Despite these successes, it was disappointing to identify at least 20 other architecturally significant Allegheny County and Western Pennsylvania farms that we could not pursue due to limited resources. It is our hope that our results during the past three years will encourage other foundations to allocate funds to initiate a second phase of this project.

• Partnered with South Fayette Township to explore a “Smart Growth” plan that could become a model for adapting land and historic farm structures into a development plan that conserves the land and also farming;
• Obtained a precedent-setting legal ruling that opened the door for Landmarks to assume a mortgage when commercial lenders refuse to subordinate their note to our preservation easement;
• Provided The Allegheny Land Trust with a grant to underwrite closing costs on the purchase of a 212-acre parcel of land that was once part of several adjoining historic farms in Monongahela, Pa., bordering the river;
• Made available to Allegheny County $15,000 for a revolving loan fund to cover reimbursable appraisal expenses for farmers who apply for the Agricultural Land Preservation Program of the Commonwealth; and
• Generated significant publicity that notified farmers that they have choices beyond commercial development.

As a result of Landmarks’ Historic Farm Preservation program, the Tooke farm was protected by a preservation easement that restricted alterations to the 1835 farmhouse and prohibited commercial development on the 64-acre farm in Gibbonia. When Landmarks put the farm up for sale in 2001, William Versaw purchased the property and restored the farmhouse, shown here in before and after photographs (below and above).

Using Innovative Strategies Landmarks Saves More Than 1,300 Acres of Historic Farms and 10 Structures

When Lucille Tooke gave her farm to a charitable remainder trust to benefit Landmarks in late 2000, she had no idea that her gift would lead to the creation of our Historic Farm Preservation Program and motivate a local foundation to make a major grant that helped us preserve four additional farms with historic buildings, and more than 1,300 acres of farmland.

Landmarks believed that, like Mrs. Tooke, many local farmers were concerned about rising taxes and urban sprawl, factors that have played a significant role in the loss of nearly half of Allegheny County’s farms between 1982 and 2002. For multi-generational family farmers, we believed that planned gifts and preservation easements provided an alternative to selling historic farms to the highest bidder, usually a commercial developer.

The Richard King Mellon Foundation granted $500,000 to us to find out if we were correct. By the close of 2003, Landmarks had added another $600,000 to that total and achieved the following results:

• Used bargain sale and gift strategies to leverage the $1.1 million to protect numerous historic structures and accompanying land valued at nearly $6 million;
• Preserved 1,378 acres of farmland and five farms, three of which are listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places;
• Returned a 20-parcel subdivision next to one of those farms to a single parcel;
• Partnered with South Fayette Township to explore a “Smart Growth” plan that could become a model for adapting land and historic farm structures into a development plan that conserves the land and also farming;
• Obtained a precedent-setting legal ruling that opened the door for Landmarks to assume a mortgage when commercial lenders refuse to subordinate their note to our preservation easement;
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Impact of Landmarks’ Historic Farm Preservation Program: Leverage Results for Five Farms

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(continued on page 2)
PHLF News  •  September 2004

First Phase of Landmarks’ Historic Farm Preservation Program Is Successfully Completed  (continued from page 1)

VAN KIRK FARM: A precedent-setting opinion by the Duquesne University Law School Clinic laid the groundwork for Landmarks assuming a mortgage on Jim and Dorothy Wycoff’s farmhouse in order to purchase a preservation easement on the 71-acre National Register-listed farm at 337 Round Hill Road, Elizabeth, Pa., Allegheny County. The Van Kirks were Jim and Dorothy Wycoff’s ancestors.

SEVERED PROPERTY RETURNED TO WYCKOFF FARM:
In one of its more complicated deals, Landmarks paid fair market value to purchase 54 acres of land off Rohey Drive in Elizabeth, Pa., Allegheny County, that had already been subdivided for residential development (far right). The site adjoined a 214-acre farm eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Once this was purchased, Landmarks undid the subdivision and the adjacent farm owner accepted the land as payment for a preservation easement, ending further encroachment threats (above), thereby protecting a total of 268 acres.

WYCKOFF FARM: Sara Wyckoff honored her late mother Helen’s wish and worked with Landmarks to negotiate a preservation easement for the 214-acre farm at 201 Park Avenue, Elizabeth, Pa., that had been settled by her family in the mid 1700s. Included are an historic house (far left); barn, springhouse (left); shed, and cottage now serving as an office.

O’SHEA/HAUSEN FARM: Located in Westmoreland County at the foothills of the Allegheny Mountains near several ski resorts, the O’Shea/Hausen farm can trace its roots to the early 1800s, when tanning and ironmaking were occupations second only to farming. Commercial development remains a threat to many historic and architecturally significant farms in Western Pennsylvania. The 62-acre O’Shea/Hausen farm also is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
On May 4, Landmarks joined the Urban Redevelopment Authority and the Downtown Living Initiative in sponsoring a bus trip to Harrisburg to lobby for Pennsylvania Historic Tax Credits. “Pennsylvania loses hundreds of millions of dollars in investment annually,” said Julie DeSeyn, senior project development specialist for the URA, “by not fully capitalizing on historic rehabilitation as a means of economic growth.”

Twenty-five preservation advocates from Pittsburgh met with the sponsors of Senate Bill 820 and House Bill 951 and 952, including Senators Jay Costa, Jim Ferlo, Allen Kukovich, Sean Logan, Pat Quinn, Jack Wagner, and Representatives Dan Frankel and Tom Tangretti.

Here we highlight the status of several preservation legislation issues that have involved staff time and effort this year.

State Historic Tax Credits

Pennsylvania has proposed a two-part historic preservation tax credit bill focused on economic development and historic rehabilitation. Recently, as legislation awaited review by the Senate, the bill was referred to Governor’s Growing Greener initiative. The initiative is an environmental clean-up program aimed at stimulating the economy and attracting jobseekers to the state. Unfortunately, slots legislation overshadowed the initiative, which is being held over until the fall session.

The proposed tax credits would benefit both residential and commercial historic properties. Pennsylvania does not currently offer this type of program, although it has proven to be a successful economic development tool in 21 other states. Most notably, Maryland’s 2003 Task Force review of their program concluded that $0.08 to almost $5.00 was generated for every dollar of credit awarded.

Much of the original debate over SB 820 and its counterparts in the House, HB 951 and 952, has centered on the state constitution. Opponents of the bill maintain that Pennsylvania law does not allow for state tax credits, only tax abatements. While abatements would offer relief from some taxes, the bill does not allow for state tax credits, which would allow for more numerous proposed tax credits of up to 20%.

Thanks to the efforts of The National Trust for Historic Preservation and other preservation groups, the Senate version, passed on February 12, clearly upheld 4(f)’s power, while exploring other ways to expedite the development process.

The House version of the bill, passed on April 13, follows suit, but with some distinct differences. The House bill neglects the provision of 4(f), which provides for written consent, as well as direct public participation during project reviews. Although both bills support the “no adverse effect” termology, the House bill’s definition of the phrase has been questioned.

These variations, along with disputes over the price tag, have all but assured a fifth extension of the bill. In addition, the White House has publicly opposed any version seeking more than $2.56 billion in funding. Although a majority of House members support a figure as high as $2.84 billion, they are reluctant to stage a veto fight with the Bush Administration in an election year.

To find out how you can support this important bill, go to www.preservationaction.org or www.nationaltrust.org.

Revitalization on All Fronts

In February, Governor Rendell signed The New Communities-Elm Street Revitalization Legislation, which is being held over now, until the state. Unfortunately, slots legislation overshadowed the initiative, which is being held over until the fall session.

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Go to www.pataxcredit.com for more information.

The Final Stretch of 4(f)’s Highway...Delays Possible

The National Trust for Historic Preservation announced a victory in February after the waning voting of the Senate version of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) reauthorization bill. However, the passing of the House bill in April is being viewed with cautious optimism. Since then, any attempts to reach a compromise have been unsuccessful. The debate is over the process and cost of Transportation Enhancement programs in TEA-21. Most importantly, the power of 4(f) is being questioned. 4(f) provides historic resources with the strongest protection against highway transportation projects. It provides funding for resource reviews, and calls for extensive planning, the mandatory search for feasible alternatives, and public participation when deciding on such projects. In an effort to “streamline” highway construction, there has been a call for reauthorization of this bill to lessen the impact of 4(f).

The Give and Take

In January, President Bush presented his FY05 budget. While some preservation efforts, such as the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Preserve America grants, will get a boost with increased allocations, the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) will be held to the same spending level for the third consecutive year. The HPF is the major federal contributor to state and local preservation programs, including the State Historic Preservation Offices. At this level, the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation will be unable to expand services that identify and protect our historic resources. Thanks to Preservation Action and their new “Preservation Action 101,” they quickly developed a deep fondness for Pittsburgh. Greg was committed to the civic improvement of this region. He and Jamini could see in this city what native Pittsburghers often miss.

Because of their love for the city, Greg and Jamini established a Named Fund at Landmarks to help us in our mission to keep Pittsburgh a historically vibrant place.”

We extend our sympathies to the Davies family and hope, in time, to be able to advance the value of historic preservation in a way that would have made Greg proud, through the Jamini and Greg Davies Named Fund at Landmarks.
“Woodville” Plantation: New Discoveries & Special Events

Time passes, but “Woodville” plantation continues to evoke 18th-century life for visitors today. “More than 300 people have visited ‘Woodville’ this season,” according to Neville House Associates president Juliana Haag, “and we hope that members of Landmarks will come to our Harvest Festival and Pig Roast on September 19 and our Holiday Celebration on November 20 and 23.” (For event details, see page 20).

While Landmarks has continued to fund maintenance improvements for the main house and its out-buildings, members of the Neville House Associates (NHA) have made some wonderful discoveries that will aid in interpreting the house:

• Juliana’s husband Doug tapped into the Internet’s research capabilities and discovered that the Connecticut Historical Society has in its collection original letters by John Neville and others describing the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794. The Society mailed copies to the NHA for display at “Woodville.” “The letters read much like a CNN report,” says Julanna, “and they have given us the first glimpse of the actual hand and signature of John Neville.”

• In late 2003, Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D., senior historian of the Pittsburgh area historical research firm of Brown Carlisle & Associates, Inc., located a portrait at the Ohio Historical Society (OHS) identified in their records as Morgan Neville, the eldest child of Presley and Nancy Morgan Neville and a grandson of General John Neville. Morgan (1783–1839) would have known and may have lived for a time at “Woodville.” He had an active career in Pittsburgh, working as a bank cashier and newspaper editor, and serving as Allegheny County sheriff and on the first board of trustees of the Western University of Pennsylvania (later the University of Pittsburgh). In 1824 he moved to Cincinnati. Even though the portrait is unsigned and undated, Kim Feinknopf-Dorrain of the OHS and Ron were able to gather much evidence that suggests that it is of Morgan Neville. Ron purchased a full-size color print of the portrait (14.5 inches by 17.2 inches) from the OHS, where it was photographed by David Barker, and is lending the framed print to the NHA so it can be displayed in the house this year.

• For the third significant discovery, we have Ren Neville, of Brentwood, Ca., to thank. He recently gave the NHA a photograph of a locket bearing the only known portrait of C. M. Neville, another child of Presley and Nancy Morgan Neville. Ren believes “C. M. Neville” was Clarence Montague Neville, born in Pittsburgh in 1804. Ren brought the locket and its portrait to Ron Carlisle’s attention while he was researching the Morgan Neville portrait at the OHS.

Congregations Compliment “New Partners/New Dollars for Your Sacred Place” Training Program

As part of its Historic Religious Properties Program, Landmarks underwrote the participation of nine congregations this year in New Dollars/New Partners, a training program presented by the Philadelphia-based Partners for Sacred Places. During the first three sessions on February 2, April 19, and June 28, participants acquired skills and resources to help them broaden their base of support for sacred places and the programs they house. The final session is scheduled for September 27.

After the first session, Gary Denning of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh (Oakland) wrote: “Thank you for an outstanding program benefiting us with information, and helping us become better aware of common needs and interests that help us overcome feelings of isolation and invite us to do more networking among churches with similar concerns.”

After the June meeting, Pastor Dan Cramer of Zion Christian Church (Carrell) wrote: “This past session [on fund-raising and capital campaigns] was the most helpful one yet. We came away believing that this huge effort can indeed be broken down into manageable tasks and actually accomplished…Without PHLF’s efforts on behalf of churches, we would be sitting in the dark feeling hopeless about our problems.”

Grant Assistance

In addition to the training program, this year Landmarks is offering restoration grants of up to $10,000 to historic religious properties in Allegheny County. The application deadline was August 16, grants will be awarded during the annual Historic Religious Properties Conference on October 19 (see page 20) that is open to the public.

Calvary United Methodist Church in Allegheny West has received several grants from Landmarks since the inception of the Historic Religious Properties (HRP) program in 1997. Members of its congregation participated in the New Dollars/New Partners program this year. On June 16, Calvary United pastor Thomas Funk wrote to HRP program coordinator Cathy McCollum to inform her that Landmarks’ 2003 grant (and earlier grants) had been put to good use: after years of work and much fund-raising, the three Tiffany windows had been restored and reinstalled, and all bills associated with the $226,243 project had been fully paid. In conclusion Tom wrote: “I continue to be thankful for having the PHLF as a partner as we complete all these restoration projects. Without your dedicated leadership and support, most of Calvary’s progress could never have been possible.”

After years of building community support, Tom believes “things are starting to roll. We are getting recognized. There’s rarely a day that goes by when someone doesn’t come into our church for the first time to look at the Tiffany windows, inquire about our concert series that is open to the public, and express interest in all that our church does for the community.”

Poele Zedeck Congregation in Squirrel Hill received a grant from Landmarks in 2003.
Landmarks Assists with Neighborhood Transformation Initiative Plans

The Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC), in cooperation with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, released the Manchester Neighborhood Transformation Initiative in June 2004. The illustrated report, prepared through the leadership of Manchester resident and former Landmarks employee Stanley Lowe, represents the culmination of months of work to assess, inventory, and recommend actions in regard to vacant and abandoned properties in the Manchester neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Detailed in the report is an analysis of property ownership, recommendations, action steps, and development costs. MCC reports that there are 194 vacant properties in Manchester that pose a threat to restoration efforts and create hazardous, unhealthy living conditions. The report focuses on means to contain and undo the negative effects of blighted properties.

The Fineview Citizens Council released the Fineview Neighborhood Transformation Initiative report on July 9. Prepared by Stanley Lowe, under contract with Landmarks, the report documents 211 abandoned buildings and vacant parcels of land and suggests strategies for infill development and public space enhancements. Stanley also is in the process of preparing a neighborhood plan for Wilkinsburg. Once published, a neighborhood transformation plan becomes a document to guide residents, developers, city officials, and state agencies in reaching decisions that ensure healthy historic communities. According to Cathy McCollom, chief programs officer at Landmarks, “The Historic Review Commission and City Planning Department already have referred to Manchester’s plan during several discussions about the neighborhood. Manchester residents have a voice in the development of their neighborhood because they have prepared a document that lists the buildings that must be restored or that need to be demolished, and specifies sites for infill construction and commercial development, among other things.”

Manchester’s neighborhood plan is giving the residents a voice in shaping the future of their community.

Landmarks is investing about $35,000 this year to support the publication of neighborhood plans for Manchester, Fineview, and Wilkinsburg.

Carrington Branch Libraries

On July 13, City Council members unanimously approved designating the Hazelwood, Homewood, Lawrenceville, Mount Washington, and West End libraries as City Historic Structures. Designation protects the buildings from demolition and requires that any alterations to the exterior first be approved by the Historic Review Commission. All five Carrington branch libraries were designed by Alden & Harlow and built between 1898 and 1911. (The South Side Carnegie branch library was not included because it is already part of the East Carson Street City Historic District.) While the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh has handsomely renovated Homewood Library, it closed the Hazelwood branch in March, and has yet to announce plans for the Lawrenceville, Mount Washington, and West End branch libraries.

The nomination, proposed by Landmarks on January 7, advanced to City Council with unanimous recommendations from the Historic Review and City Planning Commissions — and with much public support and careful shepherding by preservationist Glenn Walls of Mt. Lebanon.

Nabisco

During a July 9 meeting of the Historic Review Commission (HRC), Landmarks supported the Young Preservationsists Association of Pittsburgh’s nomination of the former Nabisco Bakery at 6425 Penn Avenue in East Liberty as a City Historic Structure.

New Granada Theater


Bellinger designed the Pythian Temple (the headquarters for the local chapter of a national black fraternal organization) in 1927 and served as construction manager; the building was completed in 1928. Although the Pythian Temple auditorium was well used — in 1932, for example, a Duke Ellington concert before a live audience of 3,000 was broadcast nationwide — the Knights of Pythias were forced to sell the building. In the autumn of 1937, Pittsburgh architect Alfred M. Marks prepared plans to convert the building into a commercial theater. In 1938, with a new polychromatic Art Moderne first-floor front, the Pythian Temple became the New Granada Theater, where racially mixed crowds enjoyed performances by Billy Eckstine, Cab Calloway, and other big bands for decades.

A $95,000 loan from Landmarks in 1994 enabled the Hill District Community Development Corporation to purchase the vacant building. The Hill CDC plans to convert the upper floors into loft apartments and use the ground floor for artist galleries or retail/office space.
OUR WORK: Recent Progress (continued)

Exploring Pittsburgh with Students and Teachers

The Pittsburgh region is our museum. We explore the streets, buildings, parks, and bridges so students can learn to identify the landmark places that give Pittsburgh its character and so they can more fully appreciate the significance of their hometown. In the process, they strengthen academic skills and connect classroom lessons to the real world.

Below, students from Washington Elementary School in Mt. Lebanon discover the word “Carnegie” stamped on the steel truss of the Smithfield Street Bridge. They were among the 870 students who participated in Landmarks’ Downtown Dragons walking tours this spring. Pages 6 through 9 feature a few of the educational programs that Landmarks’ trustees, staff, and docents have been involved with since February.

Landmarks Scholars

Past scholarship recipients and trustees Eliza Nevin, David Brashear, and Ellen Walton welcomed four new scholarship winners during luncheon celebrations on June 17 and July 2. Landmarks funds two scholarship programs and, to date, has committed a total of $71,000 to fund 23 college scholarships.

Sara Stranahan, a Steel Valley High School graduate bound for the University of Pittsburgh, and James Washabaugh, a Perry Traditional Academy graduate bound for CMU, were awarded Brashear Family Scholarships. Indea Herndon, an Ellis School graduate who will be attending Chatham College, received the Walton Family Scholarship, and Kenya Freeman received the matching Miller School scholarship sponsored by retired teacher Margaret Burley.

High school students wanting to apply to Landmarks’ scholarship program in 2005 can download an application from our website: www.phlf.org.

National City Scholarship Winners

When National City announced its 12th Annual African-American History Essay Contest this year, Landmarks knew that students who had participated in its educational programs could be winners. And, in fact, seven of the 21 winners wrote about their experiences with Landmarks in touring “a building…that had an influence on African Americans.” The influential buildings were the Morning Glory Inn on the South Side and Bigham house on Mt. Washington: both landmarks are associated with the Underground Railroad.

Winners received National City savings accounts (valued at $500, $250, or $100) and sponsoring organizations received cash contributions. Five of the National City winners were students from Phillips Elementary School; however, it is also worth noting that 41 students from Phillips actually wrote essays, and UPMC South Side awarded savings certificates to 10 of those students. It pays to participate in Landmarks’ education programs!

Carlow College Students Help Out

Thanks to Carlow College students in Suzan Mohney’s Elementary and Art Methods courses, Landmarks has several new educational resources. One is a huge Victorian house facade that students “restore” by correctly attaching 16 architectural details, including pilasters, brackets, and dentil molding. This house facade, and three others, along with house puzzles and coloring worksheets were part of the Kids Corner activities offered by Landmarks at its Old House Fair on March 13 and 14. Teachers interested in borrowing these resources can contact Landmarks’ education coordinator Mary Ann Eubanks (412-471-5808, ext. 537; maryamn@phlf.org).
Hopewell Elementary Creates Pittsburgh in Their School Hallway

Over 140 third-grade students and teachers at Hopewell Elementary transformed their school hallway into the Fort Pitt Tunnel and city of Pittsburgh. Their third-grade unit on Pittsburgh culminated on April 1 with “Pittsburgh Days,” a day-long celebration of local history, architecture, traditions, and food.

Hopewell students invited third-graders from a neighboring school to celebrate with them as they played Pittsburgh bingo, designed pennants for local sports teams, watched a slide presentation about the city, guessed the purpose of 31 mystery artifacts from Pittsburgh’s past, and ate sandwiches from Primanti’s and Isaly’s.

Educational resources from Landmarks inspired the teachers, but they took the paper-bag building activity to a whole new level with their extraordinary tunnel and cityscape creation. The streetscape even included historic lampposts with tissue paper globes that were lit from within, and an illuminated PPG Place.

Speaking of Preservation

We’ve made so much of an issue over the loss of youth, and the aging of our population, that we’ve failed to recognize the asset of maturity. Pittsburgh’s charm is largely the result of well-preserved architecture, seasoned, world-class cultural traditions and an extremely rich and colorful history. This doesn’t mean that we should not be progressive or forward-thinking, or that we should start considering the city as the world’s largest diorama museum display. It means that we have an asset that merits pride, not shame.

—Charlie Humphrey
Executive Director, Pittsburgh Filmmakers
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
March 13, 2004

…the city’s most beloved neighborhoods are the ones largely untouched by the clumsy hand of City Hall and its planners….U.S. cities…didn’t just die from the inside out from natural causes. For 50 years they’ve been destroyed physically and fiscally by “free” federal money, failed federal social policies and…local politicians.

—Bill Steigerwald
Tribune Review
September 7, 2003

The kinds of places people really care about are rarely created from scratch. They evolve, they ripen and mellow. The city of the future isn’t waiting to be built. It’s here already, in the streets and neighborhoods where we live and work. We don’t have to devise it; we just have to ensure that it makes the transition from today to tomorrow without losing the ineffable, rooted character it has gained over time.

—Dwight Young
Preservation
November/December 2002

South Side Students Impress the Mayor

When Mayor Murphy scheduled a town meeting on the South Side on March 23, students from Arlington, Bishop Leonard, Philip Murray, and Phillips Elementary welcomed him. They explained how they were learning about South Side history and architecture through a series of field trips and educational programs offered by Landmarks. Students wore their “South Side/Building Pride” T-shirts that Landmarks creates each year for the NAP field trips.
Offering Solutions to Urban Design Problems

With the help of many trustees and architects who volunteer their time, Landmarks' staff and docents involve students and teachers throughout the Pittsburgh region in suggesting solutions for urban design problems.

During recent architectural design challenges, after-school enrichment programs, and in-service courses, students and teachers have shown how we can reitalize the riverfront, adaptively reuse vacant historic structures, and better connect a historic mainstreet to a booming commercial development. They have learned how the Golden Triangle has evolved over time and performed a play to tell that story to others.

More details and photographs follow.

Westmoreland County Students Design Barge Buildings

Always impressive, always prepared, the students and teachers from Westmoreland County who participate in our annual design challenges are always to be commended. On February 10 and 11, more than 220 middle and high school students participated in Landmarks’ 8th Annual Design Challenge. Thirty-eight groups of students presented models to a jury of architects showing how they would reuse a 35 x 150 foot barge and connect it to the shoreline somewhere in the Golden Triangle area. The barge-based building could be no more than 35 feet above the hull. Special thanks to Pfaffmann & Associates for helping us develop and host this design challenge.

Students proposed a restaurant themed to the mysterious crash of the B-25 bomber in the Monongahela River; an aquarium; a “Gilligan’s Island Boat Rental” facility; a casino and gambling center; a rest stop/repair shop for bikers; an elegant riverside restaurant crafted to evoke the West End Bridge; a “South Side Bar & Grill” with a Tiki bar on the roof; a miniature-golf course with Pittsburgh landmarks; and a robotics workshop for private and public use, among many other ideas.

The students convinced everyone that barge-based buildings could draw thousands of people to Pittsburgh and would help revitalize our riverfronts. The judges were impressed with the amount of research the student teams had carried out to solve the design challenge. They also were impressed with the level of detail in the models and creative use of materials, and the passion expressed by all the students during their oral presentations. We thank the following firms whose architects volunteered as jurors: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson; Celli-Flynn; The Design Alliance; Landmarks Design Associates; Pfaffmann & Associates; Renaissance 3 Architects; and Andrew Lang (independent architect).

87 Teachers Participate in Spring and Summer Classes

“Exploring Architecture,” “Exploring Your Neighborhood,” “Pittsburgh Heritage,” and “Exploring Your City” are among Landmarks’ most popular in-service classes offered through the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. In all the classes teachers tour Pittsburgh, discuss its strengths and weaknesses, and suggest how to use architecture as an interdisciplinary tool and extend classroom learning into the community. They develop neighborhood unit plans or learn how to build models so they can involve their students in exploring Pittsburgh and in solving urban design problems.
Steel Valley Students Address Homestead Community Concerns

Thanks to funding from PNC Foundation, Landmarks partnered with Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area and MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni to sponsor an architectural design challenge for 25 Steel Valley High School students in Randy Zirkle’s computer-aided design (CAD) classes.

On May 13, the students presented their CAD drawings and models to a jury of architects. Several groups of students showed how three vacant buildings on Homestead’s main street could be renovated for use as the 8th Avenue Bar & Grill, HST Choppers (motorcycle repair/purchase); and 8th Avenue Athletics. One student constructed a model showing a system of walkways allowing people to cross safely over the railroad tracks that divide Homestead from The Waterfront development. Other models showed how the Pump House could be restored as a concert space and meeting hall, how a vacant building could be transformed into an art museum and gallery, and how compatible infill housing could be designed.

“As a result of this partnership,” said Randy, “my students became more involved in their community and realized that they could apply classroom skills to solve real problems.”

“Building Stuff/Building Character” at Miller School

For the sixth year, Landmarks worked with 20 third- through fifth-grade students from Miller African-Centered Academy in an after-school enrichment program sponsored by Mercy Hospital.

In a program titled “Building Stuff/Building Character,” students and mentors from Mercy Hospital used boxes and all sorts of containers to create many of Pittsburgh’s notable landmarks: the Blockhouse, Burk’s Building, hillside houses, Smithfield United Church, Heinz Hall, the City-County Building, several skyscrapers, Mellon Arena, and Miller School, among others. Then, on May 20 the students performed “The Story of Pittsburgh,” to an audience of school teachers, mentors, and trustees from Landmarks.

“Through this activity, students learned that it takes much time and effort to create a city,” said Louise Sturgess, executive director of Landmarks. During the process of building all the “stuff” and performing the play, each student strengthened her/his “character” by becoming a more patient, skillful, and creative problem-solver. We thank Melanie Lore, a University of Pittsburgh graduate, and Kelly Docter, from CMU’s School of Architecture, for helping students to construct their models.

Investing in Landmarks Brings Great Value

Landmarks can put your assets to work while bringing you:

• Lifetime income from 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);
• Honorary life membership in Landmarks (minimum contribution required); and
• The satisfaction of making a significant gift to preserve our Western Pennsylvania heritage.

For additional information, visit our website: www.phlf.org or contact Jack Miller (412-471-5808, ext. 538; jack@phlf.org).

Please continue giving. The need is great.
If you flip through our files in the James D. Van Trump Library, you’ll find many hundreds of photos showing membership tours and lectures and preservation conferences. In good weather and bad, photographs show people touring by foot, by bus, and even by boat. So often participants are looking up, pointing out architectural details and noticing how much character and life historic buildings add to the streetscape. In our photographs of “Distinguished Lectures” or conferences, people are listening intently to the latest news about preservation struggles and successes at home and abroad, and learning about best practices in urban development.

The lectures, tours, and conferences that Landmarks sponsors, or is involved with, remind us that we are not alone in our work, although sometimes it seems we are working against great odds. They inspire all who participate to redouble their efforts on behalf of historic preservation because the results are so positive and significant: revitalized economies; healthier communities; happier people.

This year, as always, we continue our 40-year tradition of membership events. Here we highlight activities from the first half of the year.

“Making Cities Work” Lecture Series

Bill Pencek, director of Baltimore City Heritage Area, and Tyler Gearhart, executive director of Preservation Maryland, spoke on March 24 at a full house at Crawford Grill at Station Square. Their topic?: the revitalization of downtown Baltimore’s West Side. Their story is similar in many ways to Pittsburgh’s Fifth/Forbes area, although the outcome, so far, is much different.

By 1989, the five major department stores had closed in downtown Baltimore. West Side was full of wonderful historic buildings that were 95% occupied on the street level, but the upper stories were largely vacant; the primary clientele in the area were lower-middle-income African Americans. In hopes of revitalizing the area, the city announced an urban renewal plan for West Side calling for the demolition of 150 historic buildings.

In response, Baltimore City Heritage Area and Preservation Maryland mapped out a plan that showed how the historic buildings could be saved using Smart Growth strategies and state and federal tax incentives. They secured a grant to list the West Side (Market Center) on the National Register of Historic Places; they nominated the area to the National Trust’s 11 Most Endangered List; and they created a movie, “Baltimore’s West Side Story,” that the owner of Baltimore’s historic Senator Theatre ran for a month, prior to its feature films. These actions generated much community support and, eventually, the City switched gears and adopted a preservation plan. Tyler now serves on the West Side Renaissance Board, and all the players who proposed the original plan are now moving the preservation plan forward with great success.

In February 2004, the spectacularly restored Hippodrome Theater reopened. The $90 million project took advantage of New Markets Tax Credits and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits. Located four blocks north of Camden Yards, the theater is booking blockbusters and drawing business away from Washington, DC theaters.

Bank of America Community Development Corporation is leading the way to redevelop an entire city block comprised of 14 historic buildings and some of the city’s few surviving cast-iron storefronts. A department store and a hotel have been rehabbed for market-rate rental housing; hundreds of compatible new market-rate apartment units are being constructed; and artists’ lofts and galleries are opening.

The development community has responded to West Side in a way Bill and Tyler never dreamed of. “Every day there is some mention of something about the West Side in the news — and the news is good.”

What are the lessons for Pittsburgh? According to Bill: “Remember that residential reuse drives the revitalization effort. Preserve historic buildings, lobby for state funds, and lobby for tax-credit legislation.” Tyler adds: “Demolish non-contributing buildings and use infill construction strategically. Support major projects that can be a catalyst for private development. Support an incremental-based approach that is market-driven.”

Architecture & Historic Preservation Abroad Lecture Series

Dr. Arcadi Nebolsine is well known to some of our members because he taught at the University of Pittsburgh in the 1970s and helped lead the effort to save St. Boniface Church when it was threatened by Route 279 North. During his lecture on April 14, he transported us to Russia, and its satellite towns, where the need for preservation is great and a love for Classicism has survived.

A professor, author, environmental activist, and leading expert on Russian and European cultural traditions, Arcadi values beauty above all else. An eloquent speaker and advocate for historic preservation, he deplores the “cult of ugliness in the arts” that is the “culmination of commercialism, communism, and modernism.” He memorably described “the depth of Russian culture that goes beyond 20th-century shenanigans.” “Russians have always had a fascination with beauty,” said Arcadi: after all, it was Dostoyevsky who said that “beauty will save the world.”

Arcadi described St. Petersburg as a “dream city,” where the “cultural environment is like a ribbon, a horizontal city with vertical accents and monuments of beauty” between a fantastic seascape and sky. “The element of color is crucial to any cityscape,” said Arcadi, and pastel colors predominate in St. Petersburg. But Arcadi reported a disturbing new tendency to “Disneyfy” colors when restoring historic structures, thus making them too theatrical and flashy.

In the little cities that were planned in imitation of St. Petersburg, a desperate battle is going on to protect their architectural integrity. “Many rich businessmen are building monstrosities,”

Inspirational Lecturer

Louise Sturgess

Homestead tour guides Pat French (top) and David Lewis (below, left)

Inside the Pump House in Homestead
sang Arcadi, such as hotels and ugly housing complexes. His goal is to conserve as many historic buildings as possible in the satellite towns, so Russia’s cultural heritage can be passed on to the next generation. He urged us to help him in his work.

Arcadi’s lecture was co-sponsored by the Heinz Architectural Center, Carnegie Museum of Art, and was the first in a series on Thursday evening, in celebration of Landmarks’ 40th anniversary. Tasman Storey, an Australian architect, will present the second lecture in this series on Thursday evening, September 23 (see page 20). Reservations are required.

Membership Tours in 2004

Local preservationists have welcomed our members on tours this year of Oakmont, Homestead, Woodland Road, and Longue Vue Club, among other places.

In Oakmont we toured the Dr. Thomas R. Kerr Memorial House Museum, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Carnegie library (where a major renovation/expansion is under way), and Oakmont Country Club, where member Banks Smith graciously hosted our tour of 24 visit.

David Lewis, a former trustee of Landmarks, distinguished professor of architecture at CMU, founder of UDA Architects, and recent Homestead resident, anchored our tour of that community on May 22. Steven Paul, formerly of the Homestead Area Economic & Revitalization Corporation, Pat French of the Bulgarian-Macedonian Educational & Cultural Center, and Janis Donofe of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area also spoke with tour participants and brought us up-to-date with recent preservation progress.

Since 142 people participated in our Woodland Road Walking Tour on June 12, we turned it into a self-guided event, complete with a tour booklet. Chatham College graciously opened the Howe-Chlids Gatehouse and Andrew W. Mellon Hall; Betty Abrams welcomed everyone into her Robert Venturi masterpiece designed in 1979, and Kathy and Lou Testoni opened their Tudor-Revival home of 1903, designed by Vrydaugh & Wolfe. Heavy rain on the evening of July 26 kept our group of 160 off the Longue Vue golf course but comfortably settled inside the 1920s clubhouse. Walter Kidney, Mark Vernallis, and Ron Forse presented brief lectures on architect Benno Jansen, landscape architect Albert Davis Taylor, and golf course architect Robert White. After a delicious buffet supper in the ballroom, Mark led guests on a clubhouse tour, offering historical commentary and lots of local lore.

Our docents continue to lead Downtown Walking Tours every Wednesday through September, and South Side Strolls on Saturdays, plus a host of school tours throughout the year. Our final membership tour of the year is planned for October 17 (see page 20). Join us for a stroll in the Allegheny Commons, Pittsburgh’s oldest park.

Great Parks, Great Cities Conference

In July, Landmarks’ president Arthur Ziegler, horticulturist Greg Yochum, and chief programs officer Cathy McCollom attended the Great Parks, Great Cities Conference in London, England. Landmarks awarded a conference scholarship to Christina Schmidlapp, project director of the Allegheny Commons Restoration, so she could attend. Meg Cheever, president and CEO of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, also attended, along with several city officials. The conference was organized by GreenSpace and the New York-based Project for Public Spaces. More than 16 countries toured England’s Royal Parks, urban parklets, and community gardens. Upon her return, Cathy reported:

- People managing and revitalizing parks in England and other European cities are studying and quantifying the return on investment created for communities adjacent to parks and have determined that return to be very high. Well maintained parks have a positive effect on the value of nearby residences and increase the quality of life for area residents.
- One interesting program was the creation of an urban park by homeless men from a nearby shelter. The program is now formalized, and the homeless men are maintaining the park on an ongoing basis, and learning about horticulture and landscaping in the process.
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Duquesne Incline Opens Machinery Room

Even if you've visited the Duquesne Incline, it's time to go again. For just 50 cents (making this the most affordable attraction in town) you can walk through a tunnel, down a flight of steps, and into a well-lit apartment and machinery room that the Incline opened on May 20 in honor of its 127th anniversary.

Now visitors can see the sheave wheels (part of the safety mechanism), the bull gears (that first turn the cable and then change the direction of the cable) and a cast-iron drive gear with 130 pairs of removable wooden teeth that turn the 12-foot-diameter cast-iron drum which simultaneously winds one steel cable on to lift a car and unwinds one cable to lower the other. So, one piece of equipment designed and installed in 1877 by Pittsburgher Samuel Dressler, both lifts and lowers the two incline cars.

Seconds after you hear the “bringggg, bringggg” indicating that the Incline is about to leave the station, you see the drive gear begin to turn and cable begin to move just like in a Rube Goldberg project. The incline operation is a tremendous lesson in physics. And remember that from 1877 until 1932 the system ran on a coal-fired steam boiler; meaning water was boiled to create steam and the steam created enough pressure to turn the gears. The incline switched to electricity in 1932.

Dave and Ruth Miller and David Vater, board members of The Society for the Preservation of the Duquesne Incline, worked with the project team of Landmarks Design Associates, architects, and Zervos Construction. Mike Husarik was project manager for PennDOT which and Zervos Construction. Mike Husarik was project manager for PennDOT which and Zervos Construction. Mike Husarik was project manager for PennDOT which

Marriott Opens in Historic Penn Avenue Buildings

In March, Courtyard by Marriott opened a handsomely designed 182-room hotel at 945 Penn Avenue, just a block from the Convention Center. Most significantly, the $25 million project included the renovation of two historic loft buildings: one built in 1912, and the other (clad in terra cotta) built in 1906 by Henry Phipps' family.

Credit for the renovation goes to Perfido Weisskopf Architects, Mascaro Construction Company, L.P. (general contractor), and Oxford Development Company, owner, among others. The nine-story hotel, managed by Concord Hospitality Enterprises, includes three meeting rooms, a business center, and wireless Internet service in the lobby. Call 412-434-5531 to make your reservations!

Former Baum Building Restored

Thanks to the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust and architect Michael Evensley, this c. 1913 Beaux-Arts jewel at Liberty Avenue and Strawberry Way has been cleaned and restored on the exterior, and a 4,000-square-foot space has been created on the ground floor for changing exhibits.

Originally the Liberty Theatre, the building was remodeled for offices and reopened in 1925. Both the original design and remodeling are attributed to Edward B. Lee. One tenant remains from the 1925 opening: Gehringer Brothers Jewellery, on the second floor!

Teutonia Männerchor Hall Earns National Honor

The Teutonia Männerchor, long a North Side landmark, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May.

Although the current building at 857 Phineas Street in East Deutschtown was constructed in 1888, the Teutonia (a music and choral singing society) has served as a gathering place for German immigrants since 1854. During its 150th-anniversary year, the Teutonia is hosting many special events including a three-day festival August 27-29, open to the public, with German food, singing, dancing, and music. For prices and details: 412-231-9141.

Yellin Ironwork in Commons Room Restored

The result of the University of Pittsburgh's $40,000 restoration of Samuel Yellin's wrought-iron railings and decorative gates in the Commons Room of the Cathedral of Learning is stunning. The ironwork has been cleaned and restored to reveal its rich reds, browns, greens, and blacks. Ana Guzman, a vice chancellor at Pitt, was a chief advocate for the restoration. The project was carried out by Vincent Allen, Inc., of Wexford, under the supervision of Clare Yellin of Philadelphia, the ironmaster's granddaughter.

Edgewood Train Station Renovation

The former Pennsylvania Railroad Edgewood Train Station, built in 1903 presumably to designs by Philadelphia architect Frank Furness, is to be renovated with a $310,000 PennDot grant. The building, at Edgewood Street and Swissville and Maple Avenues, is owned by the Port Authority of Allegheny County and is leased to a real estate office and antique store. The architect for the project is DRS Architects, Inc.

1770s Fort Reconstruction

The Washington County Historical Society has begun reconstruction of the 1770s Doddridge's Fort, a frontier civilian fortification in Cross Creek County Park in Hopewell, Pa.

Destroyed by Fire

Ebenzer Baptist Church

Two firefighters died when the bell tower of the historic Ebenzer Baptist Church at 2001 Wylie Avenue in the Hill District collapsed on March 13 during a devastating fire. The building, originally constructed for a Presbyterian congregation, was purchased by Ebenzer Baptist in 1914. Plans are under way to design a new church, and many Pittsburghers have contributed to the cause.

McCook House

The former McCook mansion at Fifth and Amberson Avenues in Shadyside was damaged by fire on January 15. It remained boarded up and for sale as July came to an end. The cost of restoring the stone mansion of 1906, designed by Carpenter & Crocken, is beyond the means of the owners. Hopefully, a buyer will be found so this great home — one of the few remaining mansions from Millionaire's Row — can be used again as apartments or a residence.

Demolished

Jones Law Building

Demolition work began at the end of 2003 and continued into 2004. The B. J. Jones Building, later known as the Jones Law Building, was located downtown at Forbes Avenue and Ross Street. A work of 1915 by MacClure & Spahr, the building had a slender off-white composition of limestone and brick, with a style very likely derived from Charles A. Platt, with mild rustication and detailing of textbook correctness. Incorporated into the Jail Annex with a new and mechanistic companion alongside, the Jones Law Building had a slightly moribund look toward the end. When the new jail opened along the Monongahela River, the old jail annex could not be reconfigured for office space and was abandoned. The County demolished the Jones Law Building and has postponed plans to erect a new office building, so the site remains vacant.

In Peril

Western State Penitentiary to Close January 1, 2005

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections announced that the Western State Penitentiary, completed in 1822 to designs by Edward M. Butz, will close on January 1, 2005. The handsome Romanesque Revival structure on Woods Run overlooks the Ohio River. (See PHLF News, October 2003).

Heth's Run Bridge to Be Demolished

PennDot plans to replace the Heth's Run Bridge by the spring of 2007. Designed by Stanley Roush and built in 1913, Heth's Run Bridge carried Butler Street over a ravine at the western border of Highland Park. For years the city used the ravine as a dump, and the bridge has been all but buried. The city is studying options for a total redesign of the roadway, ravine, and parking lots. Hopefully, plans will be made to salvage and reinstall artifacts from the once-handsome bridge.
Worth Knowing

Three Pittsburgh Projects Win State Preservation Awards
On May 4 Preservation Pennsylvania awarded 2004 Historic Preservation Awards to:

• Karl Kargle and Jeffrey Stanko, for rehabilitating the Richardson Romanesque Russell H. Boggs house of 1888, at 604 W. North Avenue, into the inn on the Mexican War Streets and Acantius Restaurant. Work was completed in accordance with the Department of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and with the assistance of federal rehabilitation investment tax credits.

• Chatham College, for saving and rehabilitating the Howe-Childe Gatehouse of c. 1863 at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Woodland Road. Landmarks Design Associates directed the restoration and reuse of the historic house as a visitor’s center, with meeting rooms and guest suites for the college. The project has received six significant architectural/ preservation awards, and has been featured on WQED’s “On Q” program and in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Mary Poppenberg of Chatham College reports that “the use of the Gatehouse in this first year has exceeded expectations.” Members and friends of Landmarks toured the Gatehouse on June 12 (see page 11).

• Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, for its renovation of the 1911 Homewood branch. (See PHLF News, March 2004).

Phipps Conservatory Expansion Under Way
In April 2004 the former “modern style” entrance pavilion to Phipps Conservatory was demolished. A new entrance lobby and gift shop are being constructed, to the designs of IKM Architects. Landmarks worked with Phipps on the new design.

Fund Raising Campaign for Andrew Carnegie Free Library
An $8.6 million fund-raising campaign is under way for the restoration of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library, 100 Birchwood Avenue in Carnegie. The Design Alliance has prepared a master plan, making the facility ADA-accessible, and work is scheduled to begin this fall. Designed by Struthers & Hannah in 1899, this is the only Carnegie library permitted to use the donor’s first name. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the recipient of a Historic Landmark Plaque, the library, with its music hall and Civil War memorial room, is a national treasure. During a Valentine’s Day visit, Governor Ed Rendell said “I’ve never seen a facility like this. We have to figure out a way to get state funds involved with this. We intend to be helpful.” To contribute: Andrew Carnegie Fund Raising Campaign, 412-261-6344.

Allegeny Cemetery Still Recovering from Macrobust
Allegeny Cemetery is in the third year of recovery from the effects of the May 31, 2002 macrobust when, in a matter of minutes, the cemetery lost over one-third of its lush canopy of trees and sustained shattering destruction of monuments and infrastructure. Ten reconstruction projects have been accomplished since then: hundreds of downed trees and thousands of branches and mountains of debris have been removed; up to a hundred additional trees that were severely damaged have been taken down. Other infrastructure items (water and sewer lines, roadways, stone-walls and the 1937 Soldiers’ Memorial) have also been surveyed and addressed. The cemetery is now removing over 200 large uprooted stumps (an additional hundred were removed last year). Then, with the assistance of a conservator, Allegeny Cemetery will concentrate on the storm damage to over 1,200 historic monuments and memorials. In the final phase of recovery, a significant number of historically appropriate trees will be replanted to replace the 500 trees damaged or destroyed. Throughout everything, the Cemetery is open to the public.

Habitat for Humanity Builds on the Hill
The Women Build program of Habitat for Humanity International plans to build a house in the Hill District this fall. If you want to donate funds or help build, call 229-924-6935, ext. 2700.

University Club Building for Sale
An important Pittsburgh social institution founded in 1890, the University Club, is planning to close. A study is being done by a developer to convert the 1923 building, designed by Henry Hornbostel, into a hotel. A study is being done by a developer to convert the 1923 building, designed by Henry Hornbostel, into a hotel.

Iroquois Building, Forbes Avenue: alas, the Kunst Bakery sign is gone.
A September 30, 2003 e-mail from Landmarks member Chris Zurawesky alerted us to the fact that a historic mural in the former Kunst Bakery might be in danger. To set the stage for our story, we reprint portions of Chris’ e-mail: “I’m a PHLF-member and a lover of old bakeries. What’s the connection? This. I was crestfallen to learn that Kunst Bakery on Forbes Avenue in Oakland has closed.”

I’m particularly intrigued by the tableau of Pittsburgh buildings and scenes that cover the tops of three of the four interior walls, where they meet the ceiling. It’s a photographic mural…of significant buildings in Oakland on one wall; downtown on another, and scenes depicting Pittsburgh’s steel industry and byeday on the third wall.

So I wonder who did the mural? Is it artistically significant, and is it important enough historically that it should be preserved? Interestingly, I’ve seen a similar photograph commingled the blank custom-word finish of the display cases. Two murals measure 32 feet long; one is 19 1/2 feet long; and all are 3 feet 3 inches high. They show Pittsburgh’s pride in the 1940s: buildings, bridges, and memorials in Oakland and on the North Side; and the drama of steel-making against a nighttime view of the Golden Triangle. The Kunst Bakery space is still vacant and the murals might fall victim to a remodeling. Lawrence Schiller, senior property manager of UPMC’s corporate real estate division, permitted Frank to photograph the murals during a visit with Chris, David, and Louise Sturgess on July 9. Hopefully, the murals will be preserved since only a few historic examples of this technique remain in Pittsburgh.

Other notable photographic murals can be seen in the College Bar on the first floor of the University Club, and in the first-floor lounge of the HYP-Pittsburgh Clubs, Perhaps the largest and finest in the region covers a wall in what is now the Citizens Bank building at Fifth and Oakland Avenues. The technique is still in use today. A photographic montage mural of 31 legendary jazz musicians was installed at Dow’s on 9th, downtown, in 1999.

Kunst Bakery Mural: A Member Inquires
It was most probably the work of commercial photographers “Altwater & Bro.” An Altwater City Directory ad of 1940 claims “if you can see it, we can photograph it,” and publicizes the company’s ability to create “photo murals to cover any size wall.” They printed multiple photo negatives and arranged them in an artistic composition.

The murals that Chris called to our attention were probably added in 1945 when the Kunst Bakery moved into what was originally the main entrance lobby of the Iroquois Building, designed in 1901 by Frederick J. Osterling. They were sized exactly to fit the three wall areas above the bakery display cases, and the sepia-tone of the photographic montage complemented the blond custom-wood finish of the display cases. Two murals measure 32 feet long; one is 19 1/2 feet long; and all are 3 feet 3 inches high. They show Pittsburgh’s pride in the 1940s: buildings, bridges, and memorials in Oakland and on the North Side; and the drama of steel-making against a nighttime view of the Golden Triangle. The Kunst Bakery space is still vacant and the murals might fall victim to a remodeling. Lawrence Schiller, senior property manager of UPMC’s corporate real estate division, permitted Frank to photograph the murals during a visit with Chris, David, and Louise Sturgess on July 9. Hopefully, the murals will be preserved since only a few historic examples of this technique remain in Pittsburgh.

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Researching Regional Architects

Albert M. Tannler

Samuel T. McClarren — Before and After Thornburg

The Architect as Author: A Book of Designs

Anyone researching regional architectural history should know architect David Vater. He is a living repository of curiosity, tenacity, and erudition. While preparing his article, “Architect and Author: A Review of Books Written by Western Pennsylvania Architects,” Columns (March 2003), David discovered that Pittsburgh architect Samuel Thornburg McClarren had published a book of designs and that a copy was in the Library of Congress. McClarren’s (b. 1862) is best known for his Wooldair (1897) and Morrow (1895) schools, Husler Building in Carnegie (1896), and the Shingle Style columns McClarren’s work during the early years of his career and shows the Richardsonian Romanesque exteriors and Colonial Revival interior detailing characteristic of Richardson and regional architects, e.g., James P. Bailey, with whom McClarren apprenticed, and Longellow, Alden & Harlow.

McClarren’s Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 2107 Sidney Street, South Side, now houses Energy Reduction, Inc.

Over a dozen McClarren buildings were mentioned and five illustrated in The Inland Architect and The American Architect and Building News between 1889 and 1893. None of these are known to have survived. I read the Second Annual Souvenir of Designs, S. T. McClarren, Architect, 64 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. (Pittsburgh, c. 1891), at the Library of Congress last year and arranged for a photocopy. As David noted in Columns there must have been a First Annual. Second Annual Souvenir of Designs documents McClarren’s work during the early years of his career and shows the Richardsonian Romanesque exteriors and Colonial Revival interior detailing characteristic of Richardson and regional architects, e.g., James P. Bailey, with whom McClarren apprenticed, and Longellow, Alden & Harlow.

Forty-five drawings and photographs are included. There are elevations, floor plans, and photographs of houses, commercial buildings, hotels, and churches, as well as interior details such as mantels and sideboards. We read: “Estimates given for all plans in this collection by S. T. McClarren.” Some clients are identified: Albert Daschbach (later treasurer of the Thornburg Land Company whose Thornburg house would appear in House Beautiful), or the T. H. Nevin Company whose Paint Works once stood on the North Side. As the book made its way around the office, staff members and associates were able to identify several of the designs. Louise Sturgess recognized a former church at 2107 Sidney Street on the South Side, originally Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, now Energy Reduction, Inc. Bob Raubach of Landmarks Design Associates Architects located a house owned by South Side councilman Charles Soccup at 118 S. 37th Street. McClarren’s book may be seen in the James D. Van Trump Library.

St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

One of the most impressive designs illustrated in The American Architect and Building News is that for St. John’s Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, published on December 10, 1892. The Church was built in 1893 at Forbes Avenue and Jumorelle Street in the Uptown neighborhood and subsequently demolished. A photograph, published in The History of the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh 1837–1999 reveals a handsome descendant of H. H. Richardson’s Trinity Church.

St. John’s Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Boston, and a sibling to McClarren’s Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. McClarren was, by the way, both an eclectic architect and a Presbyterian, and his 1905–07 Classical Revival First Presbyterian Church of Crafton (The Story of Crafton, Crafton Historical Society 1992:59) was demolished in the late 1970s.

St. Petersburg, Florida

After my first article on McClarren was published in PHLF News in 1993, we learned from a family member that McClarren, his wife Kate, and daughter Mildred, moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, just before World War I. Following the bankruptcy of the Thornburg Land Company and the establishment of the Borough of Thornburg in 1909, Frank Thornburg settled his affairs and, in 1911, moved to Los Angeles. McClarren was still living in Thornburg in 1912, the year he enlarged the school building. The first St. Petersberg city directory, published by R. L. Polk & Co. in 1914, lists the McClarren family at 340 Beach Drive, where the architect had his office as well as residence.

Floor plans and a photograph of 118 S. 17th Street as illustrated in the Second Annual Souvenir of Designs. The house as it appears today is shown at right.
Miss Mercur has found her profession not only full of honor, but financially profitable . . . . She goes out herself to oversee the construction of the buildings she designs, inspecting the laying of foundations and personally directing the different workmen from the first stone laid to the last nail driven, thereby acquiring a practical knowledge not possessed by every male architect.

Thus Mrs. Mary Temple Jamison introduced readers of the April 1898 Home Monthly to Southwestern Pennsylvania’s first documented woman architect. Elise Mercur (1869–1947) was born in Towanda, Pa. She studied music in Germany and art at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

Between 1894 and 1898, she worked in the Pittsburgh architectural office of Thomas Boyd. During her first year in Boyd’s office, Mercur won the competition to design the Woman’s Building at the Cotton States & International Exposition held in Atlanta, Georgia, September 1895 through January 1896. Back home she designed the Children’s Building at the Pittsburgh Home and Hospital, a building for the Beaver College and Musical Institute in Beaver, Pa., a building for the Washington Female Seminary in Washington, Pa., St. Martin’s Episcopal Church in Johnstown, Pa., and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh.

In 1898 she opened her own architectural office in Pittsburgh. She was also married that year to Karl Rudolph Wagner (1872–1949) of Economy, Pa., and moved her office there in 1900. She practiced architecture through 1905; two schools and a house were designed in Economy in 1904. She retired some time after 1905. She and her husband had a son, Hans. We last hear of her in 1924 when she compiled a centennial history for Old Economy and Ambridge.

Elise Mercur Wagner was profiled in my article, “A Determined Architect,” Pittsburgh Tribune-Review Focus, May 9, 2004. A data sheet with biographical, bibliographical, and building information is now part of our data-bank on regional architects.

Introducing Elise Mercur Wagner

Photograph of the Woman’s Building, Cotton States & International Exposition, 1895-96. Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.

Perspective drawing of the Woman’s Building, Cotton States & International Exposition, 1895-96. Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution.

Above: The rear of the Washington Female Seminary in the 1930s, shortly after Washington & Jefferson College bought the Seminary and demolished the dormitory wing. Below: An elegant portico was added to the rear of the building, which then became the front, and a clock was placed on top of the tower. The building is now McIlvaine Hall. Photo courtesy of the Archives and Special Collection Library, Washington & Jefferson College.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2601 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, now Christian Tabernacle Kodesh Church of Immanuel.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 2601 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, now Christian Tabernacle Kodesh Church of Immanuel.

The building on the left still stands; the building on the right, now demolished, is likely to have been the one designed by Elise Mercur in 1896.
Traveling
A Day I Recommend
Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.

That last day of August 2003, Labor Day Sunday, was a fine day for a pleasant drive and an architectural stroll. I chose to go to Cleveland, or rather its 1920s suburb Cleveland Heights, if you take the Pennsylvania and Ohio Turnpikes, exit at Streetsboro and then go north to I-480 to Warrensville Center Road and Shaker Boulevard, in about two and three-fourths hours you will be at Shaker Square, a recently rejuvenated Colonial Revival group of buildings. There, at Yours Truly, you can find a reasonably priced but creative late breakfast or brunch with sizeable portions. Sitting at the counter, you can generally avoid the waiting line.

Across the street is Joseph-Beth’s, Berkshire at Sycamore, Tudor Revival: 2755 Berkshire Road, designed in 1898 by Granger & Meade. Much of the architecture of Cleveland Heights, Ohio spreads from downtown east to the cultural district of University Circle, which is bordered by a sharp escarpment penetrated by Cedar Road to Cleveland Heights, and by Mayfield Road through the Italian District to the pleasant Coventry business district. At the top of the escarpment Cleveland Heights begins, incorporated in 1921 but begun as a part of Connecticut’s Western Reserve in the early 19th century. The Village has as its core the Coventry Road business district, which has low-scale buildings ranging from the 1920s up to the present day, located in a noble English village in this setting, featuring mansions and boulevards.”

The Alcazar Hotel of c. 1927 is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is a curious operation now, with permanent elderly independent living units, long-term apartment units, and daily or weekly hotel units with rates beginning at $70 a night. No longer is there a full-service restaurant, but if you register in advance you can eat with the residents. The lobby, dining room, and landscaped courtyard are all intact, and it is worth a stroll through the well-maintained public spaces.

Individual Finds
Meade and Granger designed the Patrick Calhoun house at 2460 Edgehill. Erected in 1898, this wood-frame dwelling stood on 200 acres of land owned by the grandson of Vice President John C. Calhoun, who wanted a good view of the now famous Lakeview Cemetery and the Garfield Monument. “Calhoun was a wealthy attorney and developer who envisioned dip in the landscape that is dominated by the Coventry Village Library. Executed in red brick in a handsome rendition of Tudor Revival, the library was built in 1926 by the John H. Graham Company.

There are several National Register listings in the Heights area, including the Fairmount Road Historic District, and Herrick Mews, a cul-de-sac in which carriage houses and stables survive from demolished mansions that once had a view downtown.

Another President’s son, James Garfield’s offspring Abram, designed the D. B. Alexander house at 2348 Overlook in 1904; it is now the home of the College Club, and has “hand-crafted materials” and is set back on a large lot.

The text continues with the architectural history and features of the buildings and areas mentioned above.
The well-known Cleveland firm of Walker & Weeks is represented by 2200 Overlook in its Classical First Church of Christ, Scientist built in 1931, and looking a little tarnished, particularly in its landscaping today.

Frank B. Meade also designed houses in association with Abram Garfield and James M. Hamilton. Meade, Granger, Hamilton, and Garfield are all credited with an extensive number of houses in the area.

An interesting stylistic variation is the apartment building at 2378 Euclid Heights Boulevard, a slender, tall brick apartment building at 2378 Euclid Heights Boulevard, designed by Sigmund Braverman in 1937. The Coventry Village Library of 1926, by John H. Graham Co. First Church of Christ, Scientist, of 1931 by Walker & Weeks and Vinca, together with some perennial gardens are no front lawns for the houses, just landscaping often still survives even when the simple front lawn, the manicured and controlled landscape is becoming more prevalent, not only in Cleveland Heights but in Shaker Heights, where many large houses still survive. One wonders whether this change is simply a matter of modern taste, the cultural background of people moving to the area, or a feeling that dense landscaping could create safety problems. In any event, the landscaping is becoming less interesting.

The Coventry Village Library of 1926, by John H. Graham Co.

The trees are magnificent, in many cases four and five times taller than the houses. Oaks and maples dominate, and there is a superb sycamore at 2755 Berkshire Road, notable because of its multiple trunks rather than the expected single trunk. However, probably as ownership has changed, landscaping has changed, and the simple front lawn, the manicured and controlled landscape is becoming more prevalent, not only in Cleveland Heights but in Shaker Heights, where many large houses still survive. One wonders whether this change is simply a matter of modern taste, the cultural background of people moving to the area, or a feeling that dense landscaping could create safety problems. In any event, the landscaping is becoming less interesting.

The City (I assume) has been good about replacing the dying elms along the sidewalks, the curbs, and the medians of those streets that have them, on Fairmount Boulevard for instance, where a procession of elms replaced the trolley lines and new trees are now replacing the once-handsome but now-lighted elms.

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The landscaping of the modern apartment buildings is generally pathetic, woebegone, or non-existent, an exception being those condominiums on the Briggs estate where vegetation dominates and the houses recede. After a three-hour walk I drove down Mayfield Road through the Italian district, which was bustling, and through University Circle past the new Botanical Center and the Case-Western Reserve business school building designed by Frank Gehry, about which I hope to write later. I went on to Martin Luther King Drive, heading north through Rockefeller Park, which was not long ago in a state of serious decline but now is looking very much better. All the great stone bridges have been cleaned and the nationality gardens restored.

The Inn at Turner's Mill in Hudson is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Other major Cleveland families began purchasing land for summer retreats, and Bratenuhl, named after the original farm family, was officially formed in 1903. Large estates there ranged from 50 to 100 acres but unfortunately many of the great houses have been demolished or in a few cases are hidden by vegetation and marked only with quiet driveways. The well-known house called “Gwinn,” named for William Gwinn Mathur’s mother Elizabeth and designed by Charles Platt and built in 1908 with landscaping by Warren Manning, is now a conference center. Marther owned the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, and he and his wife Elizabeth Ring Ireland, whom he married when he was 72, liked to garden. The Garden Center of Cleveland’s founders used the house as a meeting place in their initial days.

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On that Sunday evening, this last day of August, on the Village Green a band was playing in the Victorian gazebo with the townsfolk sitting about in lawn chairs. I turned the corner at the gazebo and parked at the handsome adaptively-used Inn at Turner’s Mill, a fine restaurant with service in various exposed brick-walled rooms, on an open porch, and in a grill room on the lower level. There I had a fine baked organic chicken dinner with an unusual and dense corn soup. I always feel one is paying about $5 too much for the entrees, but there the tab supports the splendid reuse of this fine historic brick structure that is listed on the National Register. The Inn is owned by the Buchanan family and is located at 36 E. Streetsboro Street in Hudson and is open every day for lunch and dinner. The town of Streetsboro is a 15-minute drive from Hudson. It is totally undistinguished, with no center but acres of sprawling national brand retail establishments. The Turnpike entrance is located there, and it’s two hours home to Pittsburgh.

To learn more, see Marian Morton’s recent book, Cleveland Heights: The Making of an Urban Suburb, or visit www.clevelandheights.com.

In conclusion, I have written a number of essays on architecture in the Northeast Ohio. The town of Streetsboro is a 15-minute drive from Hudson. It is totally undistinguished, with no center but acres of sprawling national brand retail establishments. The Turnpike entrance is located there, and it’s two hours home to Pittsburgh. The town of Streetsboro is a 15-minute drive from Hudson. It is totally undistinguished, with no center but acres of sprawling national brand retail establishments. The Turnpike entrance is located there, and it’s two hours home to Pittsburgh. The town of Streetsboro is a 15-minute drive from Hudson. It is totally undistinguished, with no center but acres of sprawling national brand retail establishments. The Turnpike entrance is located there, and it’s two hours home to Pittsburgh. The town of Streetsboro is a 15-minute drive from Hudson. It is totally undistinguished, with no center but acres of sprawling national brand retail establishments. The Turnpike entrance is located there, and it’s two hours home to Pittsburgh.
The Steps of Pittsburgh: Portrait of a City
Thanks to the efforts of author Bob Regan and photographer Tim Falbel, Pittsburgh’s public steps are given their book at last. The author documents 712 sets of steps in 66 of Pittsburgh’s 90 neighborhoods – resulting in an impressive total of 44,645 individual steps rising a total of 4.5 miles.

Regan makes it easy for the reader to explore Pittsburgh’s steps by including six walking tours that lead to some wonderful city views. His purpose in creating the book is to call attention to the steps and save them all! He even suggests lighting the railings so the steps and save them all! He even

Amused & Gifts: Thank You
(February through June, 2004)

Pittsburgh Then & Now
Walter C. Kennedy, Landmarks’ architectural historian, describes the changing city in this hardbound book of 69 pairs of color and black-and-white “then and now” photos. Walter has signed more than 250 copies of the book since its release in May. Published by Thunder Bay Press, it is available from area bookstores for $17.98.

Worth Reading

Welcome New Members (February through June, 2004)

Contributions & Gifts: Thank You (February through June, 2004)

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Pittsburgh Terminal Railway
The cover of this 178-page paperback by Howard V. Worley, Jr. shows a gleaming 4-4-0, ready to run, with white-color and blue-collar types standing in front of it, looking at the camera a little dubiously. But gleaming and dubious was the railroad itself, and it is wonderful to have a detailed history of this dubious was the railroad itself, and it is wonderful to have a detailed history of this 

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, for a grant to support our work at the Oliver Miller Homestead;
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, for a grant to support the restoration of the Bessmer converter at Station Square;
Stephen D. and Parti Seinuso, for a gift to support our Neighborhood Preservation Fund;
Mrs. William Stouffer, for a gift to support our preservation programs;
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R. Vastola, for a gift to support our preservation programs;
Ellen C. Walton, for a gift to Landmarks’ Miller School Scholarship Program; and
Joel D. Warshaw, MD (Mt. Lebanon Internal Medicine), for contributing to a plaque honoring Jonas Salk.

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Rev. James Snyder;
South Park Historical Society
David G. Spier
James L. Spracht
Bob Swerazky
Robert N. Swartz
Holly Teich and family

Longue Vue Club National Register Nomination
We thank the following people for underwriting the cost of preparing the National Register Nomination for Longue Vue Club (see page 5).
James L. Brainard
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Elaine E. and Joseph H. Wertheim
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**EVENT PREVIEW: September – November**

**Every Wednesday in September**  
**Noon to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Fifth-Forbes Walking Tours**  
Tour the Market Square Historic District with docents from Landmarks. Meet at the clock in Market Square.  
FREE to members (one of the benefits); $3 non-members

**Every Saturday in September**  
**10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.**  
**South Side Strolls**  
Stroll along East Carson Street past beautifully scaled residential side streets to the historic Oliver Bath House near the Tenth Street Bridge and the former market house in Bedford Square. Meet in the parklet at 12th and East Carson Streets.  
FREE to everyone, thanks to the South Side Local Development Company’s Neighborhood Assistance Program.  
Reservations are not necessary, but are appreciated: 412-471-5808, ext. 527; marylu@phlf.org

**Sunday, September 19**  
**1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Harvest Festival and Pig Roast at “Woodville”**  
Bring your family and friends to this special celebration.  
Location: 1375 Washington Pike (Route 50), Collier Township  
Fee: $8.00 per adult; $5 for children 16 and under  
Reservations are not required.  
For information: 412-221-0348

**Thursday, September 23**  
**Lecture 5:30 p.m.  Reception 6:30 p.m.**  
**Architecture & Historic Preservation Abroad: Sydney, Australia’s Walsh Bay Project**  
The second in a series of free lectures, in celebration of Landmarks’ 40th anniversary, co-sponsored by Landmarks and The Hoen; Architectural Center, Carnegie Museum of Art.  
Australian Tasman Storey, HPA project director for the Walsh Bay multi-award-winning Sydney Harbor development, will present an illustrated lecture in the Carnegie Museum of Art Theater. According to Landmarks’ trustee Volker Hartkopf, the Walsh Bay urban renewal project “is a tremendous achievement incorporating social sensibility and architectural quality of the highest order.” HPA, an architecture, planning, and interior design firm and member of Mirvac ($6 billion development company), has reclaimed the Sydney waterfront for housing, bike paths, and non-profit community use.  
Location: Carnegie Museum of Art Theater  
For reservations contact: 412-471-5808, ext. 527; marylu@phlf.org

**Saturday, November 21**  
**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**  
**Holidays at the House**  
Enjoy a Colonial holiday celebration at “Woodville” plantation, with period music, decorations, and refreshments, plus a visual display of creches from the collection of Gary Grabowski.  
Location: 1375 Washington Pike (Route 50), Collier Township  
Fee: $3.00 per person, $10 per family  
Reservations are not required.  
To confirm times and for further information: 412-221-0348

For complete details AND to confirm this event information, check our website at www.phlf.org, or contact Mary Lu (412-471-5808, ext. 527; marylu@phlf.org). Reservations are limited: first come, first served!

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