Landmarks Launches Rural Preservation Program

Farms in Allegheny County—some with historic houses, barns, and scenic views—are rapidly disappearing. In their place is urban sprawl: malls, tract housing, golf courses, and highways. According to information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, only 116 full-time farms remained in Allegheny County in 1997.

Lucille C. Tooke Donates Historic Farm

Through a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT), long-time member Lucille C. Tooke has made it possible for Landmarks to acquire its first farm property, the 64-acre Hidden Valley Farm on Old State Road in Pine Township. The property includes a house of 1835 that was awarded a Historic Landmark plaque in 1979. With this form of gift, a donor transfers cash, securities, or other property to the CRUT and in return, avoids capital gains tax, receives a federal income tax deduction, and a percentage of the trust’s value each year. When the CRUT ends (in this case after 20 years), the remaining principal passes to Landmarks. “Great efforts were made to structure the gift to meet Mrs. Tooke’s income needs,” said Jack Miller, director of gift planning for Landmarks, “and to enable Mrs. Tooke’s daughters to receive any remaining income, if Mrs. Tooke should predecease the term of the CRUT.”

But what about preserving the farm? The CRUT’s independent trustee must entertain bids to assure the highest price for any non-cash gifted asset. Mrs. Tooke took the additional precaution of specifying in the CRUT that any organization willing to preserve the property be given the right to match the highest bid. That’s when Landmarks stepped into the plate.

Since Mrs. Tooke chose to make Landmarks the irrevocable beneficiary of her CRUT, Landmarks decided to bid on the property. As the successful bidder, Landmarks could place a restrictive easement on the farm and land to prevent non-agricultural development. Any loss in market value incurred by Landmarks in the resale of the property could be offset by the eventual proceeds of the CRUT.

On December 21, 2000, Landmarks succeeded in buying the 64-acre Hidden Valley Farm from the CRUT. Mrs. Tooke is enjoying her retirement in Chambersburg, PA and her three daughters are excited about having saved the family homestead. Landmarks is now in the process of selling the protected property.

“I believe Landmarks was the answer to my prayers,” says Mrs. Tooke. “I hope Landmarks finds a buyer who loves the place as much as we do and appreciates what was done to save it.”

Anyone interested in purchasing the property can call M. J. Kelly Realty Corp. at (412) 271-5530.

Program Meeting Planned

Landmarks will host a meeting this spring at Hidden Valley Farm with farmers and others interested in farmland preservation in Allegheny County, in cooperation with the Allegheny County Agriculture Land Preservation (ACALP) board and the Western Pennsylvania office of the State Department of Economic Development (PDED). The ACALP is the local administrator of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program that supports the donation of easements to responsible non-profit organizations.

Arthur Ziegler, president of Landmarks, and a representative of PDED will inform farmers in Allegheny County about the State’s program, about Landmarks’ planned giving opportunities, and about the significance of saving historic farm structures and associated land.

Landmarks also has discussed its Rural Preservation Program with Scenic America and with the American Farmland Trust and expects to develop additional programs with their organizations.

If you are interested in attending the meeting at Hidden Valley Farm, please call Jack Miller at (412) 471-5808, ext. 538. Be sure that he has your name, address, and phone number so he can send you further details regarding the meeting.

NOTE: The information contained in this article should not be construed as legal or tax advice. Persons considering any planned gifts should first discuss them with their personal financial and/or legal advisors. Gifts of real estate are reviewed by Landmarks on an individual basis and must meet criteria set forth in our gift acceptance policy. To learn more about creative ways you can leave a legacy to Landmarks and western Pennsylvania, please contact our Web site at www.phlf.org or contact Jack Miller, director of gift planning at (412) 471-5808, ext. 538.
Welcome New Members
(As of March 5, 2001)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING! Your membership strengthens our organization—and brings you benefits, too: discounts at several Bed & Breakfasts; free walking tours and postcards; and invitations to special events. For the most up-to-date news, check our Web site at www.phlf.org.

Richard Henry Mattmerr, Jr.
John R. Matthews and family
Robin Mauser and family
Constance E. Mayer
James McDonald
Deborah McGrogan
Sharon and Mark McLain
Kym Mougeller and family
Phyllis Nowakowski
Heather and John Norsen
Ken Pastorak
Jeanette Paxas and family
Susana Peake
Debra Pisciuceri and family
Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
Philadelphia Elementary Gifted Center
John L. Price
Rollyn E. Peterbaugh
Pamela and Emil Quatshak
Sandra Quinn and Stephen Thomas
Indigo Raffel
Leslie G. Reimer
Phyllis Renda and family
Tina Reonwaat
Grace Rock
Rachel Ruchbeck and family
Denise Rousseau and Paul Goodman
Brian P. Roosvelt
St. Bede School
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
St. George Orthodox Church
St. Mary of the Mount Church and School
St. Patrick/St. Stanislaus Church
Leslie P. Schall and family
Ray Schuhofen
Heather and Robert Schmidt
Adrienne Schmitz and family
Richard E. Schmitz
Gail Schott
Mary Lou Seaburn
Brenda L. Smith and family
South Allegheny School District
South Fayette Township School District
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
St. Patrick/St. Stanislaus Church
St. Stanislaus School

Corporate Members
(As of March 5, 2001)

Benefactors
Elwood Group, Inc.
Mylan Laboratories, Inc.
Oxford Development Company
PNC Bank–Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Steelers Sports, Inc.

Partners
Beckwith Machinery Company
Bruce Plastics, Inc.
California University of Pennsylvania
Chatham Village Homes, Inc.
The Gateway Engineers, Inc.
The Healy Company
Perkins Eastman Architects, P.C.
Urban Design Associates
Verizon
Western Pennsylvania Labors District Council

Associates
Eat ‘n Park

Recent Contributions & Gifts
There are many ways to give to Landmarks. Our members and friends make contributions in support of specific programs or in memory of a loved one. They also give memberships as gifts or donate goods or services. We thank the following people and corporations for their contributions, as of March 5, 2001:

Corporate Matching Gifts
• Chevron Corporation, for its gift in honor of Jack D. Burgos and Stephanie G. Sladek;
• Merrill Lynch & Company Foundation, Inc., for its gift in honor of Edward C. Brown; and
• PPG Industries Foundation, for its gift in honor of Paul W. Schaugency.

Gift Memberships
• David and Janet Brashear, for their gift of membership for James Brugh;
• Carol and James Campbell, for their gift of membership for Randall Campbell;
• Elisa J. Cavalier, for her gift of membership for Mr. & Mrs. James E. Cavalier;
• Judith E. Donaldson, for her gift of membership for Mrs. John Stecklein;
• K. Donna Hallen, for her gift of membership for Phyllis Nowakowski;
• Martha Jordan, for her gift of membership for Nancy and Tom Spyke and family;
• Shirley and Tom Phillips, for their gift of membership for Mark T. Phillips;
• Mr. & Mrs. David W. Stevenson, for their gift of membership for Marge Stevenson;
• and Nan Wiesnbaum and Reza Vali, for their gift of membership for Marilyn and Norman Wiesnbaum.

In-Kind Contributions
• We thank Norfolk Southern for railroad ties and hardware for the relocation of the Tom Thumb locomotive.

Lifelong Membership
• Mr. & Mrs. Hugh W. Nevin, Jr., for their lifetime membership contribution.

Memorial Gifts
• Barbara W. Bonnett, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh W. Nevin, Jr., James H. Oliver, Virginia D. Ramsburg, Margaret Pollard Rea, and Elizabeth Smith, for their gifts in memory of Consuelo Hillman Oliver O’Neill; and
• Nancy Gasky Spear, for her gifts in memory of Mary M. Levine, Pauline Micklow, and Robert Dulla.

Named Funds
• Carol W. Brown, for a generous contribution to the Carl W. Brown Named Fund;
• Ruth and Dick Brunnermeier, Marion V. Green, and Vinette D. Ziegler, for their gifts to the Mary DeWinter Named Fund to support Landmarks’ preservation programs; and
• David Simpson, for his gift to the Helen E. Simpson Named Fund to support our education programs.

Program Support
• Mr. & Mrs. David Bausfeld, for their gift to the Bausfeld Family Named Fund to support Landmarks’ work;
• Esther L. Barazon, for her gift to support Landmarks’ preservation activities;
• The Anne L. and George H. Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust, for its gift to support Landmarks’ educational and preservation programs;
• and Nan Wiesnbaum and Reza Vali, for their gift of membership for Marilyn and Norman Wiesnbaum.

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**Year-End Gifts Exceed $14,000**

We thank the following people for generously donating to our year-end gift campaign. As of April 5, 2001 our total fund was $14,037.50. This money, combined with a gift of at least $10,000 from Landmarks, will enable us to sponsor our Historic Religious Properties program for the fifth consecutive year.

- Alan L. Ackerman
- Wilda Wible Aiken
- David H. Archer
- Conrad C. M. Arensberg
- Jane C. Arrus
- Frances McK. Armstrong
- Joanne E. Baldwin
- Esther L. Barazzone
- James S. Beckwith III
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Berkley
- Joseph M. Bernbeck
- Mr. & Mrs. William C. Bickel
- G. William Bassell
- Edward N. Blair
- Charles H. Booth, Jr.
- Frank D. Bradley, Jr.
- Elizabeth R. Bradley
- Edward C. Brown
- Sara M. Brown
- Robert Bruno
- Mr. & Mrs. Jack Burgess
- Cable Design Technologies, Inc.
- Thomas C. Camarota
- J. A. Cameron
- Chevrem Corporation
- Betty M. Chorba
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Y. Clem
- Janet S. Clever
- Louise S. Collazo
- Frank and Janet Coyle
- Cannon Richard W. Davies
- Esther F. Davis
- & Mr. John R. Davis
- Day & Night Press
- & Mr. & Mrs. Thomas J. Donnelly
- & Mr. & Mrs. George C. Dorman
- & Mr. & Mrs. Arthur J. Edmans
- James M. Edwards
- & Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Emery
- Lois Scott Emler
- & Mr. & Mrs. George W. Erny
- Janet K. Feltham
- Edwin H. Fisher
- Charles H. Fleck, Jr.
- Suzanne Hood
- James and Ruth Frank
- & Mr. & Mrs. Henry J. Gailliot
- & Mr. & Mrs. Richard V. Garland
- & Mr. & Mrs. Mark S. Gesron
- Harry C. Goldie
- Stephen C. Graffam
- Ethel Hagler
- Martha M. Hanna
- Clyde Haskin
- Heinz Haxby's
- & Mr. & Mrs. Henry C. Herchenroeder, Jr.
- Mildred C. Hoffmeyer
- & Mr. & Mrs. Hale Holden, Jr.
- Joseph S. Horroth
- P. M. Huessener
- David W. Hunter
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Hunchton, Jr.
- & Mr. & Mrs. Kay J. Jarrell
- Martha W. Jordan
- Mr. & Mrs. William C. Keck
- Ellen and Jack Kessler
- David A. Kleen
- James W. Knox
- Charlotte E. Lang
- Dorcas E. Leibold
- Robert W. Leibold
- Larry and Claire Levine
- Samuel D. Levine
- Richard L. Linder
- Edward D. Loughney
- & Mr. & Mrs. Joel O. Luban
- Dorothy K. Lynch
- Dom Magazzino
- Richard E. Mann
- Bernard Kent Markwell
- Bernhard M. Marxlow
- Evelyn A. Mason
- Matthews Educational & Charitable Trust
- & Mr. & Mrs. Samuel A. McCurdy
- Robert E. McCurdy, M.D.
- Betty L. McCurdy
- Shirley and Howard Mellvile
- Melissa M. McGowan
- Merrill Lynch & Company Foundation, Inc.
- James D. McRae
- Anne B. Metcalfe
- Mary K. Michna
d- & Mr. & Mrs. John C. Miller, Jr.
- & Mr. & Mrs. Bill Minton
- John H. Moraca
- Muriel R. Moreland
- Phyllis Mack
- & Mr. & Mrs. Hugh W. Nevin, Jr.
- & Mr. & Mrs. John S. Oehle
- Susan M. Olahursk
- Brian O'Neill
- Jeffrey E. Orman
- Partners for Sacred Places
- Madeleine Pascasio
- Robert F. Patton
- Carol Prouk
- & Mr. & Mrs. John T. Radelet
- & Mr. & Mrs. Edward V. Randall, Jr.
- & Dr. & Mrs. Keith S. Reisinger
- C. D. Reynolds
- Deborah and Edgar Reuch
- & Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Rosnow
- & Mr. & Mrs. Farrell Rubenstein
- Virginia V. Schatz
- & Mr. & Mrs. A. Reed Schroeder
- Grace Gates Scutaro
- Kathy Sekara
- Frieda G. Shapira
- Florence W. South
- W. Paul Spencer
- Judge & Mrs. William L. Standish
- & Mr. & Mrs. Garrett L. Stauffer
- Mildred M. Stevenson
- Nancy J. Trainer
- Karen Tyasarycz
- & Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Walsh
- Faith Weinster
- Dr. & Mrs. George R. White
- Frances H. Wilson
- Helen M. Wilson
- Joyce M. Wiesen
- Mary Wohleber
- Fannie J. Yount
- Annette Ziegler, Jr.
- & Mr. & Mrs. Jack R. Zierden
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- Helen M. Wilson
- Joyce M. Wiesen
- Mary Wohleber
- Fannie J. Yount
- Annette Ziegler, Jr.
- & Mr. & Mrs. Jack R. Zierden

**Audrey and Kenneth Menke Named Fund for Education**

Docent Audrey Menke, and her husband Kenneth, are being honored by their daughters and sons-in-law through the establishment of a Named Fund at Landmarks. Kim and Janice Menke Abraham and Michael and Karen Menke Pasteurik gave this gift to Audrey and Ken at Christmas time, and mentioned that this birthday, holy, and Christmas gifts would henceforth be contributed to the Audrey and Kenneth Menke Named Fund for Education. “Since our parents have long been members of Landmarks,” said Janice, “we thought this would be a good way to create a gift that would be meaningful to them and of value to the Pittsburgh community.”

“We were thrilled,” said Audrey, “and look forward to working with Landmarks’ staff through our Named Fund.”

Audrey joined Landmarks’ docents training class in 1981, after retiring from Koppers. She was beginning part-time work as a travel agent and was hoping to learn more about Pittsburgh. Since that time, Audrey has been one of Landmarks’ most loyal volunteers, assisting with private group tours, school tours, nostime walking tours, and special events such as the Old House Fair and Award of Merit reception. An avid reader and researcher, Audrey enriches Landmarks’ standards tours through her intimate knowledge and genuine love of Pittsburgh. Ken accompanies Audrey to many of Landmarks’ special events and always speaks highly of his wife’s involvement in our education programs.

We are grateful to the Menke family for establishing Landmarks’ fifteenth Named Fund. Mary Lu and Jim Denny, Cathy McCollom, and Louise Sturgess also have contributed to the Named Fund.”

**Named Fund Grants**

We are pleased to report that the Mary DeWinter and the Emma Ziegler Named Funds at Landmarks made donations to the following organizations in 2000:

- **American Chestnut Association**, for an experimental program to revive the American Chestnut tree.
- **Beginning with Books**, for its reading program in historic inner-city neighborhoods.
- **Bilwald Cultural and Training Center**, for its training program for inner-city youths.
- **City Theatre**, for restoration of its adjoining historic building.
- **Cranberry Township Historical Society**, for restoration of the one-room Sample schoolhouse.
- **Dormont Historical Society**, for its new headquarters in the historic Hillsdale School.
- **Eldridge Street Synagogue**, for restoration of this nationally important synagogue as the history of immigrating Jews.
- **Mars Historical Society**, for the restoration of the Mars Railway Station.
- **The Mattress Factory**, for its restoration plan for adjoining houses.
- **Partners for Sacred Places**, for its national restoration advisory program.
- **Rachel Carson Homestead Association**, to underwrite costs of preparing specifications for painting and re-roofing the Homestead in Springdale.
- **St. Clair Wright Memorial Fund** at the University of Maryland, dedicated to the founder of Historic Annapolis.
- **St. Luke’s Church**, for maintenance of this historic building restored entirely by volunteers.
- **The Society for the Preservation of the Duquesne Incline**, for its restoration program.
- **to the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf**, for restoration of its historic campus buildings.
Landmarks Announces Its Gift Annuity Program

The best planned-giving program isn't designed to meet a non-profit's needs. It is designed to meet the needs of its members and friends. That's why Landmarks is creating its own charitable gift annuity program.

A charitable gift annuity is a simple contract between you and Landmarks. In exchange for an irrevocable gift of at least $10,000 in cash, securities or other assets, Landmarks agrees to pay one or two people a fixed sum each year for life.

“We decided to offer this program because many people who want to support our mission hesitate because they are on a fixed income,” said Philip B. Hallen, Chairman of Landmarks' Board of Trustees. “I think this is a great way to meet the needs of all who are interested in supporting Landmarks’ mission.”

The older the annuitants are at the time of the gift, the greater the fixed income Landmarks can pay. The nice part about the payments is that in most cases, part of each payment is tax-free.

The benefits of a gift annuity include:
• fixed payments in quarterly installments for life regardless of interest rate fluctuations;
• a federal-income tax deduction (subject to certain limitations); and
• if necessary, the ability to carry forward any unused deductions over the next five years (subject to certain limitations).

If you give appreciated property, such as stock or real estate, you will pay capital gains tax on only part of the appreciation. In addition, if you name yourself as an income recipient, the capital gains tax will be spread over many years rather than be all due in the year of your gift.

Another benefit may be reduced probate and estate costs. A Landmarks charitable gift annuity is designed for the person who likes the security of receiving a fixed income for life at a predetermined rate and who wishes to support Landmarks’ mission.

Here's An Example

Mrs. Smith wants Landmarks to receive $10,000 that she will receive for 20 years from the capital gains on the property. She will pay $1,500 annually for 20 years and receive $750 annually for life. After that time, the entire payment will be tax as ordinary income.

For illustrative purposes only. Please contact Jack Miller at (412) 471-5808, ext. 538 for rates for two persons and exact benefits to you.

Help Us Help You

In June, Landmarks will begin making Landmark Legacies available to its members. The newsletter is specifically designed for persons interested in learning about creative ways to redirect their tax dollars to support their families and Landmarks’ mission.

The free publication will include timely information on tax law changes that relate to charitable giving and feature stories about members and friends who have found a way to create their own legacy in support of our mission.

If you would like to be sure to receive Landmark Legacies, or wish to notify us that you have included Landmarks in your will or estate plan, please call Jack Miller at (412) 471-5808, ext. 538.

Meeting the Needs of Our Members and Friends

Landmarks' mission.

After learning about Landmarks' charitable gift annuity program, she decides to make a $15,000 gift. Based on her age of 79, Mrs. Smith will receive annual payments of $900 (nine percent of the amount transferred) for the rest of her life. (Please see the chart above.)

For the first nine years of her payments, she will pay federal-income tax on less than one-half of the amount she receives. After that time, the entire payment will be taxed as ordinary income.

She will also be allowed to deduct more than $4,900 as a charitable gift in the year the gift is completed, and the amount used to fund Mrs. Smith's annuity is removed from her estate, resulting in an additional tax savings.

Most importantly, Mrs. Smith realizes that a portion of her annuity will be used for Landmarks' charitable mission after her death, which not only achieves her original intention, but provides her with a tax deduction, while she is living, as well.

Interested?

To learn if a charitable gift annuity might be of interest to you, please call Jack Miller, director of gift planning, at (412) 471-5808, ext. 538. His email address is jack@phlf.org. Or you may visit our Web site at www.phlf.org for more information.

Note: The information contained in this article should not be construed as legal or tax advice. Persons considering a charitable gift annuity should discuss it with their personal financial and/or legal advisors. Landmarks is currently issuing gift annuities to residents of Pennsylvania and conforms to PA Act 1996-127 as it relates to the establishment and maintenance of a charitable gift annuity program. Gift annuities funded with real estate are reviewed by Landmarks on an individual basis and must meet most criteria set forth in our gift acceptance policy.

Heathside Cottage

In 1992, Judith Harvey fell in love with a dilapidated historic landmark that would eventually become her home.

After years of restoration, she turned Heathside Cottage in Fineview into a showplace with the intention of preserving the c. 1855 Gothic Revival cottage for the enjoyment of future generations.

To accomplish that goal, she put a preservation easement on the property and then gave the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation her home while retaining the right to live there for the rest of her life. Her gift was featured in PHLF News 158 (December 2000).

After Judith's death, Landmarks will sell Heathside Cottage, and the proceeds will help us continue our historic preservation programs and services.

In return, Judith received significant tax benefits and the satisfaction of knowing that Landmarks would preserve her part of Pittsburgh's history.

You don't have to be wealthy or own a historic landmark to make a gift.

You just have to care about supporting Landmarks' mission.

For more information on creative gifts that meet your objectives, please call Jack Miller at (412) 471-5808, ext. 538; or visit our Web site at www.phlf.org.
Young architects, landscape architects, planners, and artists in Allegheny County are turning their attention to eight historic public squares and spaces, thanks to a juried competition sponsored by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. “The competition is limited to young designers under the age of 35,” said Barry Hannegan, director of historic design programs at Landmarks, “because they don’t often have an opportunity to show their talents. I have the strong impression that there’s an extreme diversity in Pittsburgh’s young design community, and I’m eager to see what they are capable of doing.”

Competitors must select one of the eight sites shown here. They are asked to consider the historic design character of the site, its current condition, and present use patterns, and then propose what might be done to the space to make it more attractive and more usable. “Almost all the sites involve an interesting arrangement of street patterns, and all have the potential of becoming focal points, adding to the vitality of our city and its neighborhoods,” said Barry.

Those interested in competing must send a letter of intent to Barry Hannegan by May 1. Submissions are to be delivered directly to the Mattress Factory on Pittsburgh’s North Side on September 8, 2001. Materials submitted with entries will be selected for inclusion in an exhibition at the Mattress Factory in September.

Landmarks is offering three prizes of $5,000, $2,000, and $1,000 for first, second, and third place designs, respectively. “We are encouraged by the response we have received so far,” said Barry, “and look forward to seeing some innovative ideas in the final submissions.” For further information, visit Landmarks’ Web site (www.phlf.org), or contact:

Barry Hannegan, Ph.D.
Director of Historic Design Programs
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
One Station Square, Suite 450
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134
Phone: (412) 471-5805, ext. 528
E-mail: barry@phlf.org

1. Site of the former Ober Park, Allegheny Center
2. Market Square, Downtown
3. Intersection of Mahon and Kirkpatrick Streets with Centre, Middle Hill
4. Convergence of Lowrie, Ley, and Froman Streets, Troy Hill
5. Doughboy Square, junction of Butler Street and Penn Avenue, Lawrenceville
6. Lyndhurst Green, Beechwood Boulevard, Point Breeze
7. Morrow Triangle Park, Baum Boulevard, Bloomfield
8. Oakland Square, Dawson Street, Central Oakland
The historic “Woodville” plantation, also known as the John and Presley Neville House, is located in Collier Township on Washington Pike (Route 50), just twenty minutes southwest of downtown Pittsburgh. Owned by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and operated by Neville House Associates, Inc., “Woodville” is the Pittsburgh area’s principal link with eighteenth-century life and architecture.

The house has its origins in a log building of c. 1785, that eventually extended into a gracious manor house. In The Story of “Woodville,” published by Landmarks in 1998, Ronald C. Carlisle tells of General John Neville and his descendants and the house they occupied for about 200 years. One of eight National Historic Landmarks in Allegheny County, “Woodville” is well worth visiting. Beginning in May the house will be open for public tours, historical movies, and special events. Please call (412) 279-3385 for further information or to schedule a private group tour, May through September.

House Tours
Beginning on May 3 and continuing through September, costumed docents will lead visitors on guided tours of “Woodville” on Thursdays and Sundays, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is $5.00 per person or $10 for families (parents and children under 18). Admission will be free on Thursday, May 3, opening day. Whiskey Rebellion Day will be celebrated on Sunday, July 15.

Historical Movies
The following films will be shown at 7:00 p.m. at “Woodville”: Admission is free—and so is the popcorn!
- May 3: The Crucible (Daniel Day-Lewis)
- June 6: A Midwinter’s Tale
- July 11: Thomas Jefferson: Part 3 (Ken Burns)
- August 1: Thomas Jefferson: Part 2
- September 5: The Duel
- October 3: Sleepy Hollow (Johnny Depp)

Lectures at Your Site
If you are not able to come to “Woodville,” then invite a costumed docent to visit with your civic or social group. Honorariums of $50 or more are requested for illustrated slide lectures or special programs. Call (412) 921-3273 or (412) 279-3385 for information.

Enjoy some summer days and evenings at “Woodville.” Once off the highway and in the midst of the landscaped grounds and historic house, it is easy to imagine living at a time when John Neville, George Washington, and the Marquis de Lafayette were household names.

Neville House Opens for Tours, Movies, and Special Events

The telephone rings daily with calls from people throughout Allegheny County and beyond who are seeking our guidance and support in regard to preservation issues. The following summaries highlight some of the help we have given in recent months.

Allegheny Commons Restoration Committee
A group of North Side neighborhood organizations, the Parks Conservancy, the Aviary, Landmarks, and others are developing a plan for the restoration of the Allegheny Commons. In 2000, Landmarks arranged for a visit by Charles Birnbaum, National Park landscape historian, to provide information for the Allegheny Commons Restoration Committee. Everyone has benefited from Mr. Birnbaum’s extensive knowledge; he feels that the Commons are of great importance in the history of U.S. park development.

Hartwood Acres
Tom Keffe, superintendent of property maintenance at Landmarks, reviewed plans showing modifications to the volunteer office at Hartwood Acres in Indiana Township, and offered several constructive comments.

Mattress Factory
Landmarks helped fund studies to show how ground-floor office space could be changed into public gallery space, and how the entire complex could be made more energy efficient. The Mattress Factory is located in two historic buildings in the Mexican War Streets.

Landmarks Helps Historic Properties, Sites, and Groups

The owners’ association of a splendid 1920s Tudor-style condominium building on Dithridge Street in Oakland called to discuss the re-roofing of Hampton Hall. An investigation of the original roofing revealed that Ludowici clay tile had been used. Although duplicating that original tile was more costly, the homeowners decided to expend the funds to do so. We are grateful to them for this commitment.

Hampton Hall
The owners of a splendid 1920s Tudor-style condominium building on Dithridge Street in Oakland called to discuss the re-roofing of Hampton Hall. An investigation of the original roofing revealed that Ludowici clay tile had been used. Although duplicating that original tile was more costly, the homeowners decided to expend the funds to do so. We are grateful to them for this commitment.

Oakmont Carnegie Library
Landmarks member and Oakmont resident Sue Martin is leading a campaign to raise funds for a major expansion of the Oakmont Carnegie Library. A handsome brick addition has been designed by Integrated Architectural Services that respects the architectural integrity of the library, designed in 1901 by Alden & Harlow.

The Library Committee already has raised $1,300,000 from the community and needs an additional $400,000 before construction can begin. Landmarks’ chairman Philip Hallen and executive director Louise Sturgess met with Sue and Library committee members to discuss fund-raising opportunities. If you wish to contribute, please contact Jan Becher, Library director, at (412) 928-9532.

Preservation Pennsylvania
In 2000, Landmarks contributed to Preservation Pennsylvania, the statewide historic preservation organization, to help establish an endowment fund. Landmarks also is assisting in preparing a plan so Preservation Pennsylvania can more intensively serve western Pennsylvania.

On April 6, Landmarks and Preservation Pennsylvania co-hosted a breakfast meeting at the Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel with Representative Thomas Tangretti. Preservation Pennsylvania is strongly supporting the Historic Home and Neighborhood Preservation Bill (HB 90), currently under consideration in the State senate. The bill has received unanimous support in the House but the Governor needs to hear about its importance. HB 90 provides tax credits and other incentives for owners of historic residential properties, including those containing rental units and commercial businesses. The package is designed to strengthen and stabilize traditional neighborhoods and to encourage investment by new home buyers. It also has the potential to create jobs in the development, architectural, and contracting communities.

St. Michael’s, South Side
There’s hope for St. Michael the Archangel, designed in 1857 by Charles Barbero and closed by the Diocese in 1992. On February 13, 2001, Pittsburgh City Council approved Landmarks’ nomination of the building as a City Historic Structure, and Hanson Design Associates, architects, is now designing plans for the conversion of the church into condominiums.

Historic Religious Properties
Tom Keffe, superintendent of property maintenance at Landmarks, has offered advice to:
- Greenstone United Methodist Church, in Avalon, in regard to creating a handicapped walkway and electronic access doors, repairing the masonry, and addressing the roofing and drainage needs;
- Jesus Is the Way Church of God in oatmeal, in regard to creating a handicapped walkway and electronic access doors, repairing the masonry, and addressing the roofing and drainage needs;
- West End A.M.E. Zion Church, in regard to the installation of 12 interior Plexiglas windows.

August 1
Thomas Jefferson: Part 2
September 5
The Duel
October 3
Sleepy Hollow (Johnny Depp)
Work Underway in Manchester, Deutschtown, and on the South Side—and a Coincidence

1300 block, Liverpool Street, Manchester

The Richardsonian Romanesque houses in the 1300 block of Liverpool Street are now being renovated by Manchester Citizens Corporation in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation, thanks to financial assistance from the City of Pittsburgh and Landmarks. Landmarks has committed a total of $400,000 to the project, in the form of loans and grants. Some of those funds are coming from Named Funds at Landmarks: the Barensfeld Family Named Fund; the Carl Wood Brown Named Fund; Shadyside Named Fund; Verna S. Shields Named Fund; Delores S. Smith Named Fund; and Patricia Thauer Named Fund.

Work includes rebuilding the front and rear porches, cleaning and restoring the masonry, repairing the mansard trim, and replacing the windows. The project architect is Landmarks Design Associates and the contractor is Sota Construction Services, Inc.

In the fall, when work is completed, Landmarks will sponsor a membership tour to Liverpool Street.

416–20 Pressley Street, Deutschtown

We reported, in the December 2000 issue of PHLF News, that Landmarks had extended a $175,000 loan to the East Allegheny Community Council so the houses at 416–20 could be renovated. After reading the newsletter article, one of our members, the well-known artist Cynthia Cooley, wrote this note:

Dear Louise,

When I saw the photo of 416–20 Pressley Street… I knew right away it was the group of houses I painted years ago. I thought you would enjoy seeing my original photo from 1978 and the painting and drawing which resulted… I hope your preservation efforts are successful!

We are pleased to reprint here the 1978 photo and the painting. (Incidentally, renovation work is underway.)

Shelly and Stella Streets, South Side

The South Side Local Development Company (SSLDC) plans to break ground this spring on an eight-unit, for-sale housing development on Shelly Street on the South Side Slopes. Last year, Landmarks extended a loan of up to $200,000 to the SSLDC in support of this project. Additional financing is being provided by the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development, a local bank, and the URA.

The Shelly and Stella Street area was first developed in the early 1900s for mill-workers and their families. Since then, some of the hillside houses have been abandoned or fallen into disrepair. "Unfortunately," said Carey Harris, SSLDC executive director, "none of the hillside houses in the project area could be saved. However, the scale and character of the new houses are consistent with the existing neighborhood." All of the houses will have off-street parking.

The project architect is Integrated Architectural Services Corporation and the general contractor is Mistick Construction. Prices for the units are planned to be in the $115,000 to $135,000 range.

Free Downtown Walking Tours of Fifth & Forbes and a Performance!

Preservation Week: May 14-18, 2001, 12 Noon

Walking tours: Meet at the clock in Market Square and tour the Fifth/Forbes area with Landmarks’ staff and docents. Hear about the latest plans to revitalize the historic district.

Performance: On Thursday, May 17, Gateway to the Arts, Landmarks, and local artists will present Building Magic. The play takes place on a busy downtown street. Buildings come to life, through song and lively dialogue, and dramatize the meaning of change in the life of a community.
My manuscript Hornbostel in Pittsburgh is approaching completion, with a few pictures still to accumulate. Design work is under way and our fund raising effort has begun to help underwrite printing costs.

The book will not be a full coverage of the architect’s work, coast to coast, although much of his major work in California and elsewhere is illustrated in the introductory essay. Our primary interest is in Hornbostel in the Pittsburgh region; a catalogue of his works here, from 1904 to 1939, includes a discussion of at least 80 designs: master plans, building designs realized, and building designs not realized.

Henry Hornbostel (1867–1961) flourished at the high time of Eclecticism in American architecture: a time when naked structure was clothed, and clothed in costume at that. To Eclectics, a Colonial house, a Gothic church, and a Moderne skyscraper might lie on adjoining drawing boards, and there would be no sense, to their minds, of incongruity. Each institution of modern civilization, after all, either had or did not have associations from the past, and might well be costumed accordingly. Hornbostel was content with such a situation in general, though in most cases he had no use for the bland literalism with which the typical Eclectic handled his “precedents.” Indeed, it must have been on account of Hornbostel’s special brilliance that other well-established architects sought him for collaborations. The grand gesture, the occasional touch of mischief, the bold handling of texture: we remember Hornbostel for these.

Puzzles remain. In the City-County Building project it seems clear that Hornbostel, not the architect of record Edward Lee, was the real brains of the basic concept. But why did Hornbostel collaborate so often in the 1920s with Eric Fisher Wood? Their work together was tasteful but sometimes not much more. And yet, Hornbostel had ahead of him the Stripped Classical Research Building for Alcoa, with its fancy Grecian detailing in wrought aluminum, or the fantastic Golf Clubs in North and South Parks.

During this period, the Eclectics were under attack from Modernists of various colors of conviction. At various times, Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Sheldon Cheney, and less noticeable figures expressed indignation and contempt at the lack of principle, indeed the immorality, of the Eclectic’s historicist affectations and their dissemblance of structure. A literally insightful book by Edward Ford, Details of Modern Architecture, shows that architects purportedly sincere in expression—Wright say, or the Greene brothers—were themselves not above a little delicate fudging. Yet it seemed so much worse from the Eclectics. Consider the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial, all puffed and padded out with its huge pyramidal roof, its Roman Doric columns: excessive, arbitrary, unoriginal in many details. Ah, but: a grand public gesture too, worthy of sacrifice to build, gussy up, and maintain. Consider a functionalist alternative, space and circulation accommodated in heavy industrial construction, with a little innovative ornament if you must. Doing things the Hornbostel way was more inspiring.

On a modest scale, consider certain of his houses, where what seems at first to be massive quoins or wall ashlar turns out to be thin limestone plating on hollow tile, the stones mitred together at the corners with a reentering angle that quietly qualifies the whole contrivance as, as it were, a genuine fake.
At Machinery Hall, Carnegie Tech, Hornbostel solved the compositional problem of the chimney by surrounding it with an arcade that he labeled a "temple of Venus." The chimney that penetrates the temple can well symbolize Vulcan, the industrial god and Venus’ consort, 1913.

**Appeal for Illustrations**

**Hornbostel in Pittsburgh** is still looking for clear archival images of the following works, as well as permission to reproduce the images:

**Work in the Pittsburgh area**

1. Carnegie Technical Schools (Carnegie Tech, CMU)
   - sharp reproductions of bird’s-eye views of general layout, 1905 and 1911
   - same, Engelhardt and Miller Halls (the Clubhouse and the Bungalow)

2. Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial, Pittsburgh
   - 1907 design with flanking colonnades in front toward Fifth Avenue

3. Western University of Pennsylvania
   - exteriors, including close-up of worked-out mines under site
   - rendering of exterior design

4. Fairmont, West Virginia: High Level Bridge of 1925

5. Houses by Palmer & Hornbostel
   - Norfolk, Connecticut: houses for "Mr. Pupine" and A. L. Smith
   - King’s Point, New York: house for Arthur S. Dwight
   - Wading River Long Island: J. G. Robin house, "Driftwood Manor."

6. Oakland, California: Oakland Technical High School
   - exteriors, including close-up of central section

7. Schenley Theater, Forbes Street west of Schenley Plaza
   - façade

8. Saupp, Frank D.: truck sales building, 5803 Centre Avenue
   - photo or rendering as designed, 1925
   - photo of Hills Automobile Company building (1905) incorporated into Saupp building

9. University Club, Oakland, on Natalie Avenue or University Place (not the 1905 building on Bigelow Boulevard)
   - early interiors

10. German Evangelical Protestant Church, Smithfield Street
    - rendering of exterior design

11. Webster Hall Hotel
    - coffee shop and other interiors as first executed

12. American Bank Building (American State Bank & Trust Company), 600 block Grant Street
    - rendering or photograph of exterior
    - banking room

13. Grant Building
    - lobby, original state
    - Trinity mural, The Three Rivers, in lobby

**Work outside the Pittsburgh area**

1. New York City
   - Williamsburg Bridge, general view
   - Hell Gate Bridge as executed, general view

2. Albany: New York State Education Building
   - general exterior view
   - major interiors
   - sculptural work of Charles Keck

3. Cedar Rapids, Iowa: Memorial Building and City Hall

4. Fairmont, West Virginia: High Level Bridge of 1925

5. Houses by Palmer & Hornbostel
   - Norfolk, Connecticut: houses for "Mr. Pupine" and A. L. Smith
   - King’s Point, New York: house for Arthur S. Dwight
   - Wading River Long Island: J. G. Robin house, "Driftwood Manor."

6. Oakland, California: Oakland Technical High School
   - exteriors, including close-up of central section

**Note:** In the cases of the Carnegie Tech bird’s-eye views, the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Memorial design, the Western University renderings, and the houses, we are trying to improve on images already available from architectural club yearbooks and similar sources.

Please call Walter Kidney at (412) 471-5808, ext. 511 if you have sources on any of these illustrations or to further discuss his book. Also can anyone explain a Hornbostel drawing for a concert hall interior captioned, “Proposed alteration of Music Hall, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh,” published in 1926 but probably much earlier?

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**CONTRIBUTE** to the 2002 publication of **Hornbostel in Pittsburgh**

by Walter C. Kidney

In the fall of 2002, Landmarks will publish a handsomely illustrated soft-cover book devoted to the work of Henry Hornbostel. The book will include an essay on Hornbostel’s work here and elsewhere, followed by a catalogue of works in Pittsburgh, from 1904 to 1939, of at least 80 designs.

Please contribute by completing and returning this form.

Yes, I am (we are) making a contribution to Hornbostel in Pittsburgh in the amount of $___________.

My (our) check is enclosed, payable to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and referenced “Hornbostel.”

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(s) 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

Thank you very much for contributing!

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A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
The center of Old Allegheny as it is now. The Old Post Office of the 1890s (left) is now the Pittsburgh Children's Museum and the Buhl Planetarium of the 1930s (right) is now vacant.

What's to become of the former Buhl Planetarium on Pittsburgh's North Side? Usually, efforts to preserve historic buildings focus on how to use the buildings in the future. For years we lived in the midst of demolition and construction for the new Gateway Center. For years we lived in the midst of demolition and construction for the new Gateway Center. For years we lived in the midst of demolition and construction for the new Gateway Center. For years we lived in the midst of demolition and construction for the new Gateway Center. Since the Planetarium's closing in 1991, Landmarks has been wrestling with the question of what to do with the historic structure and hoping that a suitable reuse could be found. Our organization was born on the North Side, dating back to save the Planetarium, Carnegie Library, Old Post Office, and many other historic buildings in the midst of demolition and construction for Allegheny Center. For years we lived in the Old Post Office next door to Buhl Planetarium. We took joy in the architectural contrast between the two buildings; one from the beginning of the so-called American Renaissance in architecture and one from the end. The Old Post Office has the naive and slightly unorganized Classicism that succeeded Richardson Romanesque, while the Planetarium is utterly cool and considered in all of its few compositional parts.

**Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science**

The Planetarium was given to the City of Pittsburgh by the Buhl Foundation, established in 1928 upon the death of Henry Buhl, Jr., an owner of the popular Boggs & Buhl department store. It opened in October 1939 and served as a Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science until 1991, when the present Carnegie Science Center was constructed. Even though the Planetarium is not officially designated as such, it is an architectural landmark. It was designed in 1935 by Ingham & Boyd, a prominent Pittsburgh architectural firm dating from 1911 and noted for the calm and elegant manner in which they employed in public schools for Pittsburgh and Mount Lebanon, houses in Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, and the Sewickley area, a little Gothic church work, and—for the Buhl Foundation as well—Chatham Village. A work of Ingham & Boyd always please. The Planetarium is an example of the 1930s “Stripped Classicism” in architecture, and one that went to an extreme in having no publicly visible windows except for two narrow ones, lighting stairs. From the front it was like a casket of limestone, heavily rusticated in its lower part, dead smooth above, with a semi-octagon jutting from the rear that was crowned with a dome that was originally meant to be tiled. Six allegorical sculptures, Primitive Science, Modern Science, The Heavens, The Earth, Day, and Night by Sidney Waugh, stood in bold contrast to the simple, enigmatic walls, and each visible face of the semi-octagon had a label bearing the name of a great scientist between delicate tinceaux. Inside were marble-lined halls with displays, some active, and most notable among them the Foucault Pendulum, its bob calmly swinging in an elegantly decorated brass-railled well, marking the rotation of the earth. Climactic, though, was the Planetarium itself, where the Zeiss projector rose beneath the dome, looking like a giant black ant, ready to project the stars of either hemisphere. The Zeiss Model II projector was at the forefront of the technology of the era and is now believed to be the last one of its kind still in working condition. As would also be expected, the mechanical/electrical systems, while they were “cutting-edge” at the time, are long past their useful life and not in line with modern energy-efficient and control-sensitive systems. The building, offering almost 40,000 square feet of space, was conceived as a one-purpose structure and therefore was designed to move crowds smoothly in and out of the Star Theatre and also to provide public exhibition space in two main-level galleries and one lower-level gallery. The configuration of the circulation spaces requires modification for the proposed use by the Children's Museum and associated groups that have separate rate requirements but need to be within easy reach of each other.

LDA developed three possible plans to be explored, ranging from one with minimal change to the original building to one accommodating significant change. The three are as follows:

A. Restoration of the building and the Star Theatre, and the creation of four

**Landmarks Commissions a Feasibility Study**

Landmarks occupied the Old Post Office from its founding in 1934 until 1983, when it became clear that The Pittsburgh Children's Museum was successfully established in the building. Landmarks moved to new headquarters at Station Square, and gave the Old Post Office to the Children's Museum in 1991. Now, more than 110,000 people visit the Museum each year, and the Museum serves an additional 130,000 people each year through outreach programs. Aware of the museum's need for more space, in July 2000 Landmarks commissioned Landmarks Design Associates, Architects, to assess the physical conditions of the Planetarium building and propose alternatives for its reuse as part of the possible expansion of the Children's Museum. LDA reviewed the condition of the structural system of the building, the roofs, and the mechanical/electrical systems as well as the ability of the building to adapt to modern building codes and modern accessibility codes. Due to the high quality of the original construction and the high level of finishes, the building is in remarkable shape for its 61 years. As would also be expected, the mechanical/electrical systems, while they were “cutting-edge” at the time, are long past their useful life and not in line with modern energy-efficient and control-sensitive systems.

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A. Restoration of the building and the Star Theatre, and the creation of four

Old Allegheny Town was largely laid bare around 1960 for the creation of Allegheny Center.
Landmarks

Landmarks and the Children’s Museum Involve Students in the Design Process

Over 200 students from Pittsburgh’s Elementary Gifted Center are developing designs for a Children’s Park in front of Buhl Planetarium. During a tour of Allegheny Center with Landmarks in September 2000, students passed off the area to be included in their park and sketched their initial ideas. Joan Brindle, Mary Jane Hartz, Phyllis Ochs, and Jay Kadash are using this design challenge as the interdisciplinary theme for the gifted curriculum throughout the 2000–01 school year. The students will present their detailed drawings and models to a jury of architects in May.

Twenty middle school students from Allegheny Traditional Academy are working with art teacher Patricia Pirt to build a model showing how Allegheny Center might be redesigned. In October 2000, the students toured Allegheny Center and Buhl Planetarium with Landmarks, and later were inspired by Tom Demko of Burt Hill KKSK Rittelmann, who helped them understand the design process. The students will present their model to a jury of architects in May.

We’ll include photographs of the models in subsequent issues of PHLF News.
On two weekends in November 2000 some 80 people found themselves climbing the terraced streets of a residential suburb established in 1899 in the Chartiers Valley, some four miles southwest of Pittsburgh. They began their visit at the foot of the valley outside the first group of houses erected in 1900. As they walked, Queen Anne gave way to Shingle Style, Tudor, English cottage, Colonial Revival, Craftsman bungalow, and California Mission, erected as the years passed and the community grew upward. Finally they arrived at the summit and entered the great stone and shingle house built for the founder of the community in 1907. Through the kindness of the owners they viewed the living and dining rooms and two-story hall with its free-standing brick fireplace (see page 13). In this extraordinary house in this picturesque community set within a spectacular land-scape they discovered Southwestern Pennsylvania’s principal connection to the American Arts and Crafts Movement.

The visit to the Frank Thornburg Mansion in the Thornburg National Register Historic District (designated 1982) in the borough of Thornburg (established 1909) was the concluding stop on a 3 1/2-hour tour, “The Arts & Crafts Tradition in Pittsburgh,” prepared by Landmarks at the request of the University of Pittsburgh Independent Program (PIP). Only a few attendees had heard of Thornburg and very few had previously visited the borough. This is not surprising. One looks in vain for “Pittsburgh” in the index to the comprehensive “The Art that is Life”: The Arts & Crafts Movement in America, 1875–1920 [Little, Brown and Company 1987]; the one Pittsburgh artist included—glass designer Charles J. Connick—is identified as a Bostonian. More recently Arts & Crafts Design in America: A State-by-State Guide (Chronicle Books 1998) includes Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr’s Old Heidelberg (1905) and Allen Klages house (1922). Scheibler’s German-influenced modernism is, like the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, related—but peripherally—to Arts and Crafts influences. The late, whimsical Klages house is more Hänsel and Gretel than Arts and Crafts.

Exploring Thornburg
Since first visiting Thornburg in 1992, I have been intrigued by its architectural character and the somewhat elusive story of its origins and evolution. The study of Pittsburgh’s late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century built environment is inherently imprecise, since documentation for area buildings prior to 1920 remains fragmentary and one must rely on narratives and personal recollections as well as unconfirmed surveys and tax records. The story of Thornburg is no exception. From the time of its founding in 1899, the borough attracted occupants who valued fine architecture, a high standard of living, and their own control over the design and development of their homes and neighborhood. 

He really did want an “ideal” family community and... he built just that. . . . Thornburg really was his dream, not just a real estate speculation.

Frank Thornburg’s granddaughter, Prue McCutcheon to Lu Donnelly, August 30, 1980

The entirety of the 1907 Thornburg Mansion, the consummately Craftsman house in metropolitan Pittsburgh, is difficult to convey by conventional photography. A pen-and-ink drawing by Joseph Haat suggests the magnitude of the house, while photographs like this one of the entrance porch taken by Randell Makinson in 1993, capture splendid elements.

The Frank Thornburg Mansion, photographed by Lu Donnelly during a tour of the community in November 2000.
to 1916 is tragamorty at best. In the case of Thornburg, the mystery is compounded by the fact that the principal founder and the primary architect both left the community some time after 1910, leaving us a remarkable set of buildings but only bits and pieces of evidence as to why they did what they did and when they did it.

The evidence includes, most importantly, the houses themselves, notwithstanding many changes, some obvious, some not. In 1992, I also had access to 1905 and 1917 real estate maps, a description of a Thornburg house published in House Beautiful, Alice Christner's community history Here's to Thornburg published in 1966, the Thornburg file in the Allegheny County Historic Site Survey 1979–1984 compiled by Eliza Smith Brown and Lu Donnelly and used by them to prepare the National Register Historic District nomination, and Charles Thornburg's family history published in 1990.

Architecture plays a subsidiary role in Here's to Thornburg but Alice Christner provides crucial information. We meet architect Samuel T. McClarren: “Mr. McClarren [sic] was a cousin of the Thornburgs, and the architect who designed many Thornburg houses” [51] and we hear Frank Thornburg's daughter Florence: “We used to go to California every winter for Father loved that state. At the end of the block (bottom left) is a later Arts & Crafts arrival. The house shown here is the home of Susan Thornburg, who lived in Pittsburgh, formed the Thornburg Land Company in 1899. Approximately 250 acres of the property were acquired and development began in 1900. The principal architect for the community was another cousin, Samuel T. McClarren, although house designs by C. E. Willoughby, Neal & Rowland, and W. H. Metcalf have been documented. By 1905, the development had 28 houses, some modeled on Southern California residences as well as houses elsewhere. In 1909 the Thornburg Land Company declared bankruptcy, and the Borough of Thornburg was established June 5, 1909. Frank Thornburg and his family moved to Los Angeles.

Southern California Inspiration

When the National Trust for Historic Preservation held its annual convention in Los Angeles in 2000, I used the occasion to explore Frank Thornburg's Los Angeles family ties and possible architectural influences. The week began in the Los Angeles Public Library and ended on the block where the Thornburg family had lived. Two-and-a-half days of tours chosen from Convention offerings provided a rapid but substantial sense of turn-of-the-century Los Angeles. Former colleague, now Greene & Greene archivist Ann Scheid Lund, gave me an insider's tour of the city. Thornburg was established June 5, 1909, and part of 1906—I requested the volume from the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's storage facility (the last reader had been Landmarks' co-founder, the late Jamie Van Tramp, some quarter century before). I found brief but invaluable data on Thornburg houses and architects. Prior to 1905 Frank Thornburg had photographed houses in several unnamed American cities as well as in California as "patterns" for Thornburg homes. Frank Thornburg's base of operation in California was identified as Los Angeles. In 1905 alone he took 60 photographs of houses "many of the mission type and some...very artistic" in the Los Angeles area as models for Thornburg houses.

The artisan homes of Thornburg weren't copied from a pattern book by a builder but realized, and probably adapted both structurally and aesthetically, by architect Samuel T. McClarren. I noted in my first article about the community, "Hausen Thornburg. Variations on a Theme," PHLF News 125 (September 1992), 4–5, that very little was known about McClarren; even the spelling of his name varied with the spellers. Furthermore, although he left a fairly substantial paper trail in city directories and professional journals in the 1880s and 90s, he virtually disappears after 1904, the last year he is listed in the city directory. He had lived in Thornburg since 1902, designed a church in neighboring Crafton in 1906, and enlarged the Thornburg School in 1912, but otherwise the record was resolutely silent. My article elicited a letter from a McClarren family member who provided essential biographical information about the architect. In 1993 I took Greene & Greene scholar Randell L. Makinson and architect, photographer, and Frank Lloyd Wright expert Thomas A. Heinz to visit Thornburg. Notes were compared; information exchanged.

The late Margaret Henderson Floyd told me that the Woodlark School in Bloomfield resembled buildings designed by Longellow, Alden & Harlow. McClarren designed the school in 1897, and I began to look for McClarren buildings designed prior to Thornburg. In 1998, I published what I had learned in the intervening years in "A Player of Architectural Themes and Variations," Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Focus Magazine 22:12 (January 25, 1998), 8–9. Since then Thornburg-related information has turned up or been uncovered, but in 2000 I learned a great deal about Thornburg's founder and its architect.

The Formative Years

Let me give a quick overview of Frank Thornburg's Thornburg. Parcels of what had originally been the 400 plus acre estate of Thomas Thornburg, laid out in Robinson Township, Allegheny County in 1806, became available for acquisition by his heirs. His great-grandson, Frank Thornburg left Clinton, Iowa (where he had been born on May 15, 1856), and he and his cousin David, who lived in Pittsburgh, formed the Thornburg Land Company in 1899.
Aristocratic Suburb

Thornburg...occupies a unique position in the list of suburban localities around Pittsburgh. The old farm of 100 [sic] acres, which was on the slopes above Chartiers creek and has been in the Thornburg family for over 100 years, began to take the form of a model and aristocratic suburb a little over two years ago. Its promoters had one aim in view, to make the place totally different from any outlying residence district of the city. How well they have succeeded is shown by the advanced ideas of suburban development which are evident in the larger plans for Thornburg and in the diversity which its homes attest.

In making the initial plans for the little town the promoters took their ideas from the best types of suburban improvements around Boston, New York, Philadelphia and on the Jersey as well as the Pacific coast. Although only a part of the property has been laid out the plans include the most elaborate improvements for the larger tract. Over five miles of macadamized driveways are to be provided, most of them leading through the woods on the hillside, and making the nucleus of a “neighborhood park” scheme similar to New Rochelle on the Hudson and Llewellyn park in New Jersey. To this park, which will be thickly set with tasty homes, there is provided an entrance similar to Westmoreland place and Van deventer place in St. Louis. Golf links and tennis courts have already been provided near this entrance for the exclusive use of the Thornburg residents. Next year the big spring, which is perhaps the most valuable asset of the suburb, will be walled up and the water piped to every house in Thornburg.

Varieties of Buildings

Under the direction of Frank Thornburg and Architect S. T. McClarence there has grown up rapidly the most unique collection of houses near Pittsburgh. From the California mission with its cement walls to the English timbered cottage or the Swiss brick and shingle dwelling done all in one color there are many varieties of the boulder residence, the cobblestone and rubblestone house with its pretty tile roof and the Gothic and Queen Anne type of residences. No house in Thornburg has a counterpart and the resulting dissimilarity is so unusual as to be very attractive to the home hunter. The average cost of the residences thus erected has been at least $8,000 each and a few of them have cost from $18,000 to $20,000. Fourteen houses, all of different types are already assured for this summer’s building and there is a good prospect that 50 more dwellings will be built late in the summer from individual plans.

landscape and vernacular buildings; and began to systematically collect and preserve Native American art and artifacts. Frank Thornburg and his family visited 846 South Beacon Avenue and probably stayed there when in Los Angeles. The house is gone; a commercial building now occupies the site. Next door, however, are three large Queen Anne houses, grander members of the same family of houses erected in Thornburg on Princeton Avenue in 1900. At the end of the block, a later house stands; with its stone first floor, shingled upper stories, steeply pitched roof, bracketed overhanging eaves, and casement and bay windows, it would not be out of place in Thornburg.

Several blocks away is Windmill Links, a residential community on Alvarado Terrace laid out in the early 1900s by Los Angeles County Council President Pomery Powers; here one finds Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, English and German Medieval, and Spanish Mission houses. But it was easy in the 1900s to travel farther afield via interurban rail—to Highland Park and the home of Charles Lummis, or to Pasadena where Locke & Preston built Shingle-Style houses on Grand Avenue in the 1900s and Greene & Greene erected their bungalow mansions between 1904 and 1910, or beyond.

An essential ingredient, or rather product, used in Greene & Greene houses in California was also found in Thornburg, although it originated in Boston. Samuel Cabot, Inc. of Boston made the wood stains used by Greene & Greene. Writing about the Blacker house of 1907, Randell Makinson notes: “Structural timbers, rafters, and window trim were stained a medium dark brown; the redwood shakes of the exterior wall were green; and windows and doors were left a light natural finish... The use of Cabot’s transparent penetrating-oil stain was a critical factor in the Greene & Greene exterior color specification.” Thornburg co-founder Samuel McClarence designed his Thornburg home about 1902; it burned in 1905. Above is a photograph of the house (and the neighboring Miller house) published in 1904. Two houses with Californian antecedents were also illustrated—the Cobblestone House at 1337 Cornell Road (shown below as it looked c. 1985) and Frank Thornburg’s second house at 501 Hamilton Road (photographed during our tour on November 18, 2000).
The Elusive Architect

In 1992 I learned that Samuel McClaren and his family left Pittsburgh sometime after 1912. In 1920, census records, a marriage certificate, and church records located with the assistance of Leona C. Scott provided biographical data, while several newly discovered newspaper articles added to our understanding of his architecture. Samuel Thomas McClaren was born on August 28, 1882, probably on the family farm in Findlay Township, to S. T. McClaren (c. 1823-1896) and William McClaren (c. 1812-1893). William McClaren had been a barrel maker before acquiring the farm, and he and his wife had a large family: 10 children were living in 1870. Samuel was the second son—23 years younger than his brother, William—and named after his grandfather, Samuel McClaren.

In 1883, the family moved to Walkers Mills, a hamlet west of Crafton, Pennsylvania. Samuel McClaren's name was first listed in city directories in 1884; his occupation is listed as druggist, he resided in Walkers Mills, and he was 22 years of age. There is some question about his employment in 1886-87, but beginning in 1888 he advertised himself as an architect. I will not repeat what I wrote about his career in “A Player of Architectural Variations.” I will hazard a guess that he dropped out of sight professionally because he found work as his cousin Frank as principal architect for the Thornburg Land Company.

He married Irish-born Kate (presumably Katharine) J. Bell (b. 1863) in 1892 and had three children, a son who died prior to 1910 and two daughters, Mildred (b. 1902) and Katharine (b. 1905).

On June 19, 1904, the Pittsburgh Gazette published an illustrated article on Crafton and Thornburg. Portions of the article are reprinted in the sidebar on page 14. This article is located by Margie Reclu, a Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Department volunteer—relates Thornburg to suburban developments in New England, mid-Atlantic and midwestern states, and California, and reports ambitious plans—64 new houses anticipated by the end of the summer of 1904. (In fact, there would be fewer than 70 homes in all of Thornburg in 1917.) The article also illustrates three Thornburg houses—the Cobblestone House at 1137 Cornell Road, Frank Thornburg’s second house (called a “cottage”) at 501 Hamilton Avenue (both identified by Frank’s daughter Florence as modeled after California houses), and McClaren’s own house built c. 1902. The McClaren house stood at what was then No. 76 Hamilton Avenue (all Thornburg Avenues and Streets later became Roads). Despite the poor quality of the image, we can see that the Shingle Style house has a gambrel roof, gable end facing the street. The first floor appears to be stone, while shingles cover the upper ½± stories. Shed dormers are visible on the second floor looking down Hamilton, while the front façade sports a semicircular gable window above a bay window and (possibly) a French door on the second story of the front porch. The porch is asymmetrical, with a square entrance porch on the left that opens out into a large circular porch on the right. A balustrade surrounds the second story porch.

The photograph, which also includes the J. J. Miller house at 531 Hamilton Road, is important because it shows that McClaren’s house was similar to those built on the east side of Princeton Road about 1903. This row of houses is the second wave of development, which moved Thornburg’s architectural idiom into the Shingle Style. We can see something of the form of McClaren’s house at 1109 Princeton Road, where a one-story, deep semi-circular porch has been placed in the center of the gable end of the dwelling. This visual evidence allows us to attribute the design of 1105 through 1123 Princeton Road to Samuel McClaren.

The photograph is also important because we can compare McClaren’s first house with the second house he designed for himself, standing today at 529 Hamilton Road. As Construction Magazine noted, and as the Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph reported in detail on November 21, 1905, the home of J. Eugene Beck at 75 Hamilton Avenue caught fire; the fire spread to the McClaren home at 76 Hamilton Avenue. (Please see the sidebar below.) Mr. Beck rebuilt at another location in Thornburg and his original lot remains empty today. McClaren built a new home; the Shingle Style house c. 1902 has become a Craftsman bungalow of 1906 (see above). Soon after, McClaren designed Frank Thornburg’s third and final home, the Arts & Crafts mansion at 1132 Lehigh Road (shown on page 12). Thornburg School Board minutes of May 25, 1912, quoted by Alice Chesnut [79] (in current) our last published reference to Samuel McClaren in Thornburg. He was 49 years old. From his race, Alma V. Armstrong, and we learned that the McClaren family moved to St. Petersburg, Florida “just before World War I.” Perhaps some Floridian has been researching buildings by one S. T. McClaren who moved to St. Petersburg c. 1913, and we would be interested in bringing together both halves of an interesting career. Meanwhile we will continue to search for clues until the next serendipitous discovery of documents, photographs, or family history reveals more about the whys and hows behind the houses of Thornburg. Ultimately, of course, it is up to the residents of Thornburg to respect and care for the individuality of their buildings, and to preserve this fascinating and historic community.

This is excerpted from “Saved From Their Burning Homes.” The Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph 129:122 (November 21, 1905): 4.

Had it not been for the precocious Eugene J. Beck (see in having a rope fire-escape in his bedroom, it is probable that there would have been several persons mortemated in the fire which, at 3 a.m. this morning destroyed his handsome residence, at No. 74 [sic] Hamilton Avenue, Thornburg. Owing to the lack of a fire engine or adequate water supply, the flames spread across the lawn to the residence of S. T. McClaren, No. 76 Hamilton Avenue, and after this had been nearly destroyed, they threatened the residence of J. J. Miller, No. 78 Hamilton Avenue. After the fire had turned out at that early hour of the morning to assist in extinguishing the flames, but there was only one fire-escape available, and recourse had to be had to a hose from the street, through which a tiny jet of water was directed. The fire originated in the Beck residence, and when it was discovered by the occupants it had already obtained a mastery of the lower part of the house. All effort in that way was cut off, and resort was had to the rope fire escape. With the room full of smoke, and the flames raging in the hallway outside, Mr. Beck succeeded in safely lowering his wife from the second story to the lawn. Next he adjusted the rope for his two boys, aged 5 and 6 years, and, one after the other, lowered them to their waiting mother, and ultimately descended to safety himself... The house was reduced to ruins, only a few stones standing upright. The fire in the Beck residence aroused the family of S. T. McClaren, and all were able to leave in good time. The side of the house on which the fire was on a few pieces of furniture were carried out the remainder was destroyed, the house being burned to the ground.
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A gift of appreciated securities or real estate can create lifetime income for you and provide the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation with much-needed resources to restore historic houses, churches, schools, parks, and gardens in the Pittsburgh region. You can help revitalize a main street in one of our neighborhoods, provide restored housing for low-to moderate-income residents, or put an empty church or school back into use.

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Contact Jack Miller to discuss these donor options (412) 471-5808 ext. 538 E-mail: jack@phlf.org

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GOOD NEWS FOR CARRIE FURNACE PROJECT

At long last the Carrie Furnaces may be assured of preservation. The Steel Industry Heritage Corporation, the communities of Braddock, Rankin, North Braddock, and Swissvale together with Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County will be working with a local design firm that they have selected to prepare a master conceptual plan for the Carrie Furnace project. MacLachlan Cornelius and Filoni will be undertaking the planning work on the 250-acre site. That firm is well-known for serving as the architects who renovated three major historic structures to create Heinz Hall, the Benedum Center, and the Byham Theatre, all downtown in the Cultural District.

The State has contributed $75,000 in local economic development assistance funds for the plan and the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development has allocated $1.5 million in community development block grant funds to proceed with site work upon acceptance of a final plan, which should be complete by June of this year.

Representative Mike Doyle has submitted legislation to Congress to designate Carrie Furnaces as a national park.

St. Nicholas Progress

The City Historic Review Commission and, by a six to one vote, the City Planning Commission have recommended that St. Nicholas Church on East Ohio Street (Route 28) be designated a City Historic Structure. City Council, which makes the final determination, has not yet voted on the nomination.

The Diocese wishes to sell the church to PennDOT so that it can be moved or demolished for improvements to Route 28, currently a very dangerous road in the vicinity of the church. Landmarks has supported moving the church if the congregation can be successful either in finding additional uses for the historic structure that would help fund its maintenance or in creating a significant endowment fund.

“WILLow COTTAGE” BACK TO CHATHAM

The Howe-Childs Gatehouse (“Willow Cottage”) stands at Woodland Road and Fifth Avenue, one of the rare survivors of the East End “Millionaire’s Row” of the past, and perhaps the oldest survivor as well. Built around 1860 for General Thomas Howe, it has endured much remodeling and neglect, and it has seemed at times that its City Historic Landmark status of 1966 would prove an empty distinction, without power to protect it.

But now that Chatham College has acquired the Gatehouse, it is no longer in danger. “Willow Cottage’s” rehabilitation has been announced as a project of Save America’s Treasures, a joint undertaking of the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The building will house the offices of the Chatham College Arboretum; it will also contain guestrooms for visitors, and meeting spaces. To accommodate these new needs, a surface parking lot will be added. Of the $1.5 million cost to the college, including repurchase, about half has been raised.

No effort at interior restoration will be made; too much has happened. But general repairs and exterior restoration are planned.

FORMER SYNAGOGUE TO BE AUCTIONED

On May 10, the former B’Nai Israel in East Liberty will be auctioned. The minimum opening bid will be $350,000. A $50,000 deposit will be required for bidding, according to Karin Wolf, administrative manager for Harry Davis Real Estate of Squirrel Hill, which is handling the auction.

For the past three years, the historic landmark designed in 1923 by Henry Hornbostel has been home to the Urban League Charter School. The school leases only one wing of the extensive complex and hopes to stay in the building.

In Pittsburgh’s Landmark Architecture, Walter C. Kidney writes: “This very unusual design has all the massive repose usually to be found in synagogue architecture of the early twentieth century, yet its various elements have a mutual independence quite uncommon. A great drum of dark random ashlar, austere and massive as if in response to the steep hillside close behind, terminates in a blind arcade of contrasting lightness. Above, immediately beneath the dome, is a very original band of blue and orange asbestos tiles in a diamond pattern, a weightless feature above the weighty stonework.”

Miller Resigns from HRC

On January 10, 2001, David Miller officially resigned from the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission, however he has agreed to remain until his replacement is appointed by the Mayor. Mr. Miller had been on the HRC since 1986 would prove an empty distinction, without power to protect it.

But now that Chatham College has acquired the Gatehouse, it is no longer in danger. “Willow Cottage’s” rehabilitation has been announced as a project

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Record Attendance at the Old House Fair

A record crowd—853 people—attended Landmarks’ sixth annual Old House Fair on February 24 at Victoria Hall in Bloomfield. From 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., visitors attended lectures and slide presentations, toured the Bloomfield/Garfield neighborhood, and talked with 44 vendors and experts in the fields of architecture, historic preservation, landscape design, and neighborhood revitalization.

Arthur Ziegler, Landmarks’ president, welcomed the crowd. Architectural historian Walter Kidney helped visitors to the Fair identify the style of their house, and Eubanks entertained guests with the slide presentation “Architecture: The Building Art.” More than 22 volunteers helped the event run smoothly.

Vendors Give Great Reviews

We liked the show. We would do it again in the future. People there were looking for quality. It was our kind of crowd….The show was great.

—Air Duct Maintenance, Inc.

We get a great response and definitely want to continue to be in the show. The market is just right for us. We have spoken every year at the show, and now we are going to expand to include other topics next year.

—Executive Chimney Sweeps and Fireplaces

We already have one home inspection as a result of the show, which will pay for our show. We also got work for several damp basements. Last year’s show kept us working for months. We also have made many connections with other vendors at the fair.

—Home Inspection by Harkness

We got 17 loads and half of them already have signed up for appointments.

—Aquaguard

Architect’s son writes in regard to the Pittsburgh Public School Special Issue (No. 159; March 2001)

We are pleased to reprint portion of a letter we received from James Steen of Highland Park, with permission. Mr. Steen is the son of Marion M. Steen, who was appointed Board of Education architect in 1935. Seven of the 20 Pittsburgh Public Schools that were recently designated as City Historic Structures were either designed by, had additions designed by, or had design and construction supervised by M. M. Steen, Al Tannler, historical collections director at Landmarks, has been corresponding with James Steen during the past year.

Dear Mr. Tannler,

[The Special Issue of PHLF News] tells me a great deal about my father’s work with the Pittsburgh Board of Education that I did not know of before….Some I did know about, of course, but not to anywhere near the extent which this account provides. The clarity and detailing of the writing and the excellent accompanying photographs are a pleasure to trace through. Familiar names pop up here and there. James Bonar [Superintendent of Buildings 1919–34 and well-known local artist] I knew and liked very much. He had farm property not far north of Pittsburgh where he…entertained our family when my brothers and I were children.

The Schwab, of Schwab, Palmgreen and Merrick [architects of Arsenal School], may be Harvey Schwab [it is], an architect whom my father knew and also my wife and I because of a mutual interest in music. Mrs. Schwab, Helen, was quite a good pianist, and Harvey played the violin….My father…played the violin….My wife, who plays in the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet orchestras, has owned my father’s violin since his death…..

I hope the Foundation’s work toward protecting these buildings fully will continue to move forward successfully. I hope to meet you soon.
Trustee and Member Gifts
Make Library Purchases Possible

The Richard D. Edwards Library Named 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 following books were purchased in 2000 through the Edwards Fund:


Thanks to the Robert L. Spear Library Named Fund, established in 1998, archival storage boxes for manuscripts and photographs for graphic prints and negatives were purchased in 2000.

Members wishing to use the library, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., should call Al Tannler, historical collections director, at (412) 471-5808, ext. 515.

To schedule an appointment.

of seven historical essays by the curator Sarah Nichols and others, and a cata-
logue dividing the displays into 42 categories. A technical glossary, reading list, and full list of displays follow.

To Hornbostel interest are the spire of the Smithfield German Evangelical Protestant (Smithfield United) Church in downtown Pittsburgh, discussed in one of the essays, and, in the catalogue, the little-known but impressive decorative aluminum work of the Aluminum Company of America. Research Laboratories in New Kensington.

This may be the most copious lay treatise of its subject, and any person interested in the ways in which alu-
minum can be and has been treated should consider its purchase.

The Way We Were: A Community History of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Mt. Lebanon: Mt. Lebanon magazine, n.d. 86 pp., 130 illus. incl. cover. $25.00, hardbound.

Mount Lebanon was incorporated as a township in 1912, a settlement already with a trolley access of sorts to Pittsburgh. In 1924 came the opening of the Liberty Tubes, and in 1928 that of the Liberty Bridge. The time and effort of walking to the trolley kept the earliest inhabitants simply walked away from their assigned places forever, never looking back. And of course is approximately the way it was. But the realities of prisons and blast furnaces alike are best conveyed when they are well tended and in use. A blast furnace photograph by Bernd and Hills Becher is a giant affair of riveted plates, and in any adjoining masonry structure every brick is nearly defined; total objec-
tivity. The reality of imprisonment may be conveyed better in the museum area of our Old Jail, even though the long cell-block spaces are gone forever; the cells are neat, seemingly ready to use. And yet, Perrott's contrasts of prison and surrounding city convey that reality too. In this regard, note especially the picture on page 42 (see below): the black geometry of the outer wall, the double houses across the street, whose view is of that wall, and, far in the dis-
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By Beverly Road and Lincoln School, in the late 1920s.

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Historic Plaque Nominations Requested

Each year Landmarks awards its Historic Landmark Plaques to important structures and districts. We invite your nominations. To receive an application, please call, write, or e-mail.

McCollom: "One Station Square, Suite 450 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134 (412) 471-5808, ext. 516 carly@phlf.org"

Or, visit our Web site at www.phlf.org.

Award of Merit Nominations

Call Walter Kidney at (412) 471-5808, ext. 511 if you would like to nominate an individual or organization for consideration by Landmarks’ 2001 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.
Variety is the Spice of Streets—
Or, Be Careful of Single-Minded Planning

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

The block on which I live, in one of Pittsburgh's streetcar suburbs, displays a generous variety of architecture, uses, landscapes, and people. In walking along it last Independence Day, I began to think about the desire that some people and organizations have for design and zoning controls that often result in standardized environments that reduce human diversity.

Is it good for our children to develop in an environment of conformity—where buildings and landscapes are designed and scaled in a consistent manner? Would our children be more tolerant and respectful of diversity if they grew up in an environment of diversity—with buildings and landscapes of all different sizes, styles, uses, and ages? Is it beneficial to have a "leader" (elected or self-anointed) decree what constitutes an appropriate environment, as was the case with the Mayor's plan for Fifth/Forbes supported by the Allegheny Conference? Or is it better for a community to grow and change gradually, based on grassroots activity?

Independence Day was just the time to consider these thoughts, since the holiday celebrates our nation's victory two centuries ago of a successful divergence of grassroots opinion from the leadership of the English homeland.

As I walked in my neighborhood, I felt that we might draw a lesson from my block. For what appears to be about 100 years, my block has welcomed variance, and the result is substantial community success.

Take for example the buildings themselves. They appear to have been developed between about 1870 and 1970, and exhibit a wide variety of architectural styles including the Italianate and late Victorian, Edwardian, Colonial Revival, Dutch Colonial, Shingle Style, late Deco, and early Modern and Modernist. While built primarily of brick, they include surfaces of wood, shingles, metal siding, concrete, and glass, in various forms, shapes, and colors. The brick itself exhibits many colors, from white to buff to beige to orange to rust to pale-red, intense-red, dark-red, mottled red, and several shades of deep brown.

Unlike the modern automobile suburbs, our block also welcomes a variety of buildings and uses. We have single-family houses, single-family houses now divided into large apartments, quadriplexes, and major apartment buildings holding perhaps 30 or more units. Two churches in the block are also varied in that one is Christian Science (Greek Revival) and the other is Episcopal (English Gothic), complete with rectory. Two institutional buildings are centered in the block almost opposite one another, one a Williamsburg-style American Legion post where we all vote and one a Roman Catholic friary, complete with an amazing elaborate stone grotto that is listed in our survey of the important structures of Allegheny County.

These buildings retain their porches. In many areas of Pittsburgh, notably in Shadyside, porches have been stripped from houses, giving an unfinished quality to them that leaves you wondering when they will be completed. On my block, buildings have small porches, large porches, magnificent two-story porches so that someone can sit downstairs or sleep upstairs feeling safe and sound; porches set into the structures of the apartment buildings, and porches enclosed (not always satisfactorily from an architectural viewpoint) and made into sun rooms. Some people have back porches, where people can enjoy the vegetation rather than the automobiles.

Speaking of plants: on my block, gardens come in all sorts and shapes, with quite a mixture of plants. There are those residents who follow the more modern suburban format of grass alone, but most of the dwellers here seem to be old-fashioned and have shrubs, hedges, and perennials to interweave and create privacy for their porches.

Those of more regimented mentality line up alternating plants along their front walkways in straight beds, while others produce a small centered, circular summer flower bed. One person has even added a playful sculpture of three nymphs painted bright white adorning the lawn, as if Classical civilization had just popped up there in a playful form. Musing from some areas along the street are the great trees that one associates with the streetcar suburbs: ones that were planted in little open blocks in the concrete sidewalks. These would grow through the years to vast proportions, lifting the blocks of sidewalk near them so that pedestrians were constantly going up and down small hills as they walked along. In one case, two huge stumps at ground level have been hollowed out by an imaginative owner and filled to overflowing with summer petunias.

Inhabiting and utilizing these buildings are people representing various nationalities and races, occupations, and ages. Young couples, older couples, families, empty-nesters, singles, doubles: all live congenially together, reaffirming one's belief rooted in urban experience, that we do not need to have similarity in order to have peace and harmony.

I would like to take certain people on a tour of this block, both those political leaders, planners, and newspaper editors who want to regiment our architecture and our living patterns. Perhaps if they could see the reality of the delightful results of this architectural landscape, with its human compendium, they would grow to respect differences among people and the expression of those differences in their architecture and their use of buildings, and for that matter in their points of view. They might then campaign for zoning codes that invite human beings to live in ways most comfortable to them while respecting one another.

We are pleased that the grassroots battle to save Fifth/Forbes, a fight against institutionalized thinking and government planning, met with success and that diversity of all kinds now has a chance to prevail.
Membership Survey

This is the first membership survey we have conducted in years. Please make it count! Complete this survey today, and return it to Mary Lu Denny (address given below), and you will receive a complimentary copy of Pittsburgh in Your Pocket, a guide to 64 architectural landmarks in the Pittsburgh area by Walter C. Kidney.

Feel free to copy the survey if you prefer to keep your newsletter intact.

1. How long have you been a member of Landmarks?
☐ Less than 1 year
☐ 1 to 3 years
☐ 4 to 6 years
☐ 6 to 10 years
☐ 11 to 20 years
☐ More than 20 years

2. Why did you join? Check the most significant reason(s) that caused you to join.
☐ Affordable annual membership dues
☐ To receive discounts on tours, publications, special events, etc.
☐ To receive PHLF News
☐ To support the cause of historic preservation
☐ Because of a friend
☐ Because of a preservation concern (i.e. Fifth/Forbes, etc.)
☐ Other: ____________________________

3. Check the membership benefits that matter to you most:
☐ Free walking tours
☐ Discounts on tours
☐ 10% discounts on publications (books and brochures)
☐ Free issues of PHLF News
☐ The opportunity to be involved as a volunteer
☐ Free use of the reference library
☐ 20% discounts on educational programs for schools
☐ Free use of the slide-lending library
☐ 10% discounts at certain bed and breakfasts
☐ Other: ____________________________

4. Have you ever volunteered for Landmarks?
☐ Yes ⊗ ☐ I’d like to (please call Mary Lu Denny at 412/471-5808, ext. 527)

5. On average, how many tours, lectures, or special events do you attend each year?
☐ Less than five ☐ 5 to 10 ☐ Between 5 and 10

6. Check the programs that you think are most important for Landmarks to be pursuing:
☐ Preservation Loan Fund (including neighborhood revitalization)
☐ Neville House restoration
☐ Providing assistance (technical assistance) in regard to historic properties
☐ Identifying and surveying historic/architectural sites
☐ Educational programs for schools
☐ PHLF News
☐ Historic Religious Properties Initiative
☐ Historic Landmark plaques
☐ Old House Fair
☐ Lecture programs such as “Making Cities Work”
☐ Advocacy (downtown revitalization, riverfront development, urban sprawl, etc.)
☐ Rural preservation
☐ Tours
☐ Publications (books and brochures)
☐ Historic landscape design (parks and gardens)
☐ Other: ____________________________

7. What is your greatest preservation concern in the coming years?
☐ Downtown revitalization
☐ Urban sprawl/urban preservation
☐ Inner-city neighborhood revitalization
☐ Surveying and landmark designation
☐ Historic religious properties
☐ Schools
☐ Other: ____________________________

8. How often do you visit our Web site?
☐ Daily
☐ At least once a week
☐ At least once a month
☐ Never (I do not have access to the Web)

9. Do you plan to include Landmarks in your will?
☐ Yes ☐ I already have.
☐ No ☐ Not at this time

10. Are you interested in learning more about planned giving opportunities that can benefit you and Landmarks?
☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Do you live in a house that is of historic or architectural significance?
☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Do you live in an historic neighborhood?
☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Are you...
☐ Male ☐ Female

14. Do you live in...
☐ The City of Pittsburgh
☐ Allegheny County
☐ Outside Allegheny County
☐ Outside Pennsylvania

15. Are you...
☐ 30 or younger
☐ 31 to 45 years
☐ 46 to 60 years
☐ 61 to 75 years
☐ 75 years or older

16. General comments: ________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________
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___________________________________________________

Call Mary Lu Denny at (412) 471-5808, ext. 527 for details on a multiple-year membership plan at a reduced rate, and for a listing of our membership benefits.

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

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City ____________________________ State __________ Zip ___________
Telephone (day) ____________________________ (area code) __________
E-mail ____________________________

Method of Payment
☐ Check enclosed (payable to PHLF)
☐ Credit card: □ AmEx □ Visa □ Mastercard □ Discover

Account # ____________________________
Expiration ____________________________

Signature ____________________________

Thank you for completing this form. Please return it to:
Mary Lu Denny
Director of Membership Services
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134
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PHLF News usually is published four times each year for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, a non-profit historic preservation organization serving Allegheny County. Special issues, devoted to a special program area, are published on occasion. Landmarks is committed to neighborhood revitalization and historic property preservation; public advocacy; historic landscape preservation; and education and membership programs.

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Designed by Petrik Design Associates; Photographs by William Ruby; PHOTOSITE; and Landmarks, unless otherwise noted.