income residents, or put an empty church or school back into use. Landmarks can pay 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;
- Assurance of probate costs and estate taxes;
- Disposition of real estate and elimination of ownership costs and liability;
- The satisfaction of making a significant gift to preserving our Western Pennsylvania heritage;
- Honorary life membership in Landmarks; minimum contribution required.

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

Protecting the Places that Make Pittsburgh Home

PHLF News August 1998 Page 17

And the Trees Came Crashing Down...
Greg Kocham

One year ago the stretch of Route 65 west of Sewickley in Edgeworth Borough was lined with huge oaks and sycamores, creating a tunnel-like effect on this otherwise barren roadway. On a hot summer day the experience was refreshing and the shade welcome. I noticed, though, that the giant trees had been painted with red dots at breast height; that usually means trouble.

Unable to uncover what the possible trouble might be, I did not learn the answer until last fall when the chain saws arrived and workers cut half of the giants down.

As I had suspected, the trees had been scheduled for removal. Why? For a roadwidening project to allow turning lanes into the business area on the riverside. I spoke to Edgeworth Borough manager Belynda Shaugenbault, who said that the Borough had been opposing PennDOT on this issue since 1989 because the town does not want turning lanes. PennDOT was determined to go through with the project but was willing to compromise. Originally, PennDOT had intended to take an extra foot on the residential side for the lanes, but negotiations with PennDOT resulted in shifting six feet of the burden to the business side of Route 65, still taking ten feet on the residential side. That does not leave enough room to save most of the trees, but negotiations are still going on to save a few.

Watch out Bellevue and Ben: your allée of trees could be next.

From left to right: Barry Hannegan, Joy and Rudy Favesetti, Rob Windhorst, Roger Courtenay, Greg Yocham, Anne Genter, Susan and Bruce Borchardt, Carole Bernabei, and Retta Campbell.
Events

Support the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in its work to:
- Identify, document, and work to save architectural landmarks, historic neighborhoods, and historic designed landscapes in Allegheny County;
- Provide loan and technical assistance to community-based organizations that propose feasible plans for historic properties;
- Participate in urban planning issues as an advocate for historic preservation;
- Create educational programs for schools, community groups, members, and friends; and
- Continue a well-managed, responsive, and creative membership organization with the ability to implement these goals on a long-range basis.

Membership Categories
- Senior Citizen $25 or more
- Individual $20 or more
- Family $25 or more
- Schools and Non-profits $15 or more
- School Districts $50 or more
- Corporate $250 or more
- Life Benefactor $5,000 (in one-time gift)

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

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

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- Check enclosed (payable to PHLF)
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Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
One Station Square, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134

PHLF News • August 1998

Summer Events

Grand Spaces Seldom Seen
Sunday, October 4 (Members only)
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
The tour will be offered again on
Sunday, October 11, for members and friends.

Making Cities Work: A Breakfast
Lecture with Roberta Brandes Gratz
Wednesday, October 7
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
Federal Reserve Bank Building
717 Grant Street

The Power of Place: What Makes a
Neighborhood Home
Thursday and Friday, October 8 & 9
A conference sponsored by the Center
for Minority Health, University of
Pittsburgh, Coalition for a Healthy
Urban Habitat; The Heinz Architectural
Center, The Carnegie; and the
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks
Foundation. Convened and funded by
the Maurice Falk Medical Fund.

Award of Merit and Historic Landmark
Plaque Reception
Monday, October 26
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
The Frick Art & Historical Center

Halloween Tour of Richardson's Jail
Friday, October 30
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(subject to change)

Art Deco Lecture and Tour
(Pitt's Informal Program)
Lecture: Thursday, November 5
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tour and Exhibition:
Saturday, November 7
9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon

Downtown Holiday Walking Tour
Saturday, December 12
12 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Church Tour and Carol Sing
Sunday, December 20
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Establish a Named Fund
- Holy 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 supports 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 #4045a or regarding your existing Named Fund, please call
Arthur Ziegel, Phipps Hoffstot, or
Cathy Broucek at (1-412) 471-5808.

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Support the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in its work to:
- Identify, document, and work to save architectural landmarks, historic neighborhoods, and historic designed landscapes in Allegheny County;
- Provide loan and technical assistance to community-based organizations that propose feasible plans for historic properties;
- Participate in urban planning issues as an advocate for historic preservation;
- Create educational programs for schools, community groups, members, and friends; and
- Continue a well-managed, responsive, and creative membership organization with the ability to implement these goals on a long-range basis.

Membership Categories
- Senior Citizen $25 or more
- Individual $20 or more
- Family $25 or more
- Schools and Non-profits $15 or more
- School Districts $50 or more
- Corporate $250 or more
- Life Benefactor $5,000 (in one-time gift)

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BOOK REVIEWS


We may think, at times, that certain people have unfair advantages in life; and yet some of these people disarm us by putting these advantages to the finest use, by living up to all the benefits they received. Thus it was with Henry Hobson Richardson, bright, handsome, cheerful and sociable, rich at first, with Harvard and the Pectoral Club as added background, and a proverbous circle of acquaintances that offered him job after job. O’Gorman shows Richardson the job-getter in action in Cincinnati by way of introduction to his study, and a formidable job-getter he was meeting all the right people, out in the town, being a man among men, eventually winning out over five competitors. The Chiristler of Commerce design of 1883 seems a little lacking in reality, and it has never quite attracted the interest given to its contemporaries, the Allegheny County Buildings and the Marshall Field Wholesale Store, but it is not a great building it was certainly a big one, a prize to win.

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This is the second of a series “covering the historical facilities of the Pennsylvania Railroad in the Pittsburgh area.” The first book, the *Pennsy in the Steel City*, has been out of print for several years. The present book is an excellent document, covering its subject from the turn of the century and showing rolling-stock, buildings, bridges, trackage, and equipment. A number of construction shots are included. Sections deal with “P.R.R. Main Line East of Pittsburgh” as far as Pimlico; “The Pennsline” into Oboe and “The First Wayne” down to Beaver Falls. To quote Osbert Lancaster, for those who like this sort of thing, it is very much the sort of thing that they like. We are going to value our copy.

POSTCARD FOLDERS

William Dixon, a friend of Landmarks living in Sarasota, has made yet another gift to our library: four mailers with foldout postcard images of the Pittsburgh area, dating from between about 1915 and 1942, and one of about 1915 of Wilkinsburg. Our thanks to Mr. Dixon for these vivid images.

LANDMARKS WELCOMES

FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF PITTSBURGH, THE GABRETH COMPANY, HIGHMARK BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD, and OXFORD DEVELOPMENT COMPANY as Corporate Member Benefactors.

Members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation form a strong collective voice on behalf of historic preservation and help Landmarks achieve its goals.

- Protecting the Places that Make Pittsburgh Home.

TRUSTEE GIFT MAKES LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS POSSIBLE

The Richard D. Edwards Library Fund was established by Landmarks in 1997 to benefit the James D. Van Trump Library, thanks to a generous unrestricted contribution from Mr. Edwards, a trustee and founding member of Landmarks. The inaugural Edwards Fund purchase was new shelving to accommodate books donated by Walter C. Kennedy. The first books acquired through the Edwards Fund was Margaret Henderson Floyd’s book on H. H. Richardson, a wonderful and extraordinary study of a great architect whose importance is local as well as international, as well as the memorial of its author who was a dear and respected friend of Landmarks. Titles so far acquired are:

- *The Decorative Art of Arabia* [Studio Library of Decorative Art] London: Studio Editions, 1989; illustrations and text from two classic French books by Jules Bourgoin (1873) and Achille Tisse D’Inverneys (1877).
Passing the Torch: Arensberg, Van Dusen, Hallen

On April 7, 1998 Philip D. Hallen, president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund, was unanimously elected as the third chairman of the board of trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Four years previously, Albert C. Van Dusen had succeeded Charles Conert as executive vice president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund, and Albert Van Dusen has been among the most significant and major publications. Clyde Hare's Pittsburgh: Four Decades of Pittsburgh, Frozen in Light, published by Landmarks in 1995, will be used to write a new city guide.

Valued Friends

Pittsburgh's Landmark Architecture was published as a memorial to Barbara Drew Helfert, co-founder and vice-chairman of Landmarks who died in 1994. Other issues between 1994 and 1998 included James Van Trump, Landmarks' co-founder and architect-volunteer, at the age of 86; trustees Chester LeMaistre, Francis Brooks, Joan Fulton, William R. Oliver, and Meyer Berger; Gay Arensberg, Deiva Miller, and Joe White; all close friends and supporters; and Margaret Henderson Miller, who with her husband Bill, had become close to many atlandmarks and supporters; and Margaret Henderson Miller, who with her husband Bill, had become close to many atlandmarks and supporters.

Trusted and Members Establish Special Funds

The following named Funds were established between 1994 and 1998, thanks to unrestricted gifts from several trustees and members: The Brashear Family Fund; Shadybrook Foundation Fund; Torence M. Hult Fund for Special Projects; Wood Street Fund; Richard D. Edwards Library Fund, and the Ralfsen Family Fund. Thomas O. Hornstein continued his clerical gifts through the Richard D. Edwards Library Fund. Income from the fund was used to purchase new book shelves and to acquire new books. (Please see the article on page 19.) Proceeds from a bequest from Robert L. Spae are being used for the restoration and maintenance of books and archives.

Special Events

Special events include: a breakfast symposium, inaugurated in 1994 by architect Philippe Robert; establishment of a series of Historic Landmarks seminars; two successful Old House Fairs held at Victoria Hall; a successful tour of our members and friends.

Advocacy

Several architectural landmarks were saved, restored, and adapted for new uses thanks to the efforts of other organizations and individuals, with advice and moral support from Landmarks: St. Mary's Church in the North Side (now Pittsburgh's Grand Hall); Bank's Building, downtown (now the headquarters of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy); the old Bank Center buildings, downtown (now The Library Center); and the Gwinner-Harter house and "Sunnyledge," both in Shadyside.

Education

Landmarks' on-going program of tours and courses continued and indeed expanded. Among the new offerings were a weekly noontime downtown walking tour offered June through September and "Downtown Dragons," a walking tour of architectural details prepared for elementary school children. Landmarks' walking tour and mapping exercise with Knoxville Middle School was one of seven projects featured in the recent Historic Preservation Information Booklet of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. A new course on "Art Deco" and an expanded three-part presentation on "Pittsburgh's Architectural Heritage" were added to classes offered by Landmarks through the University of Pittsburgh's continuing adult education program.

Preservation Loan Fund

A major effort began to increase the Preservation Loan Fund. Just over $300,000 was contributed in the calendar year from the Edward Hall Foundation, Federal Home Loan Bank, The Hwart Foundation, The Hillman Foundations, Zacie Mae Foundation, Richard King Mellon Foundation, Mellon Bank, and PNC Bank. In addition, Landmarks' board of directors allocated $1 million from the endowment fund to support the Preservation Loan Fund. As a result, the Preservation Loan Fund now has a lending capacity of $2.8 million. Loans were given to support bricks-and-mortar projects in Shadyside, Bloomfield, Garfield, Homewood Shrubbs, East Liberty, South Side, the Hill District, East Allegheny, and elsewhere.

The CNDI (Comprehensive Neighborhood Development Initiative) was established by Landmarks and Mellon Bank in 1994. The WNI (Working In Neighborhoods) initiative was established in 1995 by Landmarks and eleven local savings banks to provide loans to minority-owned businesses living into historic Hispanics building or buildings in Allegheny County.

Historic Religious Properties

A grant from the Alleghen Foundation in November 1993 enabled Landmarks to begin study in 1994 of the problems facing historic religious properties. As a result, Landmarks began a technical-services and small-grants program in 1994 to help preserve and maintain historic ecclesiastical buildings. The grants program continued thanks to major gifts from trustee Constance O'Neil in 1996 and 1997, combined with year-end gifts from our members and friends.

Endowment for Historic Preservation Created

Certainly the most significant event during this period was the sale of Squirrel Square, one of the largest and most ambitious urban development projects in the United States undertaken by a non-profit corporation. The sale of a long neglected property adjacent to downtown Pittsburgh, saved by Landmarks through the creation of a ground-clearing adaptive use and economic success, created an endowment for Landmarks that will undergird preservation initiatives as well as staff and operating costs.

National Significance

Speaking in Manchester earlier this year, Richard Moe observed that his "trips to major gifts from trustee Constance O'Neil in 1996 and 1997, combined with year-end gifts from our members and friends.

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National Significance

Speaking in Manchester earlier this year, Richard Moe observed that his "trips to Pittsburgh and Manchester [opened] my eyes...to what preservation can be and do." He also stated: "There is no preservation organization on the local level nowhere in the country that can visit the work of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation."

The torch that Albert Van Dusen has passed to Philip Hallen burns brightly.