Priorities in 1999

On November 10, 1998, the Board of Trustees of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation approved a fourteen-page work plan outlining major program priorities in the new year. This work plan will direct much of Landmarks’ activity. Priorities include:

Preservation Loan Fund and Technical Assistance
This year we plan to lend about $1,000,000 in loans to community-based organizations in Allegheny County that propose feasible plans to renovate or find new uses for historic properties. Landmarks’ Preservation Loan Fund is its most effective tool for stimulating neighborhood revitalization.

Our scholarship-assistance program will expand in 1999, so more people from neighborhood organizations will be able to attend educational conferences throughout the United States and gain the skills they need to strengthen their local historic preservation programs.

Advocacy
Staff members are involved in advocacy on local, state, and national levels. In Pittsburgh, we continue to work with the Mayor’s office regarding the proposed retail development for the core area of downtown Pittsburgh, so many of the historic buildings and long-term businesses can be saved and strengthened. We remain active in issues regarding the preservation and renovation of numerous historic school buildings in the city of Pittsburgh (please see the article on page 6), and we continue to conduct field research throughout the county. In regard to transportation planning, we continue to advocate improved public transit in the city with full access to the proposed new retail areas and to the residential areas of the North Side beyond the stadiums, and we continue to monitor the plans for the Mon Valley Expressway.

We routinely testify on preservation issues before City Council, the City Planning Commission, and the Historic Review Commission. We also testify on preservation issues in outlying communities such as Collier Township, Homestead, and Brentwood.

On the State level, we are working with the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission and Preservation Pennsylvania on matters such as the Downtown Location Law (H.B. 969) and the Historic Homesite Bill (H.B. 2694). We are also working with the Department of Community and Economic Development on the possible formation of a city-wide Main Street program.

Nationally, we are working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation Action on the anti-sprawl/saving small towns and rural buildings program.

Historic Religious Properties Initiative
Thanks to a lead gift from trustee Constance O’Neil and year-end gifts from our members and friends, Landmarks will again provide assistance to historic religious properties in Allegheny County. We are planning a seminar this fall that will include a program of financial and technical assistance to owners of historic religious properties.

Historic Landscape Preservation
Through collaborative efforts with public agencies, neighborhood organizations, professional groups, educational institutions, and other non-profits, Landmarks will continue to advocate the preservation and restoration of the public landscape.

(continued on page 8)
New Members in 1998

Thank you for joining us in 1998. We greatly appreciate your membership support and encourage you to renew your membership this year so you can continue to enjoy the educational programs and preservation services we offer.

Edward P. Dorris
Tom Dreyer and family
Lerith L. Dresher
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dunbar
Britta C. Dwyer
East Lawrence Elementary School
Ennenawser Elementary School
Stephanie K. Ellefsen
Judith E. Elks
Beth Evans
Michael A. Jacobs
Mike Fackovec and family
Dan Fales
Marie Farrell
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh
David Finneman and family
Whitney A. Finstrum
Hilled Academy Fischer
Paul Forrest and family
Sally R. Fosler
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley L. Fosler and family
Mr. & Rev. Mrs. Edward F. Frick
Edward Blair Gallagher
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Geiger and family
Charles C. Geoghegan
Fr. Carl Gentile
Evelyn and James George
Nancy S. George and family
Jennifer Georges
Girl Scout Troop 1070
Lynn Gloreous
Lois Gourley
Greater Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau
Jean Green
James and Linda Greenberg
Jeffrey Grube
Lee M. Haller
Beth and John Hallerud
Hampton Middle School
Tom Hanichett
Ruth M. Hanriff
Nancy Hart
Betty P. Havil
Hayes Large Architects
Frances L. Heiner
Mary Ann and David Henderson
Rebecca Hinn and David Celento
Fritzie Hezah
Holli Hicks Opperman and family
Commercial Payment Systems
Historical Society of Carnegie, Pennsylvania
Mildred C. Hoffmann
Allyson Holts and Brian Koski
Deborah L. Houston
Elena Howld
Allison M. Howard
Bob H. Howard
Theresa Hurley and family
International Society for Measurement and Control
March and Bill Isler
James F. Isreal and family
Edward F. Jacob, Jr.
Rose Ann Jacob
Mary Patricia Jackson
Dr. Kenneth Jaros and family
Karen Kralick
Grace Altman Gates Sconza
Elizabeth Santillo
Maria Santiago
Grace Alman Gates Scona
Donna Scott
Grace Selling
Sweekley Academy
Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Sheldon
Latonya Jo Sugriers
Sally and Loren Sigel
De Ann Snak
Janet Skippen
Randall D. Snure and family
South Fayette High School
South Vo Tech High School
Mr. & Mrs. John Stanko
Catherine J. Steinberg
Mr. & Mrs. dock R. Taylor, Jr.
Donald L. Trump and family
Jamie Todd
Karen Van Ausdal
Melvin L. Veesy
Joanne D. Vey and family
Stacy G. Vey
Mary Loew
Washington Elementary School
F. P. Bigda
Marilynn B. Weber
Howard L. Wein and Susan Bails
Mr. & Mrs. J. Brian Weller
Jane Wood and family
Alphonso Wertz
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Wertz
Sara Wright
Diane Whittaker
Phil Wilkin and family
Brenda Whisper
Jeff Wosnauer
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Yago
Suzanne L. Youngmayer and family
Kris and Errik Zuzi and family

Corporative Members

We thank the following corporations and organizations for their membership support in 1998:

Benefactors

Carter & Edwards/Cincinnati
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Elwood Group, Inc.
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Mellon Bank
Northern State Bank
Pittsburgh Light Company
Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh Sun Safety
Port Authority of Allegheny County
PNC Education Foundation
PNC Bank
PNC Foundation
PNC Financial Services Group
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Pittsburgh Press
Pittsburgh Sun Safety
PNC Bank
PNC Foundation
PNC Financial Services Group
PPF News is published four times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, a non-profit historical preservation organization serving Allegheny County. Pittsburgh History & Landmarks is committed to neighborhood restoration and historic property preservation; public advocacy; historic landscape preservation; educational programs; and membership services.

© 1999 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

PHLF News is published four times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, a non-profit historical preservation organization serving Allegheny County. Pittsburgh History & Landmarks is committed to neighborhood restoration and historic property preservation; public advocacy; historic landscape preservation; educational programs; and membership services.

© 1999 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Edited by Louise Sturgess and Walter C. Kidney

Designed by Pytlk Design Associates
Historic religious buildings are familiar, cherished sites in our lives, where not only artistry, but personal and collective memories and cultural traditions are found.
Recent Awards and Appointments

Arthur P. Zigler, Jr., president of Landmarks, was recognized as one of Pittsburgh Magazine's 1998 Pittsburghers of the year. Also in 1998, Arthur was elected to the Board of Preservation Pennsylvania, and locally he was asked to serve on the Public Space Committee of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership.

Howard B. Slaughter, Jr., director of preservation services at Landmarks, was appointed in 1998 to the Board of Advisors to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Board of Directors of Preservation Action, and locally to the Steering Committee of the Multi-Cultural Arts Initiative. At the invitation of The Fanne Mac Foundation, Howard served as a grants evaluator for its Northeastern office for the Maxwell Awards of Excellence Foundation, Howard served as a grants evaluator for its Northeastern office for the Maxwell Awards of Excellence for its Northeastern office for the Maxwell Awards of Excellence.

Recently, Howard was appointed in 1998 to the Board of Preservation Pennsylvania, and Arthur led a round-table discussion of critical matters for such preservation organizations.

Meetings of Note

Here, we highlight a few of the organizations and institutions that Landmarks staff members were involved with in 1998.

• In March, Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. addressed a national conference hosted by the University of New Orleans' college of Urban and Public Affairs on the topic of historic preservation and economic development.

• In April, Howard met with representatives in Marlboro, Massachusetts to help the neighborhood develop a clearer sense of its priorities in regard to neighborhood banks and reinvestments, public policy, and public service.

• Howard was involved with three universities in 1998: he met with Carnegie Mellon University students to describe how Landmarks has contributed to urban revitalization in the Pittsburgh region; he provided information to enhance an advance program at Duquesne University for non-profit leadership; and at the New Jersey Historical Society and Rutgers University Conference entitled “Arts Transforming Urban Environment,” he discussed the importance of integrating historic preservation with economic development.

• On September 26 to 28, Howard and Cathy Brusick served on the Host Committee for the Pittsburgh visit of the President's Council on Sustainable Development. Cathy chaired the Marketing Committee, and Barry Hanagan offered input during the Community Meeting. The Community Meeting kicked off a year-long initiative on a “Sustainable Pittsburgh” program, including discussion about land-use planning, reuse of infrastructure and buildings, and the environment.

Drugstore Invasion

Homestead, Pennsylvania, incorporated in 1880, is famous in the history of the steel industry. It is also inextricably linked with a famous conflict of labor and management: the Homestead Strike of 1892. Although the mills are gone, Homestead's once-thriving main street (East Eighth Avenue) remains remarkably intact with commercial architecture from the period c. 1890-1940. Due to its architecture and history, this area was included in the Homestead Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places June 10, 1990.

The first block of East Eighth Avenue, the gateway into Homestead, is being threatened by CVS pharmacy which wants to build a 10,000 square-foot building surrounded by parking. To build this sprawling development, CVS needs to demolish ten buildings in the Homestead Historic District. At the request of Homestead community groups and concerned citizens, Landmarks got involved. We reviewed Homestead's ordinances and found numerous provisions with which CVS had failed to comply. We advocated preservation of the historic buildings at Homestead Borough Planning Committee and Borough Council meetings. We met with CVS Regional Vice President of Real Estate and its developer—The Gistine Company—about utilizing the non-historic land opposite CVS' proposed site, and even commissioned an architect to draw a plan for the alternate site.

To date, the Homestead/CVS conflict has been the subject of numerous articles and editorials in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and the McKeesport Daily News. The Money & Business section of the Providence Sunday Journal (CVS is headquartered in Rhode Island) detailed the national expansion plans of CVS' new president, Tom Ryan, and Homestead's resistance. The headline read “CVS Steel Town Tests Ryan and CVS.” The invasion of the mega-drugstores on historic main streets is occurring across the country. Community ire, coupled with media attention, is spotlighting the fact that CVS, Eckerd, Rite-Aid, and Walgreens will care little about the architecture and heritage of the communities in which they choose to locate unless the town and its citizens require this respect.

Drugstore Invasion

Homestead, Pennsylvania, incorporated in 1880, is famous in the history of the steel industry. It is also inextricably linked with a famous conflict of labor and management: the Homestead Strike of 1892. Although the mills are gone, Homestead’s once-thriving main street (East Eighth Avenue) remains remarkably intact with commercial architecture from the period c. 1890-1940. Due to its architecture and history, this area was included in the Homestead Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places June 10, 1990.

The first block of East Eighth Avenue, the gateway into Homestead, is being threatened by CVS pharmacy which wants to build a 10,000 square-foot building surrounded by parking. To build this sprawling development, CVS needs to demolish ten buildings in the Homestead Historic District. At the request of Homestead community groups and concerned citizens, Landmarks got involved. We reviewed Homestead’s ordinances and found numerous provisions with which CVS had failed to comply. We advocated preservation of the historic buildings at Homestead Borough Planning Committee and Borough Council meetings. We met with CVS Regional Vice President of Real Estate and its developer—The Gistine Company—about utilizing the non-historic land opposite CVS’ proposed site, and even commissioned an architect to draw a plan for the alternate site.

To date, the Homestead/CVS conflict has been the subject of numerous articles and editorials in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, and the McKeesport Daily News. The Money & Business section of the Providence Sunday Journal (CVS is headquartered in Rhode Island) detailed the national expansion plans of CVS’ new president, Tom Ryan, and Homestead’s resistance. The headline read “CVS Steel Town Tests Ryan and CVS.” The invasion of the mega-drugstores on historic main streets is occurring across the country. Community ire, coupled with media attention, is spotlighting the fact that CVS, Eckerd, Rite-Aid, and Walgreens will care little about the architecture and heritage of the communities in which they choose to locate unless the town and its citizens require this respect.

“Big City” Preservationists Meet

The National Trust convened the leaders of “big city” preservation groups in early July 1998 for a retreat in Boston to discuss programs and problems.

Leading the group was Mayor Thomas Menino of Boston, who takes a strong personal interest in the role of historic preservation in urban and neighborhood revitalization.

The meeting was held in the historic Parkman House on Beacon Hill facing the Boston Common, restored by Mayor Menino and used for private meetings and conferences by the Mayor’s office.

Representatives attended from many cities around the country including Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, New York, San Antonio, New Orleans, Baltimore, Detroit, Cleveland, Fort Worth, Philadelphia, New York, and Indianapolis. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr. and Arthur P. Zigler, Jr. represented Landmarks, and Arthur led a round-table discussion of critical matters for such preservation organizations.

“We learned a great deal about the day-to-day work of preservation groups similar to ours,” said Arthur, “and Mayor Menino helped us see preservation from a Mayor’s point of view and advised us on how we can be effective with city governments.”

An important update was on the use of web pages, such as our own extensive one (www.phlf.org), and on the relationship between historic preservation and the growing high-tech world. The group reconvened at the National Trust Convention in Savannah in October 1999.
Loans from Landmarks Help Revitalize Lawrenceville and the Strip

Lawrenceville
On August 26, 1998 the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation provided a $300,000 below market-rate loan to the Lawrenceville Development Corporation so that eight properties in the 3400 block of Butler Street, including two historic buildings, could be purchased. These properties are adjacent to Doughboy Square, whose World War I statue and small urban space serves as the portal to the Lawrenceville neighborhood. The Lawrenceville Development Corporation, with financial assistance from PNC Bank, the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and the Local Initiative Support Corporation, plans to restore and redevelop the eight properties.

The two historic buildings purchased are of interest architecturally and historically: The first building, a massive brick and stone structure of 1888, served as a stable and is marked by a carved stone horse head above the arched central doorway. The stable building had been used as an automobile repair shop and, consequently, its stark interior was blackened by years of oil and soot. The interior has been transformed into a predominantly white, airy workspace punctuated with various colors on walls, handrails and doors, thanks to the architectural firm of Kingsland Scott Bauer Associates who will also be the building tenant. The second building is a former bathhouse originally funded in part by Henry Phipps, dating to 1904. The building contained eighteen showers, ten tubs, and washing machines for mill workers whose homes did not have modern plumbing. When restored, the bathhouse will provide over 7,500 square feet in commercial space.

Landmarks has retained an easement on these two buildings to ensure the proper restoration and continued facade preservation. The acquisition and redevelopment of the eight properties is significant because it ensures the continued renovation of Lawrenceville’s once-bullding commercial district. Recently, the Lawrenceville Development Corporation helped to restore the Pennsylvania National Bank building in Doughboy Square and the Engine Company Number Twenty-five building. Improving Doughboy Square and its adjacent properties will act as a catalyst for future improvement and development along Butler Street and Penn Avenue.

The Cigar Factory
In 1895, the Collins Cigar Company occupied the warehouse at the corner of Smallman and Twenty-eighth Streets in Pittsburgh’s Strip District. Immigrants from Polish Hill and the surrounding area rolled stogies in the building until 1923, when it was sold to the Keystone Box Company. Architect Joel Kranich has transformed the property into a combination of twelve residential condominiums, commercial space, and adjacent parking, with help from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

In March 1998, Mr. Kranich approached Landmarks for funding for the historic rehabilitation project. Although the project did not meet the criteria for a low-interest Preservation Fund loan, it is in a district where Landmarks would like to see the historic architecture sensitively restored and adapted for new uses. According to Landmarks’ president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., “We felt it was a sound investment even though the project was not yet ready for bank financing.” Thus, with a $450,000 market-rate loan from Landmarks, Kranich’s team was able to purchase the property. Additional construction financing was provided by the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

The Cigar Factory, as the project is known, hopes to capitalize on the building’s history and architecture, its proximity to the Strip District’s markets and nightlife, and the rise in urban living. The massive red brick, turn-of-the-century industrial building has windows with views of downtown and the Allegheny River, ceiling heights of seventeen feet, and exposed wooden timbers.

The Cigar Factory joins a handful of recent warehouse conversions in the Strip District. The massive Armstrong Cork buildings by Frederick John Osterling at Twenty-third and Railroad Streets are being converted into upscale, affordable Riverfront Apartments, restaurants, and shops (see the article on page 6). Next door on Twenty-fourth and Railroad Streets, the Crane Building, constructed in 1922 for a national manufacturer of plumbing fixtures, was restored in 1995, again with the financial assistance of Landmarks. Landmarks’ $5,000,000 short-term loan helped the owner embark on property improvements without waiting for conventional financing. On the exterior, windows were restored and the red brick was cleaned, revealing the light stone belt courses and keystone accents above each window. On the interior, all non-structural elements were demolished and redesigned on a build-to-suit basis for each new commercial tenant.

At Twenty-ninth and Smallman, Joodda Sampson, a trustee of Landmarks, has restored the former Ruud Water Heater building as the Strip Lofts.

IN THE STRIP, en route to Lawrenceville, take note of a recently renovated building at 2001 Penn Avenue, now housing Klavon’s Ice Cream Parlors and Coffee Shop.
Preservation Scene

Landmarks Nominates Pittsburgh Schools to HRC

At the beginning of September 1998, the Pennsylvania Department of Education revised its guidelines that had heavily favored new construction over renovation of older buildings. Now school boards can seek reimbursement for those renovation projects. As a result, the prospects for maintaining extant school buildings have greatly improved. Landmarks, Preservation Pennsylvania, and Ronald C. Yochum of the Brentwood School Board (and of Landmarks’ staff) are to be credited for the successful pro-preservation effort.

In November, Landmarks nominated the following Pittsburgh buildings to the Historic Review Commission: all are now, or have been, public schools within the present city limits. They are listed here in chronological order: Bedford (1835); Springfield (1871); Birmingham (1871); Lower Merion (1872); Bayard (1874); Monroe (1174); Footer (1896); Spring Hill (1909); Morton (1925); Fifth Avenue High School (1936); Lower Merion (1936); Woodslair (1937); Wightman (1937); Latimer (1938); Swett (1939); Friendship (1939); McCleary (1940); Fulton (1940); Madison (1942); Lindon (1943); Park Place (1943); Allegheny High School (1945); Fort Pitt (1945); Baxter (1946); Conway (1946); Railroad (1942); Collins (1911); Westinghouse (1914); Dilworth (1915); Rogers (1915); Greenfield (1916); South Hills (1919); Gladesdale (1920); Langley (1920); Beechwood (1923); Oliver (1924); Perry (1925); Briggs (1925); Fick (1927); Alkelderic (1927); Knoxville (1927); Lebanon (1930); Connell (1930); Arindal (1931); Prospect (1931); Mifflin (1932); Weil (1935); Washington (1937); Lemington (1937); Concord (1939); Schiller (1939); Stevens (1939); and Leechie (1941). (N.B. these are the dates of the most interesting parts of the schools, which may have come together gradually.) Most are still owned by the Board of Public Education.

These fifty-three schools represent an architectural evolution from hardened and boxy schools to ones striving for picturesque effects; then, after unification of the Pittsburgh school system, into pictorial architectural essays that in the 1930s were largely Art Deco.

City-County Building

The City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, in what seems to be uneasy concert, are to spend $1.38 million over a three-year period to clean and repair the City-County Building on Grant Street. The interior, part Henry Hornbostel, part Edward B. Lee, part whoever wanted what in a given place, is elegant in its public spaces, simple with bursts of richly figured bronze and glowing marquetry here and there, and it will be good to see everything back in good condition. Much has been done by now, though the Post-Gazette, in the fall of 1998, noted the exposure of bright blue bricks in the basement tile vaults of the entrances that we fail to see. Expected thus far appear to be three of the County’s notorious elevators, though the few for which the City is responsible will be repaired at a cost of $800,000.

At Last: Armstrong Cork

On July 14, 1998, Landmark America, a Portland, Maine developer, submitted plans to the City Planning Commission for the Armstrong Cork factory’s redevelopment: these plans, unlike others before, are for real. Three Armstrong buildings by Frederick John Osterling, dating from between 1901 and 1913, lie close to the Allegheny River between Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Streets in the Strip District. They are to be made over as follows:

• a seven-story building along Twenty-third Street, into 14,000 square feet of restaurant and retail space (including a terrace toward the river) with one- and two-bedroom apartments and efficiencies above.

• a seven-story building along Twenty-fourth Street, into one- and two-bedroom apartments and efficiencies.

• a ten-story building by the Allegheny, into a 6,000-square-foot restaurant, with a terrace toward the river, and apartments above.

There will be 317 residential units in all. There will be demolition and new construction elsewhere on the site. Across Railroad Street, the developers are planning a new office and garage block, designed to be in harmony with the Osterling buildings.

The Carrie Furnaces

It appears that a first legal step has been taken toward securing the future of the two remaining Carrie Furnaces, Numbers 6 and 7. At the end of October, the Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, the owners of the Park Corporation, and Allegheny County reached a preliminary agreement that the last-named party would assume title to the furnaces with the idea of making them a National Park Service site and nominating them as a National Historic Landmark.

The Homestead Works across the river is not affected one way or another, but it does seem that two of the most conspicuous and symbolic objects of Pittsburgh industry will remain. We have been helpless before the topping of the Eliza Furnaces at the foot of

Eliza Furnaces at J&L, minutes before one was topped in 1902.

Oakland, the Shenango Furnaces on Neville Island, and Dorothy Six and other blast furnaces at Duquesne, but we seem at last to have something we can hold on to: along with, let us remember, the surviving furnaces at Edgar Thomson.

Aesculapius at Pitt

Charles Keck’s terra-cotta bas-relief of Aesculapius, the ancient medical god, no longer looks down on Fifth Avenue from the hillside Pitt campus. It was taken down carefully from Pennsylvania Hall in early June, and is in storage awaiting re-installation at a place and time not yet known. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania Hall, designed by Henry Hornbostel, is slated for demolition to make way for new tennis courts.

Award of Merit Nominations

Call Walter Kidney at (412) 471-5808 if you would like to nominate an individual or organization for consideration by Landmarks’ 1999 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.

Deconsecration

The conversion of the Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist into the Church Brew Works in Lawrenceville, with the brew kettle in the sanctuary, created enough indignation and censure that the Diocese is henceforth determined to strip any property it sells of any explicit religious symbolism unless it is continuing in Christian religious use. If a church is going secular, this can create a delicate situation. Not only must movable furnishings and confessional statues, and crosses be moved but integral parts of the construction such as frescoes, bas-reliefs, and mosaics. Of course, stained glass that represents religious figures and scenes must be taken away, destroyed, or possibly covered. The probable conversion of St. Michael Archangel, on the South Side Slopes, into a bed-and-breakfast will not impose severe problems in this regard as far as we can tell, but a church with an elaborate iconographic scheme with built-in symbolic carvings could end up mutilated.

B’Nai Israel

The Urban League has leased a portion of this synagogue complex for a school, and is in the process of developing a business plan for full use of the complex, which it may purchase. A work of Henry Hornbostel and others, on Negley Avenue in East Liberty, would thus find a new purpose and be secured.

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.
68 Steuben Street

We realized that the 68 Steuben Street house in the West End had its devoted advocates, and that there were inducements for us to be among them. Yet we saw a plain wooden house, badly deteriorated so it appeared, whose porch had been torn away when a vehicle hit it. It had no beauty of detailing, materials, or proportion, and was thus not “architecture” in the sense of visual artistry in construction. As a museum of the ethnic working class as some proposed, it would have occasioned problems of restoration, access, and parking for which there seemed to be no organized solution in place. Similar problems would have applied to the park proposed for around the house. We had to disappoint some friends, but found no way of taking hold and supporting its preservation in the absence of a plan that resolved all the problems, including funding.

New Home for a Door

The front door of 68 Steuben Street was removed to the board-and-batten Lowen house at Beechview, which needed a new front door. Landmarks purchased a facade easement on the Lowen house which is being restored by Tom Simons.

In Time for the 500

As a principal locus for the Fortune 500 Forum, held in Pittsburgh in 1998, the Westin William Penn had an early chance to show off a $25 million renovation. Some items were: $900,000 on six meeting rooms; $540,000 on five suites; $800,000 on elevator overhauls; and $300,000 for a new telephone system.

Footbridges to the Slopes

In mid-October 1998 the controversy about the closing of two footbridges seemed to be approaching a resolution, whether or not the news would be good or bad. The bridges over the old Pennsylvania line at the foot of the South Side Slopes belong to the railroad, but the City is hiring engineers to see what can be done to restore them. The City will depend on the bridges for foot access to schools, shopping, services, and public transportation.

In Bethel Park

Don Anderson, who formed the Bethel Park Historical Society in 1989, has resigned as president. The purchase of a 1905 school building in 1996 and its establishment as the Schoolhouse Arts Center was a major accomplishment under his presidency, but it led to a County attempt at taxation. Anderson’s argument for tax exemption succeeded at the middle of this year.

G. A. R. Post in Need

The Andrew Carnegie Free Library, in Carnegie, Pa., contains one of the country’s few original, intact Civil War Veteran posts. It is named the Thomas Eepy Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 153. The room is well preserved since its closing after the final roll call in 1937, and contains 17 Civil War artifacts including flags, books, and relics. A committee is publicizing the room’s existence and seeking support for an extensive renovation effort. For information: Ninth Pennsylvania Reserves, P.O. Box 10402, Pittsburgh, PA 15234 or (1-412) 885-4176.

The Conrad Project

The Conrad Project is attempting to establish a National Museum of Broadcasting in Pittsburgh, and a key display, it hopes, is a garage in Wilkinsburg. There, the Westinghouse engineer Frank Conrad conducted experiments that led to commercial radio. In mid-September 1998, the Project was trying to disassemble and store the garage while acquiring an appropriate location for it and the means for its construction. Interested parties can write the National Museum of Broadcasting/Conrad Project, 407 Woodside Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221, or call (1-412) 241-4508.

The Mellon banking room

The New Lord & Taylor’s

One gathers that Lord & Taylor projects a quiet and sumptuous image, and when one considers its intended Pittsburgh home, now the principal Mellon Bank, thoughts turn to Wanamaker’s, that colossal palazzo of commerce in Philadelphia. The Mellon Bank, designed by Trowbridge & Livingston around 1922, has the same gray-granite reserve, and the same quiet self-identification in bronze, as the much-larger Wanamaker’s of 1911 by D. H. Burnham & Co. Inside, both have grand spaces that rise nearly full-height, Mellon’s being about 60 by 160 feet in plan and 62 feet high.

To save this old banking room would give the new store true elegance, and perpetuate one of the city’s great interiors. A look at a Sanborn fire-insurance atlas suggests a ground floor area of 27,000 square feet, banking floor and all, with maybe 18,000 square feet on any upper floor behind the great Ionic columns. Should there be three such new floors, there would be a total of 81,000 square feet. Conversation with the May Company suggests slightly smaller figures though, and May has reached no conclusion about the central space as yet.

Mellon has submitted a nomination for the building as a City Historic Landmark, with the collaboration and full approval of Landmarks and the May Company, which will probably assume title to the building in March. At the time of publication, Landmarks and Lord & Taylor had agreed to meet to discuss the interior restoration.

The Wanamaker store in Philadelphia, a possible precedent in its grand court at the center of things as in its retreat dignity. Lord & Taylor may have no room for a giant pipe organ or the bronze effigy of an eagle, but perhaps the luxury of a great space will be found in some way affordable.
Fourth Annual
Old House Fair
of Victoria Hall

Priorities in 1999

Barry Hannegan, director, will develop educational programs regarding designed landscapes, and supervise the implementation of model projects such as historic neighborhood gardens.

Neville House
The Story of "Woodside": The History, Architecture, and Archaeology of a Western Pennsylvania Farm, by Ronald C. Carlisle, is now available. (Please see the book order form on page 14.) The 184-page book, funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Neville House Associates, and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, tells about the Neville family, Wessels and Fauster families who occupied the house for 200 years, and discusses what we know about the physical evolution of the house.

The Neville House will be open for public tours and special events on Sundays throughout the summer, thanks to the leadership of the Neville House Associates. Landmarks will continue to make needed improvements to the house and grounds, and the Neville House Advisory Committee and Colonial Dames will assist with the interior restoration.

We remain concerned about the impact of the proposed new development along Route 50 in Collier Township and the adverse impact that will have on the National Historic Landmark, and continue to work with the Neville House Associates and citizens of Collier Township to oppose the development.

Education, Membership, and Library Services
This year promises to be full of special events, tours, lectures, and book receptions, so sort through your mail carefully and be alert to invitations from Landmarks.

Tim Knox of the National Trust of Great Britain spoke to our members on February 11, and the Old House Fair will take place on February 27 at Victoria Hall in Bloomfield. Plan on attending!

Landmarks is participating in a city-wide program in the spring, “Living Architecture, Alive in Pittsburgh.” The legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright will be explored through a series of exhibits, conferences, tours, and special events. We are hosting several tours for prestigious out-of-town groups as a result of these events, including the Royal Oak Foundation, the American affiliate of the National Trust of Great Britain, the Columbus Landmarks Foundation, and the Taliesin Fellowship.

Throughout the year, watch for a series of thirty-second spots on WQED-TV building awareness about Landmarks’ work.

Three books will be published, if all goes well. Chronicle of a Pittsburgh Family, by Evelyn B. Pearson; Pittsburgh Bridges: Architecture and Engineering, by Walter C. Kidney; and an illustrated chronology of Landmarks’ accomplishments since 1964, on the occasion of its thirty-fifth anniversary in September.

We will continue to offer a variety of educational programs for students and teachers throughout the county, and we will work with the South Side Local Development Company to provide educational services through the Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program. If you have not yet visited the James D. Van Trump Library (on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square), plan to do so in the new year. Schedule an appointment by calling Al Tamler at (1-412) 471-5808.

Several rare books and photographs are featured on pages 14 and 15 of this issue.

In March, we are hosting a reception in Washington, D.C. for expatriates who continue to be interested in Landmarks’ work and in the future of our city. We continue to rely on our members for support and volunteer assistance, and encourage you to become more involved by calling Mary Lou Denny at (1-412) 471-5808.

In Conclusion
Our staff looks forward to implementing our work plan, and to respond to requests for more information on initiatives summarized here, please call Louise Sturgess at (1-412) 471-5808. We welcome the comments and suggestions of our members and appreciate the leadership of our board of trustees throughout the year.

Fourth Annual Old House Fair of Victoria Hall

Visit the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation’s Old House Fair and learn how to renovate or improve your old home.

Meet with restoration architects, craftsmen and contractors, conservationists, glass and lighting designers and fabricators, and representatives from insurance companies, lending institutions, and neighborhood organizations.

Attend lectures and demonstrations on related restoration and preservation topics during the Fair.

Take a 20-minute neighborhood bus tour, compliments of “Molly’s Trolleys,” between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Walter C. Kidney, Landmarks’ architectural historian will be available, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to discuss “What Style is Your House?” Those wishing to consult with Mr. Kidney should bring photographs of their house.

Reservations are not required.

Call (1-412) 471-5808 for further information.

Call (1-412) 363-8303 for specific directions to Victoria Hall.

Sponsored by:

Neighborhood Assistance Program/ Neighborhood Finance Services Inc.
Victor Hall

Grand Entrances, Losing, Lost

The Boulevard of the Allies ramp from Grant Street, early in the 1920s.

We are rightly proud of the grand entrances into our city. As you cross the bridge, there is a renowned view.

Do we realize that we have lost other grand entrances into our city? Our great boulevards, Bigelow Boulevard and the Boulevard of the Allies, once descended straight into the city much like the exit from the Fort Pitt Bridge. Unfortunately, for the sake of drivers wanting to enjoy the fastest route around the city rather than into the city, both of these boulevards in recent years have been twisted as they approach the Triangle so that drivers are deflected away from downtown. And, the grand entrances have been lost.

Bigelow Boulevard once landed right beside the Pennsylvania Railroad Station and descended directly to Grant Street, a handsome street in itself. Now it has been bent almost like a horseshoe with minor branches, so that a driver can go straight to the South Hills, or bend eastward via the Boulevard of the Allies by wrapping around the Lower Hill.

The Boulevard of the Allies does much the same thing, providing an exit to the South Hills, or to the North Hills via the Veterans’ Bridge, or onto Bigelow Boulevard and back out toward Oakland. Once it made a simple, proud ascent eastward from Grant Street, between eagle-terminated columns by Frank Vittor. Although the eagle-terminated columns remain, drivers are not allowed to turn from Grant Street onto the Boulevard.

These great boulevards that once linked the eastern areas to downtown now link the south and the north and the east to one another and all but exclude downtown in the process.

There are several minor street exits, but they really feel like back entrances to the center of town, are congested, and certainly lack grandeur. One of these will soon be reduced to a back street under the newly proposed Mellon Bank Building adjacent to the Allegheny County Jail.

These roadway “improvements,” or one might say displacements, have been created even more disorderly by severing the Hill District from downtown. Where remarkable nineteenth-century houses and small commercial buildings once lined a grid pattern of streets on the Lower Hill down to Grant Street, we now have a huge gulf of expressway concrete with dangerous twists, turns, exits, and entrances in too short a space, creating enormous danger to thousands of drivers—a danger augmented by inadequate and confusing signage.

What have we gained by such traffic routes? A few minutes in driving time as weighed against deflection of people away from the center of our city; the loss of grand entrances that would be grander and world-wide just as the Fort Pitt Bridge view now is; another great selling point for visiting Pittsburgh, and the loss of one of the closest most historic, most habitable neighbor- hood to downtown: the Lower Hill.

These are still more casualties in our list of physical, financial, and human disasters that have been imposed upon our city by top-down planning. And the “we know what’s best for the city” attitude—that has afflicted Pittsburgh now for over half a century. It’s time to learn that it doesn’t work.
1998 in Review
Packing One Year in Four Pages

Here, in the next four pages, we have selected memorable photographs and headlines from 1998 to convey the accomplish-
ments of the year—a year packed with events and programs involving nationally recognized leaders in urban planning and preservation, and trustees, members, and friends.

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Phil Hallen Becomes Chairman
Philip B. Hallen, president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund, became the third chairman in Landmarks’ thirty-four years. During the trustee meeting on April 7, 1998, Dr. Albert C. Van Dusen and Charles C. Arensberg were acknowledged as chairmen emeriti.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Phl Hallen Becomes Chairman
Philip B. Hallen, president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund, became the third chairman in Landmarks’ thirty-four years. During the trustee meeting on April 7, 1998, Dr. Albert C. Van Dusen and Charles C. Arensberg were acknowledged as chairmen emeriti.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.

Beginning with the reception on January 8 for Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and continuing through the December Jail tours, downtown walking tour, and holiday church tour, our staff of 21 worked at full speed, offering preservation services, loans, grants, educational programs, and advice on a variety of preservation, urban planning, and historic landscape issues. Events of note include the following:

Phl Hallen is leading our efforts with great enthusiasm and interest. Long active in civil rights and race relations, as well as with health and human service organizations, Phl is building community partnerships with Landmarks and increasing its grassroots activities in the neighborhoods and with schools.
Special Events Well Attended

Many events stand out in 1998: the reception for Richard Moe on January 8; the Old House Fair on February 28; the Historic House and Landscape Preservation Seminar on April 22; the National Trust Main Street Conference and Board Meeting May 17 through 21; the walking tour of Deutschtown on June 17 (attended by 107 people); the weekly summer walking tours downtown, sponsored by CB Richard Ellis/Pittsburgh; the Summer Praise Concert on August 21 starring gospel singer Vickie Winans; the Power of Place conference on October 8 and 9; and the Grand Spaces Seldom Seen bus tour on October 11.

Hardly a day went by when our staff wasn’t taking a reservation for something.

Educational Programs Widely Praised

Thanks to the efforts of Landmarks’ staff and docents, more than 12,000 people participated in our educational programs featuring local history and architecture. We developed programs for several Pittsburgh Public Schools—Collfax, Miller, Northview Heights, Knoxville, Greenway, Frick International Studies Academy, and Martin Luther King—and we continued working with Westmoreland County Schools.

We began working with the South Side Local Development Company, through the Commonwealth’s Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program, to provide educational services to residents of the South Side, including the adjacent public housing communities of Arlington Heights and St. Clair Village.

New offerings included a deck of Kennywood Cards; Downtown Landmarks: Math Facts; the Strip District Stroll; and Pittsburgh Connections to Ancient Civilizations.

All our educational resources are described in a new folder, “Explore Pittsburgh,” funded in part by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. After reviewing the folder of information and the eighteen fact cards, Joseph Newkirk, headmaster of Thurgood Marshall Academy in Wilkinsburg, said: “It was so tasty I almost ate the folder.”

Three Books in the Works

On these two pages you’ll notice photographs of bridges, a portrait of a mother and her children, and historical photographs of the Neville House in Collier Township and some of the people who lived there. These photographs will be included in three books that Landmarks began in 1998, and plans to publish in 1999:

• The Story of Woodville: The History, Architecture, and Archaeology of a Western Pennsylvania Farm, by Ronald C. Carlisle;
• Chronicle of a Pittsburgh Family, by Evelyn Bitner Pearson; and
• Pittsburgh Bridges: Architecture and Engineering, by Walter C. Kidney.

The Story of Woodville was published in January and can be ordered by completing the form on page 14.
PHLF News  
FEBRUARY 1999  

$3,000 to St. Paul Baptist Church in North Point Breeze; and  
$3,000 to West End A.M.E. Zion Church in the West End.

For various improvements:  
$1,500 to the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Downtown;  
$3,000 to the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh in Shadyside;  
$2,500 (in the form of technical assistance) to the Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church;  
$2,500 (in the form of technical assistance) to the Missionary Temple, Church of God in Christ in East Liberty;  
$3,000 to Old St. Luke’s in Scott Township;  
$2,215 to St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Oakland;  
$3,000 to St. Benedict the Moor Church in the Hill District; and  
$1,000 to the Second Baptist Church in Penn Hills.

(continued on page 12)
Historic Landmark Plaques Awarded

Thirteen buildings, two districts, and two streets were designated as "Historic Landmarks" by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation on September 23, 1998. They were:

- St. Augustine Church, 37th and Banderas Streets, Lawrenceville, Ratan & Russell, with John T. Comes, architects. 1899;
- Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, 101 Swissvale Avenue, Swissvale Avenue near Walnut Street, Edgewood, Clifford Lake, architect. 1937;
- Friendship Elementary School, Fifth Avenue and Miltenberger Street, Wilkinsburg, Dwight James Baum, architect. 1939;
- Municipal Building, Race Street, Edgewood, Clifford Lake, architect. 1938;
- Aspinwall Railroad, 101 Swissvale Avenue, Furness, Evans & Co., architects. 1903;
- Historic District, Borough of Aspinwall, Incorporated 1893; Friendship Elementary School, 201 S. Graham Street, Friendship, Charles M. Bartberger, architect. 1899;
- EPA terracing, Stella and Shelly Streets, South Side Slopes. C. 1935;
- Former Fifth Avenue High School, Fifth Avenue and Miltenberger Street, the Bluff, Edward Stotz, architect. 1896;
- Church of the Epiphany, Washington Place and Centre Avenue, the Hill, Edward Stotz, architect. 1902;
- Saint Mary of the Mount Church, 403 Grandview Avenue, Mount Washington, Frederick Suver, architect. 1896;
- Kaufmann Auditorium, 1835 Centre Avenue, the Hill, Edward Stotz, architect. 1928;
- St. Paul Baptist (formerly Point Breeze United Presbyterian) Church, 6701 Penn Avenue, Point Breeze, Lawrence B. Valk, architect. 1887.

The Historic Landmark Designation Committee is chaired by Richard M. Scaife. Over 350 sites in Allegheny County are identified with one of Landmarks' plaques.

1998 Award of Merit Recipients Applauded

On October 26, 1998, following a membership reception at the Car and Carriage Museum at the Frick Art & Historical Center, Landmarks recognized the following individuals and organizations for outstanding achievements in historic preservation and for increasing public knowledge of our heritage: Andrew Bayne Memorial Library, Bellevue; Mel Bodek; Chris Brandt; Brentwood School Board; Emmanuel Episcopal Church; The Frick Art & Historical Center, Point Breeze, and G. Whitney Snyder; Frontier Lofts; Garden Club of Allegheny County and Christina Schmidlapp; The Garfield Jubilee Association; Lawrenceville Development Corporation, Duane Rider and Frank Walsh; Manchester Citizens Corporation; Mt. Lebanon School District; New Guild Studio and Father Richard Lambert of St. John Chrysostom Byzantine Catholic Church, Greenfield; No Wall Productions Development Corporation; Judge Raymond Novak; Loren and Sally Siegel; Frank Sklar; and David and Mary Beth Werner.

Volunteers Log 3,000 Hours

Over one hundred generous volunteers offered their services throughout 1998, spending many hours of time working on office projects, computer data entry, and mailings; conducting tours and illustrated lectures; working at the Old House Fair and the Manchester House Tour. Many of our volunteers are professionals from the community; many are members who simply like to help Landmarks. Each volunteer worked an average of thirty-one hours, which computes to a "grant" of more than $26,000 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.
**A Miracle in Highland Park**

*Barry Hannegan*

In the March 1998 issue of *PHLF News*, I wrote with alarm about the impending sealing of the Highland Park Reservoir. All sources of drinking water in the Commonwealth are mandated to be covered to ensure purity and security from contamination, and there seemed to be no way to exempt the Park’s great artificial lake from the fate that had already overtaken Herron Hill Reservoir—a tight, floating skin of dense plastic and a circumsallvation of high chain link fences and barbed wire. No one was happy at the prospect of losing this great amenity; even the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority pleaded that they were just bowing to the inevitable consequences of an environmental ruling. Pleas by community groups, especially the Highland Park Community Club, by preservationists (notably Landmarks), and other groups and various concerned citizens (conspicuously Councilman Jim Ferlo) seemed to avail nothing. Neither scenic nor recreational nor historic considerations would prevent the appearance of the Reservoir, itself a significant monument since it is arguably the reason for the creation of Highland Park and just possibly the progenitor of the City’s parks system.

The preservation perseverance of Highland Park neighbor David Vance, an architect, finally found an echo. First from the City, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, recognizing the Conservancy as the private partner in the effort to rehabilitate and improve Pittsburgh’s four great parks—Highland, Schenley, Riverview, and Frick. The collaborative partnership is modeled on similar arrangements in cities such as Boston, New York, and Louisville which have enlisted concerned private interest in the on-going struggle to maintain public recreational space in attractive and useful condition.

**Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy**

On April 25, 1998, the City formalized an agreement with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, recognizing the Conservancy as the private partner in the effort to rehabilitate and improve Pittsburgh’s four great parks—Highland, Schenley, Riverview, and Frick. The collaborative partnership is modeled on similar arrangements in cities such as Boston, New York, and Louisville which have enlisted concerned private interest in the on-going struggle to maintain public recreational space in attractive and useful condition.

**Schenley Park**

Although fund raising is one of the Conservancy’s chief responsibilities, it also serves a consciousness raising role by helping re-educate Pittsburghers about their remarkable parks heritage and what it takes to continue to enjoy these essential urban amenities. Working with the firm of LaQuatra-Bonci Associates, Landscape Architects, the City’s Planning Department is preparing a master plan for the parks’ restoration. While the goals of the restoration campaign are relatively obvious, much less clear is the answer to questions regarding long-term committed maintenance and the on-going challenge of changing user demands. These and other essential issues are further clouded by the City’s insistence on creating still more, new, park space, such as Nine Mile Run, at a time when resources of all kinds have dwindled to next to nothing. There is perhaps some irony in this last situation since Pittsburgh already significantly exceeds the national urban average of forty feet of park space per inhabitant.

Postcards donated to the PHLF by Beth Buckholtz, of White Oak, have been digitized and are available on the website of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, www.phlf.org.

**Postcard Donation**

Beth Buckholtz, of White Oak, has donated 82 postcards to our library, many showing Wilkinsburg subjects. We extend our thanks for the photo additions to our postcard scenes, where the Pittsburgh area is documented. In this issue, we are reprinting several postcards donated by Beth to this page and the one of Wanamaker’s on page 7.

---

**CONTRIBUTE to the 1999 publication of Pittsburgh’s Bridges: Architecture and Engineering**

By Walter C. Kidney

In the fall of 1999, Landmarks will publish a 336-page casebound book devoted to the bridges of Pittsburgh, both historic and extant. An essay on the bridge construction and design in this area is followed by a guide to 45 bridges.

Your contribution will ensure a quality publication with over 350 photographs and illustrations, including color photos by Clyde Hare and archival ones from the City, County, PensDot, Army Corps of Engineers, and Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Please contribute by filling out the form below:

Yes, I am (we are) making a contribution to Pittsburgh’s Bridges in the amount of $___________. My (our) check is enclosed, payable to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and referenced to the “Bridge Book.”

I (we) understand that this contribution will be used to support the book’s publication and does not entitle me (us) to a free copy of the book upon publication.

I (we) would like my (our) name(s) to be printed in the contributor’s list in the book as follows:

(please print your name clearly)

All contributors will be invited to the book release party.

Please mail this completed form with your contribution to:

Louise Sturgess
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
One Station Square, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134
www.phlf.org

*Thank you very much for contributing!*
From the Library

Here, we offer no moral or message; these are a few samples of graphics from newly acquired books that members can find in the James D. Van Trump Library.

Henry P. Kirby’s fantasies of quasi-French Never-never Land date from the Richardsonian 1880s and the Chateauesque 1890s. He was apparently the Kirby of Kirby, Petit & Green, a New York office well known once upon a time. Architectural Compositions, a collection of fifty such sketches, was published around 1892.

An honorable product of the Amsterdam School—Dutch Art Deco—was De Bijenkorf (the Beehive), a department store built in The Hague to designs by P. L. Kramer. A book was published to mark the opening on March 25, 1926. The store itself appears on the title page. Elsewhere, apparently, the Bijenkorf trademark is rendered in a modern way: a beehive above the escutcheon of the City of Amsterdam, Bijenkorf’s headquarters town we suppose.

A photo album assembled by an American family after a South American tour shows the whole variety of curiosities appealing to a tourist in the 1920s.

The James D. Van Trump Library also contains a frail Volume 2 of Wooden and Brick Buildings with Details, a product of the late 1870s that several architects seem to have clubbed together to produce.

Library Order Form

Now Available
The Story of “Woodville”
The History, Architecture, and Archaeology of a Western Pennsylvania Farm
Ronald C. Carlisle

BOOK ORDER FORM

- The Story of Woodville tells of General John Neville and his descendants, and the house they occupied for about 200 years. Now a National Historic Landmark in Collier Township, “Woodville” is owned by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and operated as an historic house museum by the Neville House Associates.
- 184-page perfect-bound book, 8” x 10”
- 133 b/w photos and illustrations

Yes, I would like to order copy(ies) of Woodville: The History, Architecture, and Archaeology of a Western Pennsylvania Farm.

quantity total
less 10% membership discount
plus 7% sales tax for PA residents
plus $2.00 for shipping and handling
Total due

□ Check enclosed, payable to PHLF and referenced “Woodville.”
□ Credit card:
  □ AmEx □ Visa □ Mastercard □ Discover

Account # ________________
Expiration ________________
Signature ________________

Please check one:
□ I plan to pick up my book(s) from The Landmarks Store at Station Square. (Please call 765-1042 to be sure the book is there for you to pick up.)
□ Please mail the book(s) to:

____________________________
Name ______________________________
____________________________
Address ______________________________
City State Zip ______________________________

Phone ______________________________
Thank you for your order.

Intern Brent Stauffer

Duquesne University graduate student Brent Stauffer completed an archival internship at Landmarks in the Fall of 1998. Brent, a native of Murry, PA, was graduated from Shippensburg University in 1997 with a B.A. in History. His prior experience included working at the Lycoming County Historical Museum and the Allegheny County Records Center.

At Landmarks Brent accessioned several recent gifts, corrected and expanded the guide to the James D. Van Trump Manuscripts collection, and organized several archival collections including Station Square Transportation Museum Records, Antiques Show Records, and Landmarks Properties Records.
Among Our Photos

These two photographs, the worse for wear after a hundred years, show plain workmen posing in front of fancy houses under construction.

The first is a speculative house. Our Historic Resource Survey of the early 1980s shows two such houses in East Liberty, built in period imager, at Rippey and St. Clair Streets. They were in pitiful condition. On the back of the picture, it says, “James W. Armstrong, carpenter, second from left. House may be on S. Highland near Howe Street around 1900.” No such house exists now, apparently.

The second house, not identified, must be a one-of-a-kind architect-designed work, rather swanky for its middle-class neighborhood. On the back: “Dan Kelly Sr. is the one standing on one leg. The one with the mustache.” And that is all. It is curious to note that the stone lintels on the ground floor are covered with heavy paper or cloth, which will have to be ripped away eventually. Perhaps the mortar is dyed, and until it dried might have stained the stonework.

A Family Record

Terrence M. Hunt, Sr. has sent our library a copy of the recently published Ancestors and Descendants of Roy Arthur and Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt. Individuals of the Hunt family are treated in biographies that follow the main genealogical table. Seven family branches—Handsitter, McQuesten, Lund, Miller, Craig, McMasters, and Markle—are treated individually. There are two appendices, one reproducing the 1667 will of William Hunt, one giving a brief account of other Hunt-related families. The book is copyrighted by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, all inquiries or comments should be directed there.

Chronicle of a Pittsburgh Family

Advance Order Form

$8.95 less membership discount

Book description:

Evelyn Bitner Pearson will celebrate her 89th birthday in June 1999 with the release of her book, Chronicle of a Pittsburgh Family, dedicated to her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The daughter of a newspaper editor and publisher, Mrs. Pearson reveals much about life in Pittsburgh from 1910 to the present, as she recalls family members, experiences, and struggles.

• 160 page perfect-bound book; $9.95 x 9/19

• Approximately 40 bw photographs

Yes, I would like to order ______ copies of Chronicle of a Pittsburgh Family, by Evelyn Bitner Pearson.

_____ x $8.95 ______

quantity total

less 10% membership discount

plus 7% sales tax for PA residents

plus $2.00 for shipping and handling

Total due __________

☐ My check, payable to PHLF and referenced to the “Pearson Book,” is enclosed.

☐ Please charge this to my credit card when the book is published in June:

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Account # ____________________________
Expiration ____________________________
Signature ____________________________

Please check one:

☐ I plan to pick up my book(s) from The Landmarks Store at Station Square. (We will call you in June to let you know when you may pick up the book.)

☐ Please mail the book(s) to:

Name ______________________________
Address ______________________________
City State Zip _________________________
Phone ______________________________

Thank you for your order.

P H L F N e w s  •  F e b r u a r y  1 9 9 9
After participating in one of Landmarks' teacher inservices, Sue Mohney called Louise Sturgess, executive director of Landmarks, to ask if anything could be done to help make her unit on ancient civilizations more relevant to her students. As a result, Landmarks launched the pilot program of “Pittsburgh Connections to Ancient Civilizations.”

On October 21, 1998, thirty students toured the Hall of Architecture, Hall of Sculpture, and Scaife Galleries in the Carnegie Museum where they saw architectural casts, models, and statues of Grecian and Roman gods and architecture.

In the afternoon, they explored Section 14 of Homewood Cemetery, where they searched for columns, temples and pyramids, and sketched various monuments.

Our thanks to the Carnegie and Homewood Cemetery, and to Sue Mahoney, who wrote: “Please keep us in mind when you plan future thematic trips. This one was a keeper.”
Westmoreland County Students Tour the South Side

For the third consecutive year, 200 middle and high school students from Westmoreland County participated in an architectural design project sponsored by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. On October 16 and 27, 1998, they toured East Carson Street and learned about basic design principles of main street restoration. This orientation tour was the first step in a three-month "Streetscape Restoration Design Project."

Once back in their own communities, students worked in groups to select a main street in need of restoration, and they constructed models showing how the exterior facades of the historic buildings could be restored and adapted for new uses. During the process, they strengthened skills in researching, writing, conceptualizing, problem-solving, design and construction, and communication.

On January 29, students presented their models before a jury of architects at the Station Square Sheraton. Photographs of the models will be included in the next issue of PHLF News.

Martin Luther King Students Tour the Mexican War Streets

A chapter in American history has hometown connections for students at Martin Luther King School on Pittsburgh’s North Side. From the school, it is a short walk to the Mexican War Streets, a residential area developed following America’s victory in the Mexican War (1846–48). The streets—Palo Alto, Resaca, Buena Vista, Sherman, Taylor, etc.—are named after battles and generals of that war.

On November 4, 1998, Landmarks’ staff and docents led fifty-fourth- and fifth-grade students on a walking tour of the Mexican War Streets. Before the tour, students had discussed architectural styles and terms and had completed a worksheet created by Landmarks. Their responsibility on the tour was to find the house that matched the one shown in a photo-graph, to sketch that house, and later, in school, to construct a paper-bag building based on that house.

“I was amazed to see how easily the students incorporated the architectural terms into their conversation and essays,” said art teacher Carole Malakoff. Maggie Lewis and Amy Poulucci, fourth- and fifth-grade teachers, noted an improvement in the students’ communication skills as a result of the new vocabulary. “Students now have a better appreciation for old houses, and they understand the hometown connection to the Mexican War,” said Carole.

Right: Docent Bob Loos leads a tour of the Mexican War Streets.

Below: Martin Luther King students display their paper-bag buildings, based on houses in the Mexican War Streets.

Preliminary Streetscape Proposal

Students from Connellsville Area High School in Westmoreland County submitted the following project description in October 1998 for Crawford Avenue in Connellsville, PA:

This street has significant historical value since it is the center of a once becoming commercial area full of thriving industries such as coke, coal, glass, and railroads.

At the present time, the industries are changing, and the area’s commerce has become much more limited. This factor, along with the increase of the elderly population and lack of parking, has caused the area to become quite rundown. Currently, businesses such as banks, drug stores, clothing stores, restaurants, and other novelty stores line the street. These shops are in desperate need of renovation and a means to bring in more profits.

We plan to find an affordable way to return commerce to the area, while accenting its historical value and at the same time modernizing it. We’ve also come up with some very innovative ideas to make the shops along this street more elderly and handicapped accessible and to make parking more convenient.

We will address these ideas and more on January 29, when all will be revealed.
Education News

After School Enrichment

Landmarks Partners with Mercy and Miller Elementary

Every third Thursday, September through June, employees from Pittsburgh Mercy Health System team up with Miller Elementary School students for an after-school program. This year, the Mercy staff suggested the theme: “Our City, Our Home.” They invited Landmarks to outline lesson plans for the ten sessions and teach most of them. Through slide shows, walking tours, neighborhood mapping exercises, and art activities, students are learning about the city, their community, and their family. They record historical facts on a giant timeline, and tape photographs of their experiences on the timeline too.

On December 7, students displayed their neighborhood of paper-bag buildings. Their designs were inspired by buildings they had seen during a walking tour on October 15 and knowledge of neighborhood needs. They created churches, houses, duplexes, a mall, and specialty shops including a gingerbread candy store, Miller’s Ice Cream Shop, Miller Breakfast Buffet, Tanasha’s Fashion Shop & More, Ericka’s and Mareema’s Place, Murfy’s Old Toys, and a family shelter. The paper-bag buildings were displayed in the Mercy cafeteria during the holiday season.

Elbert S. Hatley, executive director of the Hill Community Development Corporation, talked with Miller School students and Mercy mentors during a neighborhood walking tour on October 15, 1998. Building on the skills introduced by Mindy and Robert Fullilove during the Power of Place conference on October 9, students made a map of the blocks surrounding Miller School and color coded the places worth saving, as well as vacant lots, green spaces, and areas of new construction. Marlo Bryant, age 9, created a map after the tour, recalling the neighborhood layout and street names from memory (top right).
Those Who Give to Landmarks Create a Lasting Legacy for Historic Preservation

The generous contributions from our trustees and members, and from private foundations and charitable organizations make it possible for us to offer a full range of historic preservation programs throughout the Pittsburgh region.

CONSTANCE O’NEIL has been a longtime supporter and trustee of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. In 1996, when Landmarks sought to establish its own Historic Religious Properties Initiative, Connie O’Neil provided the necessary funding to spearhead the initiative. As a result of Mrs. O’Neil’s gift, coupled with member donations, Landmarks was able to give over $30,000 in grants in 1997 to improve various religious properties in Allegheny County and organize a very successful seminar addressing preservation concerns of churches and synagogues. Mrs. O’Neil contributed to the Historic Religious Properties program again in 1997 and 1998, so her lead gifts, combined with year-end gifts from our members, have enabled us to continue our seminar and grant program.

I’m particularly proud of the landmark stone house I restored in the Mexican War Streets years ago, and of the restoration work that is occurring at the Calvary United Methodist Church in Allegheny West.

–Constance O’Neil

PHILIP B. HALLEN

Philip B. Hallen, chairman of Landmarks, was honored by the UCP (United Cerebral Palsy) of Pittsburgh as one of eight “Community Heroes” in 1998. On November 11, he received the Humanitarian Award for his work as president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund. He was commended for supporting “mental health programs advocating equal and accessible treatment for everyone, regardless of minority status.”

On November 11, he received the Humanitarian Award for his work as president of the Maurice Falk Medical Fund. He was commended for supporting “mental health programs advocating equal and accessible treatment for everyone, regardless of minority status.”

In Memoriam

Grace Burrell

Grace Jamison Burrell, a founding trustee of Landmarks and trustee emeritus since 1993, passed away on August 24, 1998. She was 98 years old. A dedicated preservationist and humanitaria-n, Mrs. Burrell was proud of her community and family. She worked to make this region a better place and helped her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren discover what is special in life.

At Landmarks, she was very suppor-tive of the Old Post Office Museum, the Antiques Show, and of our neighbor-hood preservation programs. “Although she lived in Upper St. Clair, she had deep feelings and concerns for what was happening in the inner cities,” said Landmarks president Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. “She was deeply committed to improv-ing the environment. We will miss her wise counsel and strong sense of what was right.”

Jane Lehman

Mrs. Alan G. Lehman, long a trustee of Landmarks, passed away on January 15. Deeply interested in the arts and historic preservation, Jane helped Landmarks grow through the years and in particular supported the Station Square initiative.

Her lively mind, tremendous energy, and dedication to the well being of Pittsburgh inspired us. It was our privilege to know and work with Jane. We extend our condolences at this time to her family.

G. Whitney Snyder

A trustee of Landmarks since its early years, G. Whitney Snyder will be greatly missed and fondly remembered by our staff and by his fellow trustees. He passed away on January 16 at his home in Sewickley Heights.

Whitney was Chairman of the Shenango Furnace Company, the Snyder’s family-owned business, and was an ardent supporter of education, preservation, and his community. Throughout his 77-year life, Whitney showed his deep love for these endeavors by founding the Station Square Transportation Museum and then the Car & Carriage Museum at the Frick Art & Historical Center, by serving as President of Sewickley Heights Borough Council, and by chairing Sewickley Academy’s Board of Trustees, among many other associations.

“He accomplished so much good in his lifetime,” said Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of Landmarks. “He was immensely proud of Pittsburgh’s industrial heritage and he understood that we could make Pittsburgh a more attractive place to live and visit if we promoted its history.”

Whitney donated a 600-ton blowing engine and an ingot mold to Landmarks’ Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts at Station Square. His collection of vintage cars comprises 95 percent of those displayed at the Car & Carriage Museum. To Whitney, the joy was in the giving, and he gave freely of his resources and his time.

We were fortunate to have had Whitney as a trustee, and we will long remember his contributions to our organization and to this city.
Once, I wrote of architecture as “the hardware of civilization under the aspects of shelter, planning, space, order, beauty, and hope.” The terminology is vulnerable, subject to skeptical probing. “Order” to me suggests a reassuring state of things, one where everything makes sense, but to others it may have connotations of suppression or boredom. “Beauty,” to some, will suggest a dull textbook norm, and they will find in something at odds with such a norm a greater thrill or intrigue, or find an expression somehow more appropriate under the circumstances. “Hope”? People have built to cause fear or despair, to assert superiority, but one would like to believe that when one builds one attempts beauty and order most of the time, and that when one moves into pre-existing space, one also does so in hope. Look at the pictures on page 15: building as a hopeful act.

The house I show here has disappeared; it stood at Fifth Avenue and Lothrop Street, and as a child I spent my summer here. From here, first escorted, then not, I ventured into the Civic Center, then beyond. In this house, most of the time, there was a sense of Order. There was some Beauty in the house, and more within a few minutes’ walk: beauty of the obvious sort the architects had rallied around the site of the Cathedral of Learning, and some peculiar grimy sorts of beauty, or something, along the walk there. As for Hope, yes: anticipation, the feeling most of the time that the world was benign and vivid. Why else would there be architecture, as opposed to mere physical shelter? Vaults, pilasters, rustications, and spires are unnecessary to survival, but the mind can be stimulated by them, and as one tries to find—or maybe invent—a purpose for human existence, the artistry in using such things may well appear as a furtherance in its fulfillment.