Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation 1 Station Square, Suite 450 Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134 www.phlf.org Address Service Requested Nonprofit Org. U. S. Postage PAID Pittsburgh, PA Permit No. 598

PHLF News

Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

No. 161 September 2001

A Tribute to Charley Arensberg

(1913 - 2001)

Arthur Ziegler

We deeply regret the death of our founding president Charles Covert Arensberg, in Louisville, Kentucky, on July 8, 2001.

Our long-time members will recall that our organization began when Jamie Van Trump and I were walking along the 1300 block of Liverpool Street in Manchester, a wonderful street of Victorian buildings in the heart of one of the most architecturally interesting areas in Pittsburgh. We learned that the entire neighborhood was scheduled for demolition by the Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Jamie and I called upon Stanton Belfour, president of the Pittsburgh Foundation and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. He advised us to set up an activist preservation organization, although neither of us had any experience with such an endeavor.

Jamie said that he was going to call his attorney and friend Charley Arensberg, whom he knew had a deep interest in architectural history and had served as president of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Charley agreed to lead the organization through its formation and remained as chairman, in spite of his frequent offers to turn the reins over to other trustees, for 30 years.

Charley was one of the most widely liked and respected Pittsburghers. He married his wife Gertrude "Gay" Herron Hays in 1940 and they maintained a marvelous Queen Anne-Romanesque house on a large lawn on Castleman Street in Shadyside. They were known for their genial hospitality and mutual erudition, reading copius books and touring historic towns and cities.

With firm beliefs and unwavering principles, coupled with a pleasant and outgoing disposition, Charley saw Landmarks through a series of difficult advocacy efforts and helped initiate many positive preservation programs. At one point, Charley was standing at Smithfield Street and Fourth Avenue collecting money to save the Ladies of Stone from atop the Fourth Avenue Post Office (several now reside at Station Square), opposing the efforts of URA and Alcoa to demolish the Old Allegheny Post Office, and urging the formation of our neighborhood restoration programs and our educational programs.



In his homily to Charley, The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, said: "Charley was a preservationist. A great history buff (who even delighted in giving history quizzes—complete with prizes—to his young children and their classmates), he loved and developed an appreciation for old buildings long before his fellow Pittsburghers caught on to the idea that their city had anything worth preserving."

Time and again he deflected efforts of those who wished to demolish architecturally significant buildings while always refusing to compromise.

His absolute dedication to the principles of our organization—never asking the staff to give way, always setting a firm example for our membership's values—and his ability to communicate to the community with good humor gave spirit to our organization and established our standards of operation. That Landmarks has dedicated itself to finding useful and practical plans and solutions to difficult preservation issues and always tries to do so on a civil and congenial basis is due to the 30 years of leadership of Charley Arensberg.

His leadership was united early with that of Barbara Hoffstot, our long-time enthusiastic vice president; James Bibro, our treasurer for more than two decades; and Richard Scaife, who provided the initial funding for many of our most experimental and highest-risk activities, including each of our innercity neighborhood programs, the preservation of the Allegheny Post Office, and the development of Station Square. Without Charley's leadership and the commitment of all four of these individuals with their respective and unique strengths, our organization would not have survived, let alone become one of the most pioneering preservation groups in the country, now with one of the longest track records of productivity and financial stability.

We all have missed Charley since his retirement and his move to Louisville, but we know he continues to be with us day by day as long as Landmarks has its optimistic spirit of fulfilling its belief in the value of our historic buildings and

landscapes for all of our people and in carrying out that mission with sound scholarship, consistent principles, and good manners.

On July 10, David Lewis, an architect and professor at Carnegie Mellon University, wrote a note to me expressing his sadness upon hearing about Charley's death. We share portions of David's letter with his permission:

Dear Arthur:

It was with a one-ton heavy heart that I read about Charley's death in today's Post-Gazette....I know how fond you and Charley were of each other, to say nothing of the incredibly important battles you faught together, especially in the early days, when you laid the Foundation's foundations. And sturdy foundations they have proven to be! Although I was an early board member and was "in" on much of the early work, I was not in daily contact with Charley in the way you were: nonetheless I loved that man, his kindness, the sparkle in his eye, his delicacy of manner, and the immaculateness of his mind. And I loved the fact that Walter Arensberg was his uncle, and that Walter had been an early champion of Brancusi, whom I knew and wrote about in his old age, and also of Matisse...It's sad when such "living" days, so vivid and intense, suddenly, with an obituary in the daily paper, become history.

With love and thoughts on a sad day.

tanid David Lewis

In this issue:

4

INTA Conference: Urban Transit Internationally

8

Spring and Summer Tours with Landmarks

10

Looking Good on the North Side

16

Dressed for the Occasion: Eclecticism in Pittsburgh

National Trust Selects Pittsburgh for 2006

In June, Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, announced that the Trust had accepted Pittsburgh's invitation to serve as the host city for its national conference in 2006.

Pittsburgh competed against a number of other cities, including Boston, Philadelphia, and Indianapolis. Landmarks is grateful to all those organizations that supported its application, and to the Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau's "Bring it Home" campaign.

Over 2,000 people will attend the six-day conference: Pittsburgh—and the city's accomplishments in historic preservation—will be showcased. And, we will have the opportunity to learn from delegates from cities throughout the nation.

The conference will require substantial work on the part of Landmarks' staff and members. In 2002 we will begin meeting with the Trust and with any groups in Pittsburgh that would like to be involved in planning the 2006 national conference.

Page 2 PHLF News • September 2001

Welcome New Members

(As of June 26, 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**.

Charles R. Alcorn Teresa A. Beaudet and Gerald J. Giamportone Susan Belville Ben Avon Area Historical Association Thomas Betzler Norma Bluestone Kathleen & Carl Bruning Carmen Campbell David Case Felix Caste Margot Cavalier Ann Cipriani and family John Cline Bruce B. Colwell, II Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Conner Michael P. Contento Jeffrey R. DiLucia, Jr. Deborah Doucette East Liberty Development, Inc. Kezia L. Ellison Friendship Preservation Group Marcia Frumerman Greg Fuhrman Kristina E. Gardner Mary Frances Gargotta Dana J. Gary Rebecca M. Gerken Jessica V. Gibbons Mary E. Gibson Ann T. Gilligan Dr. Marcus Gottlieb Caitlin Green Mr. & Mrs. Ed Grimm and family Harmony Area School District Patrick F. Hassett Lori and Richard Hensler Sophia P. Hijjawi Beatrice Hirschl Joseph M. Hohman Kevin T. Horner Alan R. Huffman and family Jamestown Area School District Maia Javan The Jernigan family Deana L. Jirak Irene Johnson Doris T. Johnston Joe Kane Karns City Area School Bee Jay Kastor Colin Kelley Donna L. Killmer Ann W. Korthage Elaine and Carl Krasik Michael R. Krebs and family

Frank J. Kurtik

Phillip B. Little

Rae Anne Lockard Brett R. Lutz

Curtis B. Magnuson

Nuveen Marwah

David McAnallen

Michelle L. McKain

Natalie B. Monaco

Rebecca J. Morrow

Joshua Musicante

Peter P. Namisnak

Jean Ann Niethamer

Armand J. Panson

Ellyse H. Pearlstein

William Picciotto

Pauline and Jim Parker

Sharon Morris

Tom Murphy

Lane Neff

Mary Oppel

Bette McDevitt

Mr. & Mrs. William Lambert

Manchester Historic Society

McNaugher Education Center

Carol A. Metrovich and family

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Lipton and family

Samantha E. Plisak Shane A. Policastro Preserve Croatian Heritage Foundation Frank S. Quinn, IV Kathryn Rampy and family Regional Educational Support Center Charles E. Rhoads Peggy Rhodes Anne E. Richardson Rebecca M. Rieger Donna Ritz Michelle A. Robinson-Austin Barbara and Dennis Ross Ellyn Roth and Harold Pincus Ann Fay Ruben Joann Ryan Water Sadauskas Michael P. Santmyer George Schnakenberg and family Bob Schnarrenberger Roberta Shope Kelli A. Sikorski Jacob N. Skezas Doug Skowron Lynn and Joseph Smith Jon Smith South Side Community Council, Inc. Ruth Sproull and Richard Pantalone and family Stacy and Robert Stanton Matthew S. Stypula Mr. & Mrs. John Szuhay **Amit Tiwary** Township of Reserve W. D. Vergot Luetta C. Waddell Jean Ann Warren Fred Wheeler Connie L. White and family Terri L. White Anthony Wilson Arthur D. Wilson J. D. Wintermantel and family Simon G. Wu Rita M. Yeasted Charles Zinsser, Jr. and family

Pittsburgh Board of Public Education

Welcome Corporate Members

Christopher Zurawsky and family

(As of June 26, 2001)

Patrons

Dollar Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors Bureau

National City Bank of Pennsylvania

Partners

Allegheny Valley Bank of Pittsburgh
BankPittsburgh
Bognar and Company
The Buncher Company
Burrell Group, Inc.
Cable Design Technologies
Duquesne Light Company
Graham Realty Company
Frank P. Hess & Company, Inc.
Laurel Savings Bank
Neville Chemical Company
Nordic Fisheries
Omni William Penn Hotel
Rossin Foundation

Associates

Day & Night Press Pytlik Design Associates

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 loved ones. They also give memberships as gifts or donate goods or services. We thank the following people and corporations for their recent contributions:

Corporate Matching Gifts

- Chevron Corporation, for matching a gift from Jack D. Burgess;
- Mayer, Brown & Platt, for matching a gift from Teresa A. Beaudet;
- Norfolk Southern, for matching a gift from A. T. Bankson; and
- PPG Industries Foundation, for matching a gift from Diana L. Reed.

Gift Memberships

- Susan Faulk, for giving the gift of membership to James Weddell;
- Gerald Lee Morosco, for giving the gift of membership to the South Side Community Council, Inc.;
- Wilda Wilson, for giving the gift of membership to Arthur Wilson; and
- Alice Wilton, for giving the gift of membership to Fred Wheeler.

Hornbostel Book Contributors

Our fund raising campaign to support the publication of *Hornbostel in Pittsburgh* by Walter C. Kidney, is under way. We thank the following people for their recent gifts:

- Thomas W. Armstrong
- Bernard Kent Markwell
- Carl Wood Brown
- Pamela K. McCarter
- Dr. & Mrs. William S. Garrett
- David J. Vater
- Monna J. Kidney

Named Funds

• We thank Kim and Janice Menke Abraham; Michael J. and Karen Menke Paciorek; and Betty and Jack Zierden, for their gifts to the Audrey and Kenneth Menke Named Fund.

Program Support

- We thank Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, for its contribution to support our neighborhood preservation programs; and
- Thomas O. Hornstein, for his contribution to support our preservation and education programs.

Year-end Gift Contributors

• We recently received donations from Mellon Financial Corporation Foundation and Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Schroeder, Jr., bringing the grand total for 2000 Year-end Gifts to \$14,137.50. This money will be used to help fund Landmarks' Historic Religious Properties conference and grant program on October 8.

Staff News

Ziegler Receives F. Otto Haas Award

Pennsylvania's highest preservation honor, the F. Otto Haas Award, was presented to Landmarks' president Arthur Ziegler on May 24 for his efforts to change the direction of the Fifth/Forbes development proposal that threatened to demolish a significant number of historic buildings in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. The award was presented by Preservation Pennsylvania, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Lowe Rejoins Landmarks' Staff

On June 1, Stanley Lowe joined Landmarks' staff on a part-time basis as vice president of preservation programs. Once again, he will be focusing his attention on historic preservation activities in Pittsburgh's inner-city neighborhoods. He also will be spending time with the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Vice President of Community Revitalization; this newly created office will combine and refocus the Trust's urban efforts nationwide.



From left: David Taylor, president of Preservation Pennsylvania; Arthur Ziegler, president of Landmarks; Thomas Hylton, 2000 recipient; Janet Klein, chair of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The Camera Box, Camp Hill, PA

Miller Named Outstanding Fundraising Executive for 2000

Jack Miller, Landmarks' director of gift planning, was recognized on April 23 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as "the quintessential fund raising executive." A noted authority on planned giving, a dedicated volunteer for many local organizations, and a fifth-generation Pittsburgher, Jack takes joy in making Pittsburgh a better place. During his acceptance remarks Jack said: "Philanthropy is what distinguishes the United States from other countries. It's our moral compass. As development officers we've been charged with motivating others to have a significant impact on the region we love."

PHLF News • September 2001 Page 3

Welcome New Trustees and Thank You All

During Landmarks' Board meeting on April 17, Mary Louise Gailliot, Martha W. Jordan, and Joedda Sampson were welcomed as new trustees.

Although James Knox, chairman of the nominating committee, was not able to attend the Spring meeting, he wrote a note and asked that we share it with our members:

At the end of our nominating committee discussions, one member commented how wonderful it is that we at History & Landmarks have been able to obtain the active interest of so many fine people from the community. I stated that, as a personal observer from the beginning of Landmarks, it was the result of excellent leadership from such fine people as Charley Arensberg, Barbara Hoffstot, Dr. Van Dusen, Phil Hallen, Arthur Ziegler and his great staff of dedicated workers, that created a "go-go" organization.

The response of those who are invited to serve has always been positive. It is a great day for our community to have Landmarks as a top-flight volunteer organization. It is indeed one of these rare blessings that are an important dimension of a free society. All participants should be happy and proud of the great work of our foundation.



In Memoriam:

Frances McLaughlin Holland

(1914-2001)

On June 5, Landmarks lost a devoted board member: Dr. Frances McLaughlin Holland. A long-time resident of the East End, Frances was an administrator at the University of Pittsburgh, La Roche College, Point Park College, and for the Pittsburgh Public Schools; and she was a long-time trustee of the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). In 1998, she was named to the CCAC Hall of Fame and received the first Lifetime Legend Award from the College's Educational Foundation.

She cared deeply about the work of Landmarks, and was a strong supporter of our work in inner-city neighborhoods and with public schools. As a result of her leadership, Landmarks was able to develop a constructive relationship

with CCAC so the notable historic mansions that were part of the campus could be restored and adpated for new uses. Because of Frances' insistence and involvement, the Byers-Lyon house was restored; thanks to her guidance the building administrators and supervisors developed a wonderful sense of historic preservation.

The wife of attorney John R. Holland, mother of four children, and grandmother of five grandchildren, Frances was a leader in her community and in our organization. We have been informed that Frances has left a bequest to Landmarks. We will use this to strengthen our education programs and historic preservation services. We were fortunate to have Frances as a trustee and will always remember her as a most gracious, compassionate, principled woman.

In Memoriam: Shirley Kemmler (1935–2001)

On June 19, our loyal secretary of 18 years passed away. A resident of the North Side, Shirley provided essential support for many staff members so we were able to publish books, newsletters, and brochures, complete surveys, and conduct the day-to-day business of Landmarks. "She always worked hard and maintained a cheerful, kind disposition, even during the years she was battling cancer," said Louise Sturgess, Landmarks' executive director. We will always remember Shirley with great fondness.

Trusting Landmarks



For nearly a half century, Lucille Tooke and her late husband Jack cared for their 64-acre historic farm in Gibsonia, PA as if it were a member of their family. When it came time to retire she needed to sell the property to generate income. The stumbling block: developers wanted to buy the 165-year-old farm last year and replace it with tracts of new housing.

After exploring her options, the life-long Landmarks member decided to transfer her farm to a charitable remainder unitrust (CRUT).

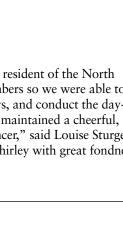
A CRUT allows a donor to place highly appreciated assets in a trust where they can be sold without incurring capital gains taxes. The proceeds are then invested in a diversified portfolio that must pay the donor an annual income stream of at least five-percent for life, or a period of years. Because charity must be the ultimate beneficiary of a CRUT, a donor also receives a charitable income tax deduction equal to the present value of the gift.

Lucille Tooke chose Landmarks as the irrevocable beneficiary of her CRUT. Landmarks purchased the property and intends to place a protective easement on the farm. Landmarks will then sell the farm, making this gift the first property saved through its

Rural Preservation Program.

For more information on creative gifts that meet your objectives and help Landmarks preserve the places that make Pittsburgh home, please call Jack Miller at 412-471-5808, ext. 538; or visit our Web site at www.phlf.org.





Jack Miller • In April, more than 330 downtown property owners received a letter from Landmarks explaining how real estate can be used to fund planned gifts. Two owners

Charitable

Update

historic buildings.Charitable gift annuity rates dropped fractionally July 1.

ways to give Landmarks their

are exploring mutually beneficial

- Our membership survey identified one person who has included Landmarks in her will; seven who are considering taking action; and two who plan to make planned gifts. For more details from the survey, please see page 19.
- To make it easier to explore planned gift benefits in the privacy of your home,
 Landmarks has created a planned gift calculator on its
 Web site. To locate, click on www.phlf.org; then click on Programs & Services; then click on Gift Planning: Creating a
 Legacy; then, under "To Learn More," scroll down and click on Planned Giving Gift Calculator.
- New federal legislation affecting estate, income, and capital gains taxes has serious implications for charitable giving. Landmarks will host its own charitable giving and tax seminar on October 30. Contact Jack Miller if you would like to receive an invitation: phone 412-471-5808, ext. 538; e-mail: jack@phlf.org.
- Members wishing to request a planned giving speaker or wanting to receive *Landmark Legacies*, our development newsletter, and/or a free copy of the brochure, 21 *Ways to Make a Difference*, should contact Jack (phone and e-mail listed above).

DID YOU KNOW...

...that in Pennsylvania our population grew by only 1.4% between 1982 and 1997, and yet our development of land rose by 41.3%, with almost all of the land consumption at the expense of Pennsylvania's farmland?

...that Landmarks has initiated a rural preservation program, acquired its first historic farm with a fine house of 1835 from Lucille Tooke, and will ensure that protective covenants are placed on the farm so that it will not be developed.

...Landmarks is now offering the 64-acre Hidden Valley Farm for sale. It is located on Old State Road in Gibsonia. Contact Mike Kelly at 412-271-5550 for more information.

...that Landmarks also is seeking to raise substantial funds to assist with protecting the remaining historic farms in Allegheny County. For information, call Jack Miller at 412-471-5808, ext. 538.



Hidden Valley Farm, Gibsonia

Preservation is the business of saving special places and the quality of life they support. It has to do with more than bricks....It has to do with the way individuals, families, and communities come together in good environments.

Richard Moe, President National Trust for Historic Preservation



Lobby, Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel 107 Sixth Street, Downtown Formerly the Fulton Building (1906)



Help us protect the places that make Pittsburgh home. Contribute to Landmarks. 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.

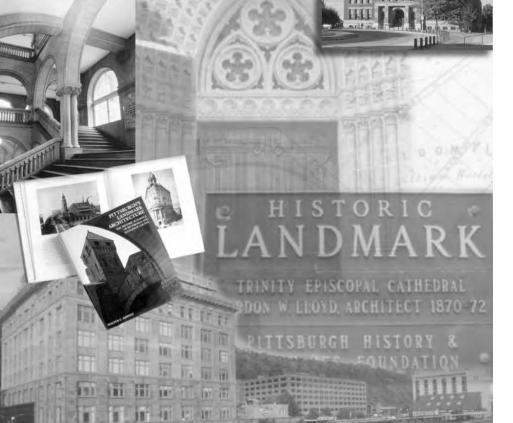
Landmarks Can Put Your Assets to Good Work While Bringing You:

- Lifetime income from your gift;
- Public acknowledgment of your gift;
- Federal and estate tax savings;
- Avoidance of probate costs;
- Disposition of real estate and elimination of ownership costs and liability (minimum value required);
- The satisfaction of making a significant gift to preserve our western Pennsylvania heritage;
- Honorary life membership in Landmarks (minimum contribution required).

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







INTA Conference:

Urban Transit Internationally

Arthur Ziegler

This May, the International New Towns Association's (INTA) Conference, "The City Response to the New Demands for Mobility," was held in Paris. Delegates from forty-two countries attended, including several staff members from Landmarks. We found in this conference an important opportunity to gain ideas for improving urban transit, linking historic neighborhoods with downtown and urban job opportunities, reducing sprawl and automobile dependence, and hearing how the internet may affect commuting habits and parcel delivery systems.

Patrick Hassett, assistant director of design and development in the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, also attended the conference as a result of a scholarship we offered.

Hearing about various modes of transportation—established ones like the Paris Metro, experimental ones, and some more or less exotic—was enlightening. The conference was intensive, and packed with experiences from so many countries around the world, ranging from Hong Kong, where 90 percent of urban travel is by mass transit, to the Ivory Coast, where farmers still transport the pineapple crop that they grow for export by truck over dirt roads.

Some general conclusions that we distilled from the conference were:

- The populations in many cities will increase enormously in the next 20 years. One prediction is that there will be 50 megalopolises on the planet in 20 to 30 years. In many cities, particularly in Europe and North America, there will be a great increase in the aging population.
- If people have the money, they will want cars and they will almost always use the cars in preference to public transit, unless there is no parking in the city or it is so expensive that they cannot afford it.
- Improving, enlarging, and increasing public transit systems does not mean necessarily that people will utilize them. The effort put forth in a number of cities to do just that met with considerable disappointment.
- One widespread agreement is that there needs to be a way to make the private auto pay its full cost, including petroleum, road, police, accident, health, and all costs associated with it. The fact that the automobile is indirectly and directly subsidized in many ways makes it seem more attractive than public transit; but cities are beginning to strive to find ways both politically and technically to introduce full-service charges for the automobile: only this strategy will force a decline in its use.
- In an amazing number of countries there is talk of, or actual implementation of, the privatizing of many of the transit systems. England is leading the way in this. Many problems of pricing, service, transfers, and capital investment might occur, but the belief is still widely held that, except possibly for the subway systems, it can be done profitably. The European Union is in the progress of promulgating a requirement that transit systems be privatized. There was debate over whether this should include the subway systems in the major cities where a problem of piecemeal ownership could hamper efficiency.
- In many subways there is no handicapped access, and it is often difficult to create it.

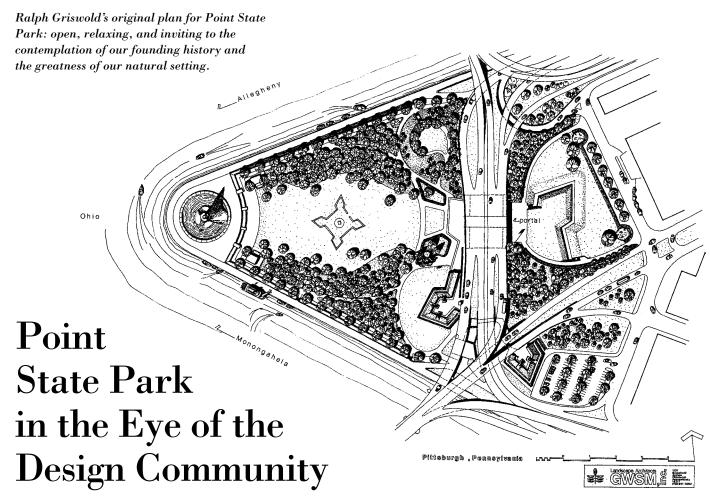
- An additional problem in cities that needs to be solved is equal access at all hours. Because of bar-closing hours in England at 11 p.m., 2 a.m., and 4 a.m., waves of young people leave bars and have no public transportation and can gather in crowds and be a problem for the police and the neighborhoods.
- Peak-hour travel may drop off in the coming years due to changing work and shopping patterns caused by the use of the internet. In actuality, car trips and transit trips may increase but be spread over a longer range of the day and evening; therefore, peak-hour transit may not be such a problem in the future. However, the internet does cause more truck trips in cities because of the personal deliveries of goods bought through the internet.

Paris provided a real-world laboratory within which to observe many of the conference's issues and ponder possible solutions. Particularly evident in Paris are its pedestrian support infrastructure and the related balances of transit, pedestrian, and automobile use in an intensely active and dense urban environment. The arsenal of transit modes includes both elevated and subway transit lines, bus and streetcar lines, and a fully automated subway line. These systems are tied together physically and operationally, creating a seamless web of transit lines and stations serving all parts of the City of Paris. The stations are complemented by fingers of pedestrian paths that integrate the stations with surrounding land uses. The 24/7 presence of transit service (and its use!) is a growing feature of Parisian life, as is the important role the pedestrian accommodations play in both activating and supporting urban life.

The INTA Conference was a unique opportunity to withdraw from the day to day hustles of planning and meetings in Pittsburgh and consider the bigger picture and best practices regarding the evolution of our urban areas along with related changes in mobility needs and available solutions.

Patrick Hassett Assistant Director of Design and Development, Department of City Planning, and Landmarks' INTA Scholarship Recipient

- Individualized public on-call or taxi systems are very difficult to operate, and no system emerged at the conference as a model. The fact that the user must call ahead, that pick-up times and routes are uncertain, and that the nature of the vehicle is uncertain all have resulted in a lack of acceptance of such systems. We see these same problems with our Access system here in Pittsburgh.
- All parties agreed that large publicly funded garages and lots for commuters should be eliminated and not be subsidized. In Pittsburgh, we will soon spend \$250 million to run a subway from downtown to the new commuter/ballpark garage on the North Side, and a commuter garage has just opened on Second Avenue and one has been proposed for the Lower Hill District. These should not occur; the funds should be expended on reaching people's homes and linking inner-city neighborhoods with downtown, not with urban parking garages.



Barry Hannegan

On June 2, Landmarks and the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects held a design charette to consider the condition of Point State Park in the light of changing uses and contexts. Sponsored by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Riverlife Task Force, the charette was conducted in the new Renaissance Pittsburgh Hotel.

Landmarks had proposed this initiative when discussions about the future of the Park first began to surface. We were concerned that the splendid design of the Park would be lost sight of, under the pressure of mounting numbers of new and very diverse user demands; and, we were looking for an opportunity that would allow us to share our knowledge of the Park's history and our great regard for its original design intent with this larger community of Park users.

The Park was the creation of Ralph Griswold, arguably the most important landscape architect to practice in Pittsburgh. Mr. Griswold, working in close collaboration with Charles Stotz, architect and architectural historian, gave us a great urban space that time, lowered standards of maintenance, and a concentration of use far beyond original intentions all have diminished and harmed.

Mr. Griswold saw a green open space, linked to the city by the great vista that starts at Commonwealth Place, moves across the evocation of Fort Pitt, slides beneath the broad, sweeping arch of the highway overpass, arrives at the meadow at the heart of the Park, and concludes with the vigorous splendor of the fountain against its backdrop of rivers and hills. The Park was conceived

as a place of repose and refuge—open, relaxing, and inviting to the contemplation of our founding history and the greatness of our natural setting. Some 170,000 plants, all indigenous to pre-European western Pennsylvania, created a veritable botanical garden of native flora.

This was a grand vision, indeed; and happily, at the end of the charette (which filled the entire day and involved upwards of 70 designers and Park stake holders), that vision was endorsed as the guiding spirit for whatever is to come on this quintessential bit of Pittsburgh's landscape.

Design Competition Steams Forward:

Much Ado About Something

Barry Hannegan

With the passing of the May 1 deadline for letters of intention to enter Landmarks' design competition, we had an even two dozen such letters in our file. Readers of *PHLF News* will recall from the April issue that Landmarks is sponsoring a competition for young designers (35 and under) who were asked to come up with proposals for the improvement of any one of eight designated public spaces scattered through Pittsburgh's historic neighborhoods. The idea of the competition stems from our belief that, although the past is a rich and irrecoverable legacy, often it can be enhanced to make it more attractive and more relevant to the life of the city, right now and into the future.

The letters of intention come from architects, landscape architects, artists, and assorted designers, acting as individuals or in collaboration with others to form teams of two to six members. The response is rather greater than we had expected, but that only strengthens our impression that the young design community here is full of talent and ambition. Excerpts from four of the letters of intent are reprinted here, just to give the flavor of the overall response to Landmarks' somewhat unexpected initiative.

- It is with great excitement that I would like to notify you of my intent to submit for the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation Design Competition. I look forward to creating a unique design for one of the sites selected as well as seeing the other entries of young designers in the city. Thank you very much for the opportunity.
- I am very excited to have the opportunity to explore my interests in preservation and architecture in the city I live in.
- We are excited by this opportunity and look forward to being a part of an important public awareness process.
- The unique places throughout the city are the reasons people remember, care about, and live in this place. We are committed both personally and professionally to studying cities, buildings, and spaces within the context of historical significance as well as contemporary desires for usage. In this way, we welcome the chance to learn more about our city as well. We look forward to exploring these issues through the competition.

Members will be able to see the plans that are submitted during an exhibition at the Mattress Factory on Pittsburgh's North Side from September 21 to October 21.

What's in a Color: Chapter 2

Bridges

Barry Hannegan

Readers of our two major daily papers will have noticed a flurry of articles on Landmarks' proposal to paint the bridges in the downtown area with unique, distinguishing colors. The media recognition of this idea comes about two years after we compiled a study that suggested an identifying new color for each bridge, beginning with the West End Bridge and extending up the Allegheny to include the Sixteenth Street Bridge (omitting the Veterans' Bridge which is nothing more than an elevated roadway), and up the Monongahela as far as the Birmingham Bridge.

The proposal was sparked by an invitation to suggest a color that might look good on the unbuilt new Wabash Bridge just downstream from our offices. The ensuing discussion about bridge colors revealed a good deal of dissatisfaction

with the prevailing washed-out yellow, given the trade designation of "Aztec Gold." If literal Aztec gold had historically been as unappetizing, the Spaniards would hardly have bothered stepping on shore. Further thinking evolved a palette of colors that would easily distinguish each bridge and which would have some site appropriateness, either as to setting or to other neighboring colors.

Bridges define Pittsburgh just as much as do the rivers and the hills. Since they are highly visible features and are here to stay, and, moreover, need periodic repainting, we felt the idea of introducing color was a way of capitalizing on what we already had, without such effort requiring any additional funding. The scheme would appreciably enliven the vistas around the confluence of the

rivers, and on a dreary February day, the polychromy might help dispel the tedium of a Pittsburgh winter.

In reading and listening to comments to our idea from a variety of sources, we were struck by how much weight the marketing names for colors seemed to carry. These appellations, dreamt up by paint manufacturers as a means of giving the consuming public handles for identifying paint colors, seemed to have an inordinate significance in the minds of many of those who commented on our ideas. It was a pity and a disservice that the more vocal critics didn't pause to ascertain what the proposed colors really were.

More on Avalon

Dear Mr. Ziegler,

Your recent article in the April edition of *PHLF News* pertaining to the architectural variety and diversity of life on your streetcar community street was forwarded to me by my dear sister Jane who lives in Pleasant Hills, Pa. She said that I would find it fascinating and she was right.

From 1939 to 1956, our father served as Rector of The Church of The Epiphany in Avalon, as shown in your piece. Our family (father, mother, five children and two grandmothers) lived in a rambling, yellow and white, Victorian Rectory next to the church until it was razed in 1955 and the present annex built.

It follows, therefore, that when I was 8 to 21 years of age, your street was my street. I thought that you might like to know what it was like over a half-century ago and the extent to which it has, and, perhaps, has not changed.

Before and during World War II, the street was distinguished by its orange/yellow bricks and tall, heavy Maples and Oaks, mostly curbside. There were a half-dozen stately homes: our rectory, the Fritsch house, the American Legion mansion (destroyed by fire), the Snodgrass house, the Kerr's and, later, the Berhorst place.

There were single family dwellings up and down the street, mostly, as you mentioned, in variegated brick. A diverse range of owner names comes to mind:
Wadlow, Parlett, Hunter, Iebeck, Braun, McCandless, Crowley, Bahm, Fry and McBride.

In the forties, every family seemed to have children of school, college, or military service age.

About 25 of us from South Home

Avenue walked to and from school along the carline everyday.

Actually, we walked it twice, for we came home for lunch.

There were no trucks or buses to speak of on our street. An exception was the coal truck. Everyone's coal was dumped at the curb, then wheelbarrowed to the coal window and shoveled inside. The last chore (sweeping, then hosing down the street where the coal had been dumped) traditionally fell to the resident 8 to 12 year old boy. Everyone pushed their own lawn mower and the grandmothers planted most of the flowers.

During the War, the two blocks formed by Home, Jackman, Starr and California Avenue (bisected by Hamilton), comprised the *Pittsburgh Press* route that my brother, and then I, served. I recall that most customers waited on their porches for me to arrive with the evening paper. They would read the local casualty lists on the front page before going back into their houses.

Sunday presented two processions of church goers: the Protestants and Roman Catholics walking to neighborhood churches in the morning, and the pilgrimage

(continued on page 20)

Preservation Scene

Lawrence Paint Building:

Lost After Years of Effort

When it was built in 1902, the building we knew as Lawrence Paint stood in a thick cluster of industrial plants and a tiny amount of housing, a little upriver from Painter's Mills, a little downriver from the Point Bridge, and across Carson Street from the Duquesne Incline. In time, all but the incline disappeared, and the paint business came to an end, at least on this site.

Landmarks initiated the Station Square development in 1976, and in 1985 acquired control over the Lawrence Paint building. With the building came the tantalizing problem of what to do with it. Here was a massive cube of brick and timber, heavy industrial construction of its time: a memento of the heroic past, and sited about where the Pittsburgh Glass Works, arguably the city's first industrial plant, started operations in 1797. Here was a building with views onto the Renaissance City, the Gateway to the West, and one of the felicitously, treegrown hillsides that surround the Triangle. The architect, we eventually found, was Joseph Franklin Kuntz, of the W. G. Wilkins Company, who later designed Frick & Lindsay, the present Andy Warhol Museum.

Through the years we undertook a variety of architectural and economic studies for the building for office, hotel, mixed use, entertainment, and housing.

The interior of the building presented major difficulties: some of the floors were not full floors; there were odd balconies and great holes where large equipment was located; the basement occupied three levels, and there was a sub-basement below grade which, together with the basement, was subject to river flooding.

Nevertheless, we finally decided that the best use would be housing and the following sequence of events occurred.

- 1. We cleaned the building using Earth Science Consultants for environmental matters.
- 2. We sponsored a national competition among four leading architectural firms for the Lawrence Paint complex with a new building to be erected next to it, both buildings to be used for housing.
- 3. In our master plan for Station Square that the City approved in 1992 we stipulated that the Lawrence Paint building be retained. *Unfortunately*

the current City administration ignored that stipulation, very much against our wishes, and approved Forest City's revised master plan that called for the demolition of the Lawrence Paint building.

4. When Forest City made the useful deal to buy out its partner Harrah's so that more investment could be made in Station Square, Forest City granted an option on that property to Harrah's in the event gaming was approved. The option rendered it impossible to develop the Lawrence Paint site for seven years from the date of the option. We met with the

Mayor and Al Ratner of Forest City and offered to underwrite the cost which was considerable—of making the building look occupied and handsome during this option period. Mr. Ratner and Mayor Murphy rejected our offer.

- 5. We sent a large number of developers interested in the building to Forest City and to the Mayor's office over the past half dozen years, to no avail.
- 6. When City Council approved Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the newly planned Station Square development, the stipulation was attached that *prior* to Forest City's receiving the TIF funds, Lawrence Paint had to be restored or demolished. The latter being faster, less expensive, and not complicated by the Harrah's option, City Council essentially issued a death sentence for the building.
- 7. When Preservation Pittsburgh nominated the building for historic designation by the City, we testified in favor of the nomination but it failed to obtain necessary support at City Council.



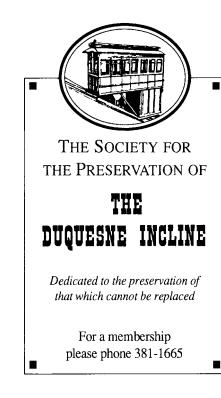
June 18: The cupola comes down during the demolition of Lawrence Paint.

The final demise of the building is really due to expensive physical problems associated with reusing it, together with a wide variety of political, economic, and timing difficulties.

We have agreed to locate within the remaining foundation walls of the building a park that will contain industrial artifacts that we rescued through the years. This will serve as the termination of the Riverwalk of Industrial Artifacts that we began. Forest City plans to complete the Riverwalk, with government funds, during the next two years.

Stones and the heavy timbers from the building have been saved and may be utilized in this park. Forest City is talking with us about the possibility of creating a sculpture from those significant, structural pieces.

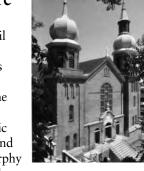
In due course we hope that an elegant work of architecture will rise in the area of the former Lawrence Paint building that will be a symbol of the high quality of architectural design in Pittsburgh prominently located at the confluence of the three rivers. And, like the Lawrence Paint building, we hope it will attract the respect and admiration of our community.





St. Nicholas' Church Designated a City Historic Structure

On July 2, City Council awarded St. Nicholas Church on Route 28 the status of a City Historic Structure, and Mayor Murphy signed legisla-



tion to that effect on July 13. The church is said to be the first Croatian Church in the nation.

Even with its designation as a City Historic Structure, the future of the church is undecided. The Catholic Diocese plans to close the church. It may sell the church to PennDOT, which is planning to widen Route 28, or perhaps to someone else. If the Diocese sells the church, it will remove all religious symbolism, including the stained glass. Then if PennDot buys the deconsecrated church and moves it, no one knows quite what will happen.



Addition to the National Register

The John Frew House at 105 Sterrett Street in Oakwood, one of our most handsome survivors of the Georgian period, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. According to the owners, the stone section of the house dates to 1790 and the "new addition" is from 1840.



Brew House

The former Duquesne Brewery on the South Side, owned by the City, has been the subject of contention for years. Now it appears that the Brew House Association,

a group of artists, will be allowed to buy and thus preserve one of the two main buildings of the group. This is the Brew House of 1899, the oldest element though somewhat remodeled. It will provide 20 spaces for homes and studios. A developer who had been in litigation with the City will get the large 1950-period Stock House, with its conspicuous clock.

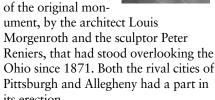


The Larimer School, closed for more than 20 years, will become the anchor of its namesake neighborhood again. A Second Chance Inc., a non-profit organization, has announced plans to restore the former school as a community support center. Included in the plans are a kinship foster care program, offices for human service organizations, and family recreational activities.

The group hopes to raise nearly \$7 million to restore the 105-year-old school designed by Ulysses J. L. Peoples. Additions, in various styles, have resulted in a building with many wings and a multitude of space development opportunities.

Allegheny Soldiers' Monument

The shaft and crowning statue of the North Side's Soldiers' Monument has stood by Lake Elizabeth since 1931: a truncation



Now the Allegheny City Society is raising money for its restoration. It will not return to Monument Hill above the river (behind the Community College), and it will not reacquire its massive, ornate base. But it will last as it is, where it is, for some years more.

Schenley Park Visitor Center

In the fall, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will informally open the Schenley Park Visitor Center to the public. Trail maps of Schenley Park and general information will be available.

The open-air pavilion, designed by Rutan & Russell c. 1910, was badly modernized over the years. Restoration by Landmarks Design Associates included cleaning and repairing the building masonry; replacing the asphalt roof with slate shingles; installing French doors, casement windows, and a fully accessible restroom; and restoring



a balustrade and replacing a brick pier. The original tongue-and-groove ceiling and rafters have been exposed and a snack/coffee bar and gift shop have been created. A new terrace and deck overlooking Panther Hollow provides a place to sip that cup of java or to relax and enjoy the park setting.



Schenley Park Visitor Center, undergoing restoration in June.

Landscapes (from Charlotte, Vermont), are enhancing the natural setting of this historic building by reestablishing as much native vegetation as possible and restoring the stonework, walls, steps, and railings leading to the bridle path and the cobblestone access drive. Existing trees are being pruned and new trees and grasses are being planted.

The Visitor Center is a very handsome and welcome addition to Schenley Park.

Iris Garden Planted at Woodville

On July 19, youth members of the American Iris Society planted a garden of historical iris at the Woodville Plantation (the Neville House) in Collier Township. The students are responsible for measuring the growth of the iris and weeding and maintaining the garden. Mrs. Geraldine McFarland, formerly a Pittsburgh Public School teacher, is coordinating this educational program.

The Historic Iris Preservation Society and American Iris Society donated the rhizomes. Ten species of iris, ranging from 1500 to 1844, will bloom next May and June at Woodville.

Old St. Luke's Receives PHMC Plaque

On July 15, more than 100 people attended a dedication ceremony at Old St. Luke's in Scott Township. Two Chartiers Valley tenth-grade students unveiled a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker commemorating the stone church of 1852 and burial ground.

According to The Reverend Richard W. Davies, "worship began at the site when it was an outpost of the British Army prior to the Revolutionary War." Several Revolutionary War veterans and many of the first Chartiers Valley settlers are buried at Old St. Luke's.

For the past 13 years, Reverend Davies has been involved in preserving Old St. Luke's and maintaining it as an active worship site. Last year the church hosted 24 religious worship services and 40 Christian weddings.

Thank You Interns

This summer, three interns volunteered with Landmarks' education department.

Peter Cockrell, a senior at Sewickley Academy, researched and wrote the text for a Sewickley walking tour brochure. Micah Slavkin, a senior at Schenley High School, updated our Shadyside survey. Megan Heilmann, a sophomore at Westminster College, researched and wrote the text for a series of South Side fact sheets. Thank you all for your help!

Homestead Historic **District Makes Most Endangered** List

Preservation Pennsylvania included the Homestead Historic District in its annual listing of the Commonwealth's ten most endangered historic properties. The Homestead Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. It includes the commercial corridor of Eighth Avenue and stretches across the three boroughs of West Homestead, Homestead, and Munhall.



The 100 block of East Eighth Avenue, Homestead.

The Homestead National Register District is threatened by a proposal from CVS pharmacy and Gustine Homestead Associates, Inc., a local developer, to tear down almost an entire block of the commercial core to build a suburban-style pharmacy and parking lot with a drive-thru lane. On September 9, 1999 Homestead's Borough Council conditionally approved the CVS plan, but various issues stalled the project. In July 2000, CVS filed suit in Federal Court against 17 defendants, including Landmarks, two other non-profits, and several private citizens. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the ACLU have filed amicus briefs on behalf of the non-governmental defendants. The East Eighth Avenue buildings targeted by CVS remain standing, but are not being maintained. Homestead's effort to promote heritage tourism and economic development based on its history could be severely jeopardized if the CVS project is allowed to proceed because the historic gateway to the Eighth Avenue main street would be demolished.

CVS pharmacy currently occupies a fine historic building at





Spring and Summer Tours

with Landmarks

Albert M. Tannler

Approximately 110 visitors from Boston, Chicago, Houston, London, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Paris, Salem, as well as from suburban Bethel Park and Thornburg, participated in tours, both formal and informal, during April, May, and June of 2001.

When a group of visitors from France toured the Allegheny County Courthouse in April the tour became delightfully bilingual. The tour leader, Professor Monjou, had prepared for this first Pittsburgh visit by writing ahead for several of Landmarks' publications. He was particularly glad, he told me afterward, that they had visited the Courthouse.

Only one language was necessary during the Courthouse and Downtown walking tour for members of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem later that month, after we agreed upon the correct pronunciation of "Peabody" (PEA-ba-dee) and "Carnegie" (Car-NEG-e). The group presented Landmarks with a copy of *Salem: Cornerstones of a Historic City* (Commonwealth Editions, 1999) by Joseph Flibbert, *et al.*



Minnette Boesel (left), who grew up in Pittsburgh and now lives in Houston, and Bonnie Scardino of the Rice Institute, with Arthur Ziegler.

At the end of April, members of the Rice Institute of Design in Houston visited Pittsburgh. Landmarks' president Arthur Ziegler gave them an architectural overview; I took them through the Courthouse; and they toured downtown with our docents.

In May a group of residents from Friendship Village in Upper St. Clair toured the Courthouse and—since this was a weekday—the Rotunda and open spaces at the Old Jail (now Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas). For several residents, including one County employee and others who had worked downtown for decades, the visit to the Allegheny County Buildings was a return to familiar ground.

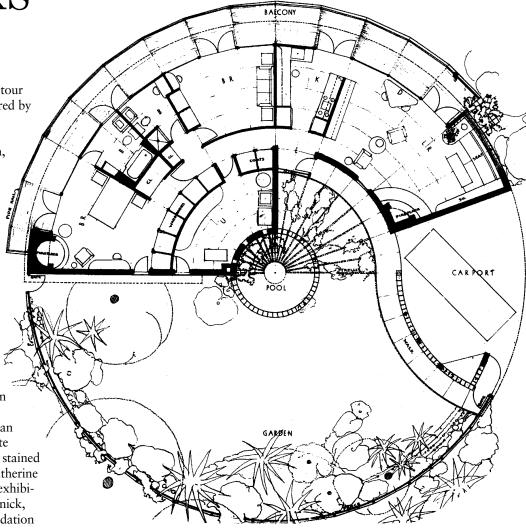
Later that month Karen Bergenthal of East Town Travel Ltd. brought a group from the midwest for a four-hour "highlights" visit: a visit to H. H. Richardson's Emmanuel Church, a Courthouse tour, and visits to the 1914 Riesmeyer house by Kiehnel & Elliott and Peter Berndtson's 1954 Lipkind house (graciously opened by their owners) was followed by a walk through downtown.

In June I led an Art & Crafts tour for Thornburg residents sponsored by the Thornburg Adult Education Committee. The tour included Richardson's Emmanuel Church, Samuel Thornburg McClarren's Woolslair School, a Craftsmanstyle home filled with Arts & Crafts furnishings and a Frederick Scheibler house in Squirrel Hill; a concluding walk through Thornburg included visits to several homes and ended in the Thornburg Mansion. Afterward, Thornburg resident Judy Thompson wrote that it was "exciting to see the other building by McClarren, and how have I missed the Richardson Episcopal Church on the Northside—spectacular!"

Later that month I co-hosted an informal tour of Pittsburgh's Late Gothic Revival architecture and stained glass for Marilyn Justice and Catherine Zusy who are planning a 2003 exhibition of the art of Charles J. Connick, sponsored by the Connick Foundation in Boston, and Peter Cormack, Deputy Keeper of the William Morris Gallery in London, leading authority on the work of English Arts & Crafts glass artist Christopher Whall. Peter Cormack determined that the chapel of the Church of the Ascension, with its Connick windows, was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, thus adding Cram's name to the distinguished list of architects including William Halsey Wood, who designed the building, and Alden & Harlow, who oversaw its construction. After returning to England, Peter Cormack wrote a letter to me saying: "It was a great pleasure to meet you in Pittsburgh and to learn about the city's magnificent heritage of architecture and stained glass....my only regret is that there was not more time available for each superb building."

While it was a pleasure to lead our visitors through much-anticipated destinations such as the Cram and Goodhue churches with their Connick windows, I took particular satisfaction from their response to St. James, Wilkinsburg with its 80 windows designed by Harry Wright Goodhue prior to his death at age 26—"He was a genius," Marilyn Justice declared—and to Carlton Strong's Sacred Heart Church, which greatly impressed Peter Cormack. Cathie Zusy said their Pittsburgh visit was "wonderful and informative and inspiring."

Courthouse tours were given in June for LouAnne Greenwahl, curator, MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles, located in the home and studio of Viennese-American architect R. M. Schindler, and for José Cervantes and John Helgeson of the Minneapolis Building Commission, whose Richardsonian Romanesque City Hall and Hennepin County Courthouse (1888–1905, Long and Kees, architects)



Edith Lipkind (a 29-year-member of Landmarks) and owner of this magical Usonian house-in-the-round, shared stories with visitors about architect Peter Berndtson who designed the house for her and her late husband.

is modeled after the Allegheny County Courthouse. Messrs Cervantes and Helgeson presented Landmarks with Paul Clifford Larson's book, Municipal Monument: A Centennial History of the Municipal Building Serving Minneapolis and Hennepin County, Minnesota (Minneapolis: Municipal Building Commission, 1991).



Kiehnel & Elliott's 1914 Riesmeyer house places window designs inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright in an Arts & Crafts setting.



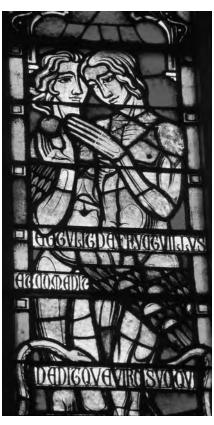
Frank E. Alden (later a principal of Longfellow, Alden & Harlow) supervised construction of Richardson's Jail, now adapted as the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas.



Carlton Strong's Sacred Heart Church combines historical elements with sophisticated 20th-century sculptural massing. The extraordinary stained glass windows are by George and Alice Sotter.



"Adoring Angels" is the name of the Pre-Raphaelite glass mosaic reredos Leake & Greene provided for Emmanuel Church in 1889. It is thought to be the work of British-born and trained Henry Hunt, whose studio still operates in Pittsburgh.



Adam and Eve, as realized by Harry Wright Goodhue, watch over parishioners at St. James, Wilkinsburg.



Margaret Henderson Floyd noted the similarity between Samuel McClarren's 1896 Woolslair School and the design vocabulary of Longfellow, Alden & Harlow. The Golden Pompeian brickwork and Romanesque forms, decorated with Classical ornament, recall buildings by the older firm.

Dollar Bank to Sponsor Old House Fair

Landmarks is pleased to announce that Dollar Bank will sponsor its Sixth Annual Old House Fair scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2002 at Victoria Hall in Bloomfield.

Open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the fourth Saturday in February, this event has grown over the years to attract more than 900 visitors from across the tri-state area. For a nominal fee, visitors will be able to learn the latest restoration techniques from craftsmen and other experts in the field of preservation. Many attendees actually bring photos of their own projects to get on-the-spot advice and guidance.

"This was a natural fit for Dollar Bank," explained Gary Prestigiacomo, the Bank's VP for Marketing. "As the oldest continuously operating bank in Pittsburgh, we share Landmarks' dedication to preserving the architectural heritage of our historic neighborhoods."

Dollar Bank is no stranger to Landmarks. In 1995, the Bank underwrote A Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County. This 84-page paperback chronicles the history of African-Americans in the county from the mid-1700s to present day and includes historical pictures of buildings and places where black citizens lived, studied, played, worked and worshiped.

Dollar Bank joined with Landmarks again when it helped to publish a companion piece to "Bricks" entitled A Timeline of Key Events. This unique foldout poster is still used by school students and historians as a reference to mark events important to African-Americans dating

Probably the most recognizable connection between Dollar Bank and Landmarks is visible on the tee-shirt given to thousands of students and teachers each year who participate in Landmarks' walking tours. The familiar Fourth Avenue Dollar Bank lion (c. 1870) works beautifully with Landmarks' motto: "Protecting the Places that Make Pittsburgh Home."

Dollar Bank's preservation efforts extend beyond buildings and homes to individuals and families. Each year, the Bank sponsors a free, half-day workshop entitled "Mortgages for Mothers." Attracting several hundred female heads-of-households each year, this workshop helps women (and some men, too) learn about various mortgage products and understand the power of credit. They also are able to discuss their individual credit reports with a credit professional. A highlight of the workshop is a series of inspirational presentations by new homeowners, who overcame their own problems with the help

of Dollar Bank's Credit Enhancement Program.

Cathy McCollom, director of operations and marketing at Landmarks, said: "It makes sense for Dollar Bank to sponsor Landmarks' Old House Fair. Both our



organizations are interested in assisting homeowners and in strengthening neighborhoods. The Bank's connections with Pittsburgh neighborhoods and expertise in working with families and in providing financial assistance will help us spread the news about the Fair to thousands more Pittsburghers. After attending the Sixth Annual Old House Fair, many more people will be inspired to make home improvements. That effort, in turn, will create healthier neighborhoods."

ANDMARKS

FOUNDATION

Dollar Bank: downtown on Fourth Avenue, in this landmark building, since 1870.

Walking Tours

FIFTH/FORBES WALKING TOURS

Wednesdays in September, 12 Noon to 1:00 p.m. Meet under the clock in Market Square Free to members of Landmarks; \$3.00 for non-members Docents from Landmarks lead the tours.

SOUTH SIDE STROLLS

Saturdays through September 29, 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. Meet at 12th and East Carson Streets, in front of the Birmingham mural Free for everyone

Docents from Landmarks and the South Side Local Development Company lead the tours.

ALLEGHENY WEST

Saturday mornings, year-round, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Meet at Calvary United Methodist Church, Allegheny and Western Avenues, North Side \$3.00 per person

Proceeds benefit the restoration of monuments in Allegheny Commons Docents from the Allegheny City Society lead the tours.

For further information contact Mary Lu at: phone: 412-471-5808, ext. 527 e-mail: marylu@phlf.org

Page 10 PHLF News • September 2001

The Eloquence of Jamie

In 1964, the historic houses on Liverpool Street were scheduled for demolition. That sad fate inspired Arthur Ziegler and Jamie Van Trump (1908–1995) to create a non-profit historic preservation group and to undertake a study of Liverpool Street, assessing the condition of its structures and recommending strategies for their preservation.

The following excerpts from 1300–1335 Liverpool Street, Manchester, Old Allegheny, Pittsburgh (1965) remind us of Jamie's brilliance in conveying the timeless, emotional effect of Liverpool Street.

These houses...are ghosts....Year by year, more of them sink and vanish in dust or in the bright air of the planner's dream. Many of them seem to possess, however, some nameless, secret vitality that informs their vagrant clusters of timber, brick, and stone that lie along the asphalt veins of this municipal bone yard. Waiting, these buildings gather their worn dignity about them, raise their battered heads; they seem to ask for a new turn of fortune or the advent of a kindly fashion to revive them.

...Between Manhattan and Fulton Streets, as the eye journeys eastward, it is caught, arrested by the desiccated, but still upstanding, middle-class grandeurs of the 1300 block facades. This particular section, most of whose houses were constructed in the decade 1880–1890, constitutes in its own solid bourgeois way the finest surviving Victorian street in Pittsburgh...



...The houses of the 1300 block on Liverpool Street belong among this group of architectural citizens whose continued existence should be valued; they are not, on the one hand, worker's cottages, nor are they great mansions like those still to be seen on the North Side's Ridge Avenue. These seemly rows of solidly-built structures were constructed to house moderately prosperous townsmen, their wives and children, and as

such they are definitely documents of the history of the great American middle class; here the walls and porches seem to say that you can see clearly, if you care to look, how the urban middle class man or woman lived in the 1880s and 1890s...

...Architecturally, the chief interest in Liverpool Street lies in the homogeneity of effect produced by the general form and style of its buildings and also in its variations on the urban themes of the row house. Only in the North Side and the South Side districts of Pittsburgh do we find any extensive use of the closely built-up block of 19th century party-wall row houses so common in the cities of the eastern seaboard, and possibly the flatness of the topography, unusual in this area, was a factor in its establishment.

A nine-sectioned diamond graces 1301 Liverpool Street.

Looking Good on t



Brownstone
buildings
are rare in
Pittsburgh:
no more than
280 are left in
the City.
Fortunately,
these in the
1300 block of
Liverpool Street
are being
restored.

Landmarks Commits \$400,000 to Liverpool Street Restoration

Elisa Cavalier

What a difference soap and water can make! I scowled at my mother when she said this to me as a child; now I am a believer. All one needs to do is drive past the 1300 block of Liverpool Street and the wonders of soap and water become abundantly clear.

Pittsburgh's industrial legacy had turned six row houses on Liverpool Street into somber, soot-covered manses. But soap and water has helped reveal the impressive, warm-colored brownstone structures masked for so many years. Intricate stone carvings on the upper stories of each house are now easily seen: a nine-sectioned diamond graces 1301 Liverpool Street; eleven encircled flowers are carved across 1305 Liverpool; and stone voussoirs surround the arched second-story windows of 1307 Liverpool Street.

The six row houses are part of a joint restoration project being undertaken by the Manchester Citizens Corporation and the Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation with funding from the Urban Redevelopment Authority and from Landmarks, in the form of grants and loans. The project has been in the planning stages for three years, and construction began this spring. Much has been accomplished since our last report in the April issue of *PHLF News*.

The masonry of the six houses has been cleaned and repointed. New roofs have been built, with slate for the mansard sections soon to be installed. The decorative metal fleurs-de-lis that graced the top of several gables were removed, repaired, and will be

installed upon completion of the roof work. The last house in the series is a red brick Victorian structure with stone window lintels and a mansard roof. The house was overwhelmed by a red and white metal awning on the first floor that has been removed; a great weight has been lifted and the airy, vertical nature of the building has been restored.

The dominant feature of the row houses was the massive, continuous porch. Unfortunately, it had deteriorated over the years. In some places, the wooden pedestals and columns that had supported the porch roof had been replaced with brick pillars. In other areas, two-by-four posts simply propped up the sagging porch. Now, most of the porch has been removed. The balustrades and spindles are being re-milled in cypress wood to match the original detailing, and a tongue-and-groove porch is being installed across the façade. Full light double doors with semi-circular glass transoms mark each entrance.

Liverpool Street is in one of the oldest historic districts in the City of Pittsburgh. It is where Landmarks began its preservation efforts thirty-seven years ago. Therefore this project is of particular importance to us. The members of the team designing and executing the work are well-known for their restoration expertise: Landmarks Design Associates is the architect and Sota Construction is the contractor. Once the exteriors of the homes are restored, four houses will be sold. Although the interiors of each house must be refurbished, the new owners will be able to do so to their particular specifications.

You will be able to see the Liverpool Street houses on our membership tour on October 14. If you are interested in buying one of the houses, please call Manchester Citizens Corporation at 412-323-1743.



Encircled flowers at 1305 Liverpool Street.



The arched second-story windows of 1307 Liverpool Street

he North Side

Preservation Fund Loan of \$255,000 Helps Restore Six Mexican War Streets Houses

The Central Northside Neighborhood Council targeted six buildings in the Mexican War Streets for restoration: 1721, 1701, and 1221 Buena Vista; and three row



1701 Buena Vista Street. This historic house had deteriorated to a mere shell. You could literally stand in the basement and look up through the roof!

houses on Jacksonia Street, adjacent to the Mattress Factory museum. The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh and Landmarks provided funding assistance, and PHASE, a nonprofit communitybased real estate development corporation, took on the "shell rehab" project. The buildings were stabilized; new windows, roofs, gutters, and downspouts were installed; the facades were painted; and porches were restored, when necessary.

While in the process of completing the exterior work, PHASE found buyers for five of the six houses. The buyers paid for the interior construction work, and were able to determine the floor plans and create imaginative interior designs.

1721 Buena Vista is still available. Call PHASE at 412-321-5565 for details!



500 and 502 Jacksonia Street.



Richardson Romanesque at 1221 Buena Vista. Landmarks underwrote the cost of painting the porch.



Italianate at 1721 Buena Vista.



411 Jacksonia Street.

Tour Liverpool Street, Buena Vista, and More! On Sunday, October 14, join Landmarks' staff

On Sunday, October 14, join Landmarks' staff and neighborhood leaders for a tour of Liverpool, Buena Vista, and Jacksonia Streets. See the progress

Participants also will have the chance to visit the Mattress Factory to see the models submitted by young landscape designers showing new designs for six historic areas in Pittsburgh (see "Much Ado

that is being made in these historic neighborhoods.

About Something" on page 5).

Members will be mailed an invitation to the October 14 tour. Or, you may contact Mary Lu Denny for further details: 412-471-5808, ext. 527; e-mail: marylu@phlf.org. Reservations will be required for this membership tour.

Landmarks Helps

Community Involvement

As a member of the Fifth/Forbes Planning Committee for "Plan C," Cathy McCollom, Landmarks' director of operations and marketing, has helped ensure that historic preservation is a priority in the redevelopment effort. On July 27, the Plan C Task Force announced that eight developers (three local and five out-of-town) had responded to its "request for qualification" and expressed interest in developing plans for housing, retail, and entertainment in the Fifth-Forbes corrider. Task Force members are



Forbes Avenue, downtown

reviewing the work of each firm and plan to select a development team by the end of September.

Cathy participated in two panel discussions this spring, speaking on the topic of revitalizing historic commercial districts. The conferences were the Governor's Smart Growth Conference on March 20 in Hershey, and the annual meeting of the National Association for Housing and Revitalization Organization on April 9 in Pittsburgh.

Landmarks helped support the 2001 Neighborhoods USA Conference in Pittsburgh, from May 23 to 26, and the Southwestern Pennsylvania Smart Growth Conference on June 9.

Elisa Cavalier, general counsel for Landmarks, participated in a charette on Homestead revitalization on April 6 sponsored by the AIA, and presented a lecture on historic preservation on May 9 at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission conference in Greensburg.

Historic Religious Property Assistance

Thomas Keffer, superintendent of property maintenance at Landmarks, has been meeting with Greenstone United Methodist Church in Avalon, offering advice in regard to a new walkway and automatic handicapaccessible entrance doors.

Pennsylvania Rehab Code

Landmarks' president Arthur Ziegler and Thomas Keffer, superintendent of property maintenance at Landmarks, joined architects Maureen Guttman and Rob Pfaffmann to testify at a meeting in Pittsburgh on April 9 of the Pennsylvania House Urban Affairs Committee. The topic: to discuss the development of a rehabilitation code for Pennsylvania similar to that adopted by both New Jersey and Maryland.

The participants described the unique problems associated with older buildings, including housing and commercial buildings, and pointed out that the Pennsylvania Building Code is designed for new buildings and often cannot apply to older buildings. Chapter 34, which addresses rehabilitation in Pennsylvania, is extremely complicated and building officials throughout the Commonwealth are unfamiliar with it.

A new national building code is currently being developed for restoration and rehabilitation, and might become available in the early part of this decade; it could suffice if adopted by Pennsylvania. But the schedule for it is unknown at this time, and the participants recommended that a code similar to that of New Jersey be adopted. Then, when the national code is available (which is expected to be quite similar to the New Jersey code), it could be adopted as the final one.

To adopt more flexible standards that befit older buildings would greatly assist in the financing of the reuse of buildings throughout the Commonwealth. All participants praised the City of Pittsburgh for its flexibility in applying the code, resulting in considerable adaptive use of historic buildings.

Regional Humanities Council

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is offering \$5 million on a one-to-three match to an organization that will establish a regional humanities council, and the University of Pennsylvania is considering responding to the offer. For reasons clear only to the NEH, this Regional Council will serve Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New York, and New Jersey, a highly differentiated group. Representatives from the University of Pennsylvania invited Pittsburgh representatives interested in the humanities to discuss what the council would do, and the dozen attendees offered constructive recommendations.

Arthur Ziegler suggested that such a council could be useful if it could communicate the values of the humanities to those who are not already convinced of them, rather than serving the constituent community of organizations and university departments. "Ample educational material is available to everyone working in the humanities," said Arthur, "and we do not need any more conferences or seminars to share ideas; we have more than any one has time for. However, the humanities are unfortunately not a priority with many people, and that needs to be changed." To make such a council a \$20-million-funding priority would require a well articulated program supported by a broad constituency; a great deal more work needs to be done to achieve that position.



Liverpool Street

Page 12 PHLF News September 2001

Architecture i

Discovering Pittsburgh

Over 120 teachers participated in seven summer education classes offered by Landmarks through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Gateway to the Arts, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Pittsburgh Children's Museum, and Ringold School District. The teachers learned how to strengthen their classroom curricula—and extend classroom learning into the community through the themes of local history and architecture.

The following excerpts, from two teachers in our "Pittsburgh Heritage" class, convey the sense of discovery experienced by many of our teachers as a result of our summer classes:

Visiting the North Side with our "Pittsburgh Heritage" class last week was like opening a gift I didn't know I had, a truly unexpected surbrise....

Like most Pittsburghers, my experiences with this part of the city, were limited to childhood field-trips to Buhl and Three Rivers Stadium.

Casually, I would drive around, and pass right by the North Side on 279, 28, 65...on my way to some other place. I had no idea what was locked inside this area.

First of all, arriving on the North Side for my "Pittsburgh Heritage" class was an exercise of my independence. After taking the bus from Aspinwall to downtown, I crossed the Allegheny by foot on the Roberto Clemente Bridge, with hopes of not getting lost! The river sparkled in the morning sunlight; business men and women scurried to work, yet I had time to meander and enjoy....

I happened upon one of the Mexican War Streets by accident. The noise from the adjacent streets and the kids playing in the park vanished as if there was a new world

admired doorstep flower pots, and ran my hand over the brick facades of these side-by-side Victorians. I found a spot to sit on the street and sketch the details (or tried to anyway) of the old Victorian, and forgot about time. Walking out, I saw a small "For Rent" sign—and considered it.

—Kelly Nicholson

The North Side day also included a visit to Allegheny Commons:

...all the little park has to offer is a quiet, still, relaxed, atmosphere where time almost stops. The surroundings...force you to slow down—so serene, so private, so tucked away. I can imagine and almost feel "the promenade."

—Norma Rennich



Standing on her handmade bridge amidst a sketch of Allegheny Commons, a "Pittsburgh Heritage" teacher holds up her pop-up street scene.

South Side's $Neighborhood\ Assistance$ Program

Just over 1,500 teachers, students, parents, and friends participated in our education programs featuring South Side history and architecture. Students from Arlington Elementary, Bishop Leonard, Philip Murray, Phillips Elementary, and Prince of Peace traveled along the Mon to view the South Side from the river, explored the old LTV site (and met several Pittsburgh Steelers), searched for architectural details along Sidney and South Twenty-second Streets, and participated in mapping and bridge-building activities.



Touring the former LTV site and meeting several Pittsburgh Steelers.

PHLF News September 2001 Page 13

Education

Miller Elementary

Students from Miller Elementary School in the Hill District created books about their neighborhood during a year-long after-school enrichment program with Landmarks and mentors from Mercy Hospital.

This is the third year that Landmarks has taught the Mercy Miller after-school enrichment program. One student recalls some of his memories in the following letter:

Dear Mrs. Louise,

I would like to thank you for the wonderful things we did. Even though this is my last year I will remember the things we did at Mercy Miller. Do you remember when we went walking across the bridge to look at different symbols and statues on the buildings? Do you remember the story teller when he told us the great stories, or even the paper-bag building activity? The tunnel project was fun too. Thank you truly for coming to share with me things that I didn't know.

Your dear friend,

Deluin Furner

Delvin Turner

McNaugher Education Center

Thanks to the initiative of their teachers (and with some guidance from Landmarks), students from McNaugher Education Center in Perry South toured downtown Pittsburgh, West End, and the Hill, among other places, and built models showing similarities and differences between those places. This model of the Hill includes the Civic Arena and St. Benedict the Moor.



Pittsburgh **Elementary** Gifted Center

Students from the Pittsburgh Elementary Gifted Center on the North Side built models of a Children's Park they envisioned for Allegheny Center. They also created a Web site featuring the designs, models, and project descriptions: info.pps.pgh.pa.us.

The Pittsburgh Children's Museum sponsored this year-long project in cooperation with Landmarks.



Allegheny Traditional Academy

How should the Children's Museum be linked to the old Buhl Planetarium? What should happen in the old planetarium? How can the Allegheny Center area be made more inviting? Patricia Pirt's eighth-grade students from Allegheny Traditional Academy addressed these questions in the grandest model of them all! They proposed that a clear-glass, three-story building be constructed to link the Children's Museum to the old Buhl building. The new museum would have activities for middle school

students. The old Buhl Building would become a day care and homework help center, complete with computers and a snack shop. The students especially liked the planetarium itself: "We want to keep this as a theater that just does plays and things in the dark. You could have scary plays or pajama parties; or tell campfire stories or runaway slave stories; or just watch a play under the stars."



Page 14 PHLF News • September 2001

Architecture in Education

(continued from page 13)

Mt. Lebanon Elementary Schools

In May, about 380 second-grade students from seven elementary schools toured Washington Road, a main street in Mt. Lebanon, searching for 101 architectural details that matched photographic details printed on a series of worksheets. Nearly 80 parents volunteered to help lead the tours, along with members of Landmarks, The Historical Society of Mount Lebanon, and the Ad Hoc Historic Preservation Committee of Mt. Lebanon. After the walk, students pasted all the photographic details on a main street map (complete with a community timeline) that they then displayed in their schools.

The walking tour was part of a social studies unit on community. Students also sketched their house and school, completed a community workbook, and toured the municipal building and fire station. Their drawings and stories were showcased in a summer exhibit at Mt. Lebanon Public Library. Landmarks, the Society, and Ad Hoc Committee were delighted to have the opportunity to work with Foster School principal Dr. Karen Kanell and the second-grade teachers to strengthen the curriculum on community.



Building Magic

"Building Magic," a live-production offered through Gateway to the Arts and produced in cooperation with Landmarks, was performed in Market Square in May, and to a total of 2,270 students in nine schools between January and June.





Carnegie

Students from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Carnegie also explored the main street of their community, searching for matches to architectural details.

Landmarks created this program at the request of Marcella McGrogan of the Carnegie Historical Society and teacher Debby McGrogan. About 20 parents volunteered to serve as tour guides, and everyone met at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library at the end of the tour.

Public schools in Carnegie might participate in this program in the 2001-02 school year.

Westmoreland County Schools: $Fifth \ Annual \ Architectural$ Design Challenge

What should be done with the vacant downtown lot on Liberty Avenue adjacent to the Bruno Building? Close to 200 middle and high school students from Westmoreland County proposed many ingenious solutions in sophisticated and intricately crafted models. They presented their ideas to a jury of architects, after an orientation tour with Landmarks and months of work.

and sports bars. Several models were displayed at the



Steel Valley Middle School and High School Design Challenge

What should be done with the former Rainbow Kitchen building at the corner of East Eighth Avenue and Amity Street in Homestead? Landmarks posed this question to twenty-six students from Steel Valley Middle and High Schools. After months of work, students described their models and ideas to Betty Esper, Homestead's mayor, and leading business people and architects.



complete with a sports store; mini-ice hockey rink; and rooftop miniature golf course.

The Amity Street Coffee Shop and Bookstore

Four Trustees Fund 10 College **Scholarships**

Landmarks Scholarships

In 1998, trustee David Brashear established the Landmarks Scholarship program. Now nine students are receiving four-year college scholarships, thanks to the Brashear Family Named Fund and contributions from Landmarks' chairman Phil Hallen and former trustee Grant McCargo.

Recipients this year are Kezia Ellison, a graduate of The Ellis School, and Terri White, a graduate of David B. Oliver

High School. This fall, Kezia will be attending Brown University and Terri will be attending Howard University. Three



Above: Several scholarship recipients met in June: from left to right, Lauren Merski, Lara Malakoff, Greg Bykowski, and Terri White.

scholarship recipients just completed their freshman year at college: Lara Malakoff at George Washington University; Lauren Merski at Kent State University; and Jennifer Schulz at the University of Virginia.

And four scholarship recipients just completed their sophomore year: Steve Albert at the University of Cincinnati;

Renee Davis and Greg Bykowski, both at the University of Pittsburgh; and Emily Sullivan at Cornell University.

Three of our scholarship winners are working with architectural firms this summer; one is working with a local contractor; and one is enjoying a summer study-abroad in Europe.



Kezia Ellison

"The Landmarks Scholarship program is giving us the opportunity to develop relationships with young people who care about their hometown, and who are developing their skills by pursuing a college education," said Landmarks' executive director Louise Sturgess.

Walton Family Scholarship

Trustee Ellen Walton is sponsoring a scholarship for a high school graduate who attended Miller Elementary School in the Hill District. "I am very impressed with Miller School and with Margaret Burley, one of the teachers there," said Ellen. "I wanted to estab-

lish a scholarship that would match one being offered as a result of Mrs. Burley's efforts, so assistance could be awarded to two former Miller School students instead of just one."

On April 12, the first Walton Family Scholarship winner Angel Kendall—and the Miller School scholarship



Eric Howze and Angel Kendall

winner—Eric Howze—were recognized at the annual NEED dinner. Both are graduates of Schenley High School. Angel will be attending Garrett College in the fall, and Eric will be attending Slippery Rock.

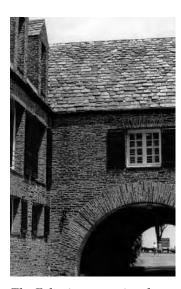
PHLF News • September 2001



Notice the contrast between the skyscrapers pictured above and below. The Arrott Building of 1902 has busy walls of white terra cotta and bronze-colored brick, hard in finish. Ornamental features are applied to it, top and bottom, like costume jewelry...



...while the Investment
Building of 1927, almost
identical in dimensions, has a
plain "shaft" of textured
brown brick with a "base"
and "capital" of limestone,
simply composed and with its
details integrated in the mass.
The chamfering of the upper
part that faces the street
shapes the top and creates a
strong conclusion that
requires no heavy cornice.



The Eclectics appreciated materials: rubble at the Longue Vue Club.

Brick: Mount Assisi, Ross Township.





A Mid-Victorian house makes an ignominious departure from Frick Acres around 1927. In the meantime, the Cathedral of Learning is being clad in its Gothic raiment and the Masonic Temple, across Fifth Avenue, is a little dirty but otherwise doing nicely, thank you. Eclecticism at its peak.

Dressed for the Occasion:

Walter C. Kidney

In the April issue of *PHLF News*, I wrote of *Hornbostel in Pittsburgh*, now in preparation.

For years I have had a companion book in mind, a general survey of Eclectic architecture in the Pittsburgh area. Here are a few images to give you an idea.

The Eclectics appreciated materials—their colors, textures, potentials for patterns, historic associations—as the Victorians never did, and more recent architects just occasionally. True, steel, reinforced concrete, or hollow tile—the cinder block of the 1920s—might slumber beneath the gorgeous surface,

whether it be of rubble, brick, terra cotta, or stucco.

With Eclecticism, a building wore a costume, often though not always one that evoked a bygone culture, time, and place.

By the mid-1920s, American architecture was in a state of self-satisfaction laced with malaise. Looking at Eclecticism and sporadic searches for something new, the respected academic G. H. Edgell took a tolerant, wait-and-see attitude:

Modern American architecture includes all the architecture of America which has recently been built, or is being built today. It includes the conservative and the radical, the archaeological and the original. To limit modern architecture to that which seems to embody what are called modernistic tendencies would be not only foolish, but arrogant. The architecture which today is regarded as unprogressive, a generation

from now may be in the van, and no man, be he layman, critic, or designer, can pass an infallible judgment, or even make a good guess, as to what is to be the architecture of the future. Modern American architecture is the American architecture of today.

Talbot Hamlin took a tolerant attitude, too:

Emotional power in architecture can never be achieved until the larger matters of plan and composition have entirely absorbed and re-formed the details of architectural expression like moldings, columns, and ornamental forms which make "style." It is precisely these larger matters of planning and composition which are most profoundly affected by new materials, new technical processes, and new social conditions. As soon, then, as plan and composition, so deeply responsive to the changing mechanizing of modern life, begin to control detail as completely as they



Terra cotta: the William Penn Hotel.



Stucco: a house on Amberson Avenue.



Bourgeois urban Gothic, 1500-style, for commerce: the Union Trust Building, downtown.



An English Gothic church for the Anglicans: Calvary Episcopal in Shadyside.

And now and then, the Eclectics attempted a modern style: seldom completely original, but looking sideways rather than back. The Greenfield Elementary School is a design of 1916, derived from modern architecture in Chicago.

Eclecticism in Pittsburgh

should, style changes are inevitable, and true style freedom will arrive.

Eclectics, as might be expected, tended to be reactionary, as was Thomas Tallmadge:

The contention for an American style is the pursuit of a will-o-the-wisp.... What is the culture and genius of America? It is European. We are not aborigines. We are nearly or remotely Europeans, and we are not only Europeans, but we are ancients as well....If, then, it is true that we are co-heirs with our brothers who have not yet emigrated of the glory and the grandeur that were Greece and Rome; if the same blood that joined thrust to thrust in the dizzy groins of Amiens, that hung the vault of St. Peter's so little below the firmament, that flecked the streets of London with the white fingers of Wren's churches—if this same blood flows in our veins, why should we give up this royal heritage? It is ours as much as it is theirs across the seas.

So there. But the Modernists, a priori in their approach to style, full of moral outrage at all the fake half-timber and so forth, could be pretty shrill in response. Thus, Sheldon Cheney:

Eclecticism is the amiable name given to architectural incompetence in the period 1870-1920. Pickers and choosers from older forms of buildings, disputers for this or that style within the limits of impotency and imitativeness, tasteful roamers, cultured repeaters of other men's architectural phrases-Eclectics!...Here in America, in the period of McKim and White and their associates, we had everything—except honesty, courage, and creation.

Or savor the prose of Louis Sullivan:

An imposition upon the people's eyesight, a naked exhibitionism of charlantry in the higher feudal and domineering culture, conjoined with expert salesmanship in the materials of decay...incredible vulgarity...a lewd exhibit of drooling imbecility and political debauchery...impudently thievish.

The Depression came, and the War, and the Modernist polemics continued. Really interesting Eclectic work faded away. The Cathedral of Learning, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, and the Mellon Institute were follow-throughs in the 1930s of brave Eclectic projects, but Eclecticism was in a decline.

Eventually, Eclecticism was hotly opposed, and in retrospect we may wonder—even if, somewhere inside, we are glad—that such a phenomenon of picking and choosing, of tasteful roaming, could have occurred. What was good and what was bad about Eclecticism?

(continued on page 18)





A mixture of materials: a house in Aspinwall.



A Colonial house in Shadyside, full of "Anglo-Saxon home atmosphere."



Something vaguely Old World in Highland Park, with half-timbering $and \ shingles \ imitating \ thatch.$

Gaudeamus igitur! an aspiring Gothic fantasy for learning: the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh.



Page 18 PHLF News • September 2001



Henry Hornbostel (1867-1961)

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.

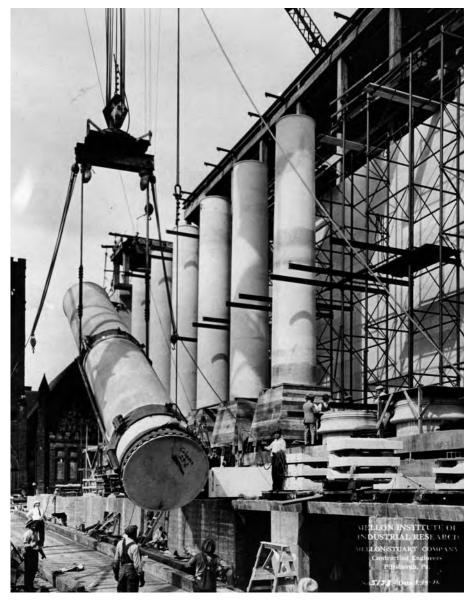
Please mail this completed form with your contribution to:

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

To make a contribution by credit card call Mary Lu at 412-471-5808 ext. 527.

Thank you very much for contributing!

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.



A 60-ton monolithic shaft is hoisted onto its base at the Mellon Institute in 1932. The Ionic colonnade, which had 62 such shafts, did nothing but look dignified.

Dressed for the Occasion

(continued from page 17)

BAD. There is something irritating about a building that will not be itself, that pretends to be of another place or time, or to be composed of materials and constructional systems not its own; one's reason is offended, if not one's morals: a building should graciously admit the facts of its existence—where, when and how, it is built. Bland stuff, too, a lot of the time.

GOOD. The artistry in the use of materials, the integration of details and massing. The use of styles to symbolize the institutions of society. The freshness of ideas sometimes, even when precedent is lurking behind the executed work. The freedom from the tyranny of theory, of priggish abstention, that has characterized Modernism.



It would be more discreet, perhaps, not to illustrate the ineffectiveness and illiteracy of just about everything designed within the last 50 years that copies or alludes to the past. This recent essay in Welder's Corinthian (on East Carson Street) is exceptional in its vigor.



St. Bernard's Church in Mount Lebanon, finished in 1947, was one of the last genuine works of Eclecticism in the Pittsburgh area, at least on the high-budget end. Begun in 1933, it is lavishly decorated and its roofs are covered with enameled tiles in a fairytale variety of colors.



Once upon a time—the Hyeholde, in Moon Township!



170 Seegar Road Upper St. Clair

The Phillips/Seegar homestead of 1806 includes an authentically restored landmark farmhouse on a 1.8 acre site with a carriage "garage" for two cars.

There are gleaming oak floors throughout the house, and fireplaces in nearly every room. The vintage double hung windows are recessed in the style of the early 19th century.

Modern updates include a remodeled kitchen, a cozy finished gameroom under the main house, two new baths, and a two-story period log addition featuring a family room with a log fireplace and an upper den/library.

For further details, call Jane Voigt at 412-561-7400.



Books Worth Reading

Reviews by Arthur Ziegler and Walter C. Kidney

• Midas Dekkers, *The Way of All Flesh*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1997. 280 pp. \$25.00 cloth.

This erudite, wide-ranging, and often amusing book is written by a popular writer-biologist from the Netherlands. His theme is an old one, that all things on this planet, including the planet itself, will decay and disappear. He ranges over the whole of life and much that is inert as well, discussing how the impulse of life is for procreation rather than prolongation, and that with the inert objects man creates, whether it be buildings or locomotives, "the aim of restoring something to its former glory is as futile as it is human. A lot of glory is simply at its best if it's decaying. Decaying is living."

He points out that we should be grateful for decay. Who would wish to have some of the New Brutalism architecture of the 1950s and 1960s and the urban planning of that period live forever? While many forms of life kill their old or leave them for predators in order to protect the young, or in the case of human beings deposit them with caretakers of the elderly, he believes that "the nice thing about venerability is that it increases with age, it needs time. Venerability is what a City Hall has, but a city often doesn't. It's the difference between Mother Goose and Donald Duck, Queen Victoria, and The Prince of Wales."

He recognizes the importance of preserving old buildings, but at the same time letting them take their course through time.

People prefer to see their old pubs, their old rectories, their old gatehouses. They're proud of them. Proud of piles of stones. And why? Because, like sponges, they absorb history.... An old city offers the perfect opportunity. Its houses have survived wars, watched children grow up, taken people into hiding, witnessed parties, stored tea crates.

But he points out that to restore aging structures by replacing their parts is to create a different structure and one that will decay after all, much like inserting new plastic and metal parts into human beings: new hips, pacemakers, and the like.

Almost any reader of this book—those anticipating a wonderful after-life; those hoping for a better world for their children; those taking vitamins and eating organically or visiting the gym three times a week; or ardent historic preservationists—will take pause in reading this book.

• Stephen O' Shea, *The Perfect Heresy*. Walker & Co., 2000. 224 pp. 15 b/w illustrations. \$25.00 hardcover.

"Beware of dissenting, no matter how well-intended," could well be the lesson to be learned from the unfortunate Cathars. As the medieval church grew stronger, more affluent, more political, and more selfaggrandizing, in the quiet south of France in an area known as Languedoc, an idea advanced with Christians of adaptive simplicity of life rather than extravagance. In a refutation of the hierarchical structure of the church and its then sumptuous life, the Cathars grew in number as they communicated their belief that Christianity required simplicity of life, habit, custom, dress, food, and self-discipline. The idea took hold among the rich and the poor, the political and the apolitical. In order to protect themselves from a militant church they built magnificent fortresses atop high and rocky hills in the Pyrenees.

The church created for and directed much of the Inquisition against them; and the political leaders of the north mounted summer crusades at the behest of several popes, eager to take the land of the Cathars and the wealth produced from it.

The hilltop citadels frequently held for weeks and months, but ultimately were surmounted and the people inside not just defeated but exterminated. In one village 7,000 were massacred and in another 20,000: every last man, woman, and child.

The Crusades and the Inquisition, known for ruthlessness in the name of holiness, for political expediency in the name of improving the territory, are graphically described in this gripping, but enormously sad book.

When you try to imagine thousands of people encamped in a high fortress, obviously with limited food and at times no water, with sanitation conditions one doesn't want to imagine, and struggling against fierce cold and wind and heat only finally to be stoned, mutilated, and frequently burned alive in the name of the church as an institution, you close the book with a tragically graphic understanding of the willingness of people in the name of an institution to torment and subjugate one another. We can draw conclusions about our own time and place and governments and institutions, here and abroad, in our own day.

• Larry McMurtry, Roads: Driving America's Great Highways. New York: Simon & Schuster Trade Paperbacks, 2001. 208 pp. \$13.00 paper.

I would not have expected anyone to want to write a book about driving Interstate highways, let alone produce a book so fascinating that one is almost moved to do it oneself. *Roads* is not a book about Eisenhower's conceiving of the highways or Lyndon Johnson's pushing the building program in earnest, nor is it about the engineering or the construction, both of which would be engaging topics. Nor is it about deviating through the small towns or the historic sites along the way.

McMurtry writes primarily about the scenery, the local historical scenes, the famous people of letters, and the not-sofamous local writers as he hurtles along at 80 miles an hour covering about 1,100 miles in each trip of about two days. In 200 pages, he travels most of the country with amazing speed and erudition. He tells us about Lewis & Clark, General Custer, the Hopi Indians, what he feels is the inadequately operated Hemingway house in Key West, which is an island that he says could now have been developed by Disney. In Idaho he reminds us that Hemingway committed suicide, and Ezra Pound w born in that state's town of Hailey.

What is so amazing about this book is that in a single paragraph McMurtry can give us these local overviews almost as rapidly as he is covering the territory. We do not get details, but we get enough to get the picture, and now and then we get a handsome articulation of the scenery:

I only have to be in Montana—about 10 minutes—to re-convince myself that it is easily the most beautiful American state. Many of its multitude of long, gentle glacial valleys have rivers running through them in Norman Maclean's now famous phrase. The mountains are almost always in sight. but mainly as a shadowy blue backdrop to the beauty of the valleys and plains. Most of the many small rivers—the Milk, the Maris, the little Blackfoot, the Ruby, the Shields, the Sweet Grass—have small towns strung along them. The rivers, the valleys, the mountains, and the big sky manage, as no where else, to combine the grand vista with the intimate view, such as

one might get along the Shenandoah or the Loire. On a fine day, with the great thunderheads rafting across the high sky, Montana can hold its own for sheer visual beauty with any landscape in the world.

McMurtry will send you not so much to the big highways as he will send you to your local travel and history writers. I found myself picking up our local book on Route 30, the Lincoln Highway, immediately upon completing this one.

-APZ

• Andrew Borowiec, *Along the Ohio*.

Baltimore and London: The Johns
Hopkins University Press, 2000. In cooperation with the Center for American
Places. xviii + 129 pp., 80 full-page
photographs. \$55.00 cloth; \$24.95 paper.

For the most part, this book elegantly depicts bleak places. In these river towns, plant life is tolerated rather than grown, pavement is occasional, and building is in the vernaculars of various times. Yet the Greek Revival shows up in three places, speaking of old ambitions in towns that now often look depressed. In New Albany, Indiana, half the paint on a Doric temple front has fallen away. Another temple front, in Old Shawneetown, Illinois, seems backed onto an 1840-period vernacular building the way a locomotive is backed onto a boxcar. In two pictures the river boat American Queen shows up in all its pseudo-Victoriana: close up at Henderson, Kentucky, far off at Rabbit Hash in the same state. Pennsylvania scenes appear nine times. Blast furnaces and cooling towers stand often in the background.

The reader might not want to live in most of these places, but the scenes are finely presented in both composition and presswork, and photo lovers should consider the purchase. This belongs to a series called *Creating the North American Landscape*.

• Donald Hoffmann, *Frank Lloyd Wright's House on Kentuck Knob*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000. 112 pp., 14 color and 52 b/w illustrations. \$18.95.

Such is the present awe of Frank Lloyd Wright that "Kentuck" is presented as his house, not that of I. W. and Bernadine Hagan, in the title. The owners are handsomely portrayed within, and the story of their slow approach to Wright in 1953—and decision not to hire Deeter & Ritchey as architects for their home—is carefully told. About half the book is a tour of the house itself. The book ends with 15 pages of scholarly notes.

• Larry R. Ford, *The Spaces between Buildings*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000. In cooperation with the Center for American Places. xii + 225 pp., 52 illustrations. \$58.00 cloth; \$25.95 paper.

The subject is interesting, the treatment rather wordy, the illustrations illustrative. The argument, over all, favors "gregarious" spaces, "permeable" facades, towns that reflect optimism about human nature and that are meant for casual, sociable gatherings and passings of the citizenry.

-WCK

Membership Survey Responses

Seventy-five people completed the membership survey included in the last issue of *PHLF News*; 64 of those people joined Landmarks to support historic preservation. A majority of people also joined because of the affordable dues, *PHLF News*, and specific preservation concerns. *PHLF News* is the membership benefit that matters most, followed closely by volunteer opportunities, discounts on tours, and free walking tours.

In regard to programs that Landmarks should be pursuing, six categories were checked 34 times or more: identifying sites of architectural/historical significance; providing advice and technical assistance; offering tours; engaging in advocacy; managing the Preservation Loan Fund; and publishing PHLF News. The three greatest preservation concerns among the members who responded are downtown revitalization, inner-city neighborhood revitalization, and urban sprawl prevention. Many members took the opportunity to share their ideas with us: "Plan a tour to Point Breeze"; and "Plan some day-long bus trips to nearby cities." Others extended a word of thanks:

I am extremely impressed with the quality of the programs that I have attended. I look forward to reading PHLF News. You offer the community so much at a very affordable cost.

—Bernice Schorr

I'm amazed at all PHLF has to offer. There are so many benefits I was not aware of. I have never visited your Web site, but will do so. Your preservation programs offer diversity and a great way to learn more about the history of our city.

—Carolyn Levy

House Tours

Call for details!

- Manchester August 12 Phone: 412-321-7707
- Mexican War Streets September 16 Phone: 412-323-9030
 - Lawrenceville September 23 Phone: 412-682-5435

JOIN LANDMARKS

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

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

Membership Categories

☐ Individual \$25 or more ☐ Family \$30 or more ☐ Couple \$30 or more ☐ Senior citizen \$15 or more or student ☐ Schools and \$35 or more Non-profits ☐ School Districts \$50 or more ☐ Ambassadors \$100 or more ☐ Corporate \$250 or more \$5,000 ☐ Life Benefactor (a one-time gift)



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

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	
StateZip	
•	
Telephone (day)(area code)	
E-mail	
Method of Payment	
☐ Check enclosed (payable to PHLF)	
☐ Credit card:	
☐ AmEx	□ Visa
☐ Mastercard	□ Discover
Account #	
Expiration	
Signature	

☐ I have already included Landmarks in my will or estate plan.

Thank you for completing this form. Please detach and fax or mail to:

Please detach and fax or mail to:
MEMBERSHIP
PITTSBURGH HISTORY &
LANDMARKS FOUNDATION
ONE STATION SQUARE, SUITE 450
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219-1134

412-471-5808, ext. 527 FAX 412-471-1633 www.phlf.org



Art Deco Schools Tour

Albert M. Tannler



A Moderne-Mannerist doorway at Mifflin School; Edward J. Weber, architect.

On March 31, Landmarks presented one part of its two-part Art Deco public school lecturetour through the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Lifetime Learning.

The March event visited Lincoln School (1931), one of the city's earliest Art

Deco schools, designed by Thomas Pringle and Oliver J. Robling, and three amazing buildings—Moderne, Mayan, and Expressionist—by Edward J. Weber (1877–1968): Mifflin (1932), Lemington (1937), and Schiller (1939). The latter two buildings were executed in association with Marion M. Steen, Board of Public Education Architect from 1935 to 1954.

Tour participants included Pittsburgh architects John A. Martine and David J. Vater, and Edward Weber's son-in-law, Charles Floyd. (Mr. Floyd and his late wife Agnes donated scrapbooks belonging to Edward Weber to the Heinz Architectural Center of the Carnegie Museum of Art, which documented, among other things, Weber's school design activities.)

The elegance of Lincoln School's exterior brickwork and Schiller School's interior geometric metalwork was appreciated. At Lemington School, John Martine noted the authenticity of various Central American design elements.

At Mifflin School—the earliest public school Weber designed, but the last school building visited—David Vater said enthusiastically: "This is so fresh! There is an originality in Weber's detailing: decorative stone carvings and brick details are not stock items or used in a standard way. He created new forms distinct to each school he designed, despite similar layouts, massing, and materials. Each school building Weber designed has a very individual look and identifiable personality."

On September 15, Landmarks and Pitt's Center for Lifetime Learning will present a tour of seven Art Deco public school buildings designed between 1931 and 1942 by Marion M. Steen (1886–1966). Among several wonderful interior spaces is the original 1931 auditorium of Prospect School, called "one of Pittsburgh's most fully realized Art Deco interiors" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form). Some of Pittsburgh's finest Art Deco sculpture will also be seen.

David Vater's comment at the conclusion of the March tour applies equally to September: "Many of these buildings are familiar to us from the outside, but in this day and age of schools as high security places, the public does not often have an opportunity to see the interiors of these buildings. It was a real pleasure to have Landmarks obtain access so that our group could enter and see the interior hallways, stairs, and auditoriums of these unique public buildings."

If you would like to attend the September 15 Art Deco School Tour, call the University of Pittsburgh at 412-648-2560.

Neill Log House

Landmarks Underwrites Study

Thirty-three years ago, thanks to a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Landmarks restored the Neill Log House in Schenley Park. It was one of three eighteenth-century buildings remaining in Pittsburgh. Charles Morse Stotz was the architect for the restoration and Ralph Griswold was the landscape architect. The City agreed to maintain the property if we restored it. Unfortunately, the City did not maintain the property; now the house is suffering from disrepair and is rarely open to the public.



The Neill Log House before restoration in 1968, and during a school tour in the 1980s.



At the request of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Landmarks recently underwrote the cost of a study to determine what repair work was needed. Landmarks Design Associates completed the study and estimates that total restoration costs will range between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Landmarks is now working with the Conservancy to determine how to make interim repairs until sufficient funds can be raised for the complete restoration.

1,361 People Visit Neill Log House

Thanks to Landmarks' member Dwight Fong, the Neill Log House was open for public tours during the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix on July 21 and 22. For several years now, Dwight has worked with the City of Pittsburgh to see that the log house is open to visitors during the Grand Prix.

More on Avalon (continued from page 6)

in the morning, and the pilgrimage of middle European Catholics to the Franciscan Friary in the afternoon. Wearing mostly black, they came by streetcar from all over Pittsburgh to attend services and to pray in the

I had five *Pittsburgh Press* customers at the Friary, two at the front office and three in the rear residence area. I remember the quiet beauty of the Grotto and its cool darkness in the summer.

I left South Home Avenue when I married in the summer of 1954. Two years later, my father was called to a

church in New York and suddenly, the Waldrons were gone from the street. I have returned a half-dozen times, mostly to marvel at the high-rise apartments, admire the old (and new) churches and quietly salute the single-family homes that have courageously stood their ground...still clean and fussed-over, and, as you pointed out so deftly, still independently proud.

Best wishes,

When Waldron

John F. Waldron

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 particular theme or program area, are published on occasion. Landmarks is committed to neighborhood restoration and historic property preservation; public advocacy; historic landscape preservation; and education and membership programs.

© 2001 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

 $Designed\ by\ Pytlik\ Design\ Associates,\ Photographs\ by\ William\ Rydberg,\ PHOTON,\ and\ Landmarks,\ unless\ otherwise\ noted.$

Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr
Louise Sturgess Editor/Executive Director
Elisa J. Cavalier
Laura Charles
Tom Croyle
Mary Lu Denny Director of Membership Services
Mary Ann Eubanks Education Coordinator
Barry Hannegan Director of Historic Design Programs
Jean Hardy Secretary
Phipps Hoffstot
Thomas Keffer Superintendent of Property Maintenance

Walter C. Kidney Architectural Historian
Stanley A. Lowe Vice President, Preservation Programs
Cathy McCollom Director of Operations and Marketing
Jack Miller Director of Gift Planning
Linda Mitry Staff Accountant
Frank Stroker Assistant Archivist/Sales Manager
Albert M. Tannler Historical Collections Director
Sarah Walker Secretary
Marilyn Whitelock
Gregory C. Yochum
Ronald C. Yochum, Jr Chief Information Officer