
Published for the members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

PHLF News

No. 177 April 2011

Now Available: August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays

The A.W. guidebook is amazing! Thanks much. It's the perfect research investment.

—Tonya Johnson, Montclair, NJ

More than 200 people attended the book-signing celebration hosted by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF), Historic Hill Institute, and Hill Community Development Corporation on Saturday, February 26 at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Pittsburgh's Hill District. "This guidebook to places associated with playwright August Wilson's life and work is the result of the cooperative efforts of many people," said Louise Sarges, executive director of PHLF, "and its power is not to be underestimated in terms of its substance and impact. After two years in the making, it's great to hold the book in your hand." 

Kenya Boswell from BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania and Gerry Kuncio of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board offered remarks, along with the authors Laurence A. Glasco, Christopher Pennslyvania and Gerry Kuncio of the Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

The August Wilson book is a heartfelt triumph. The bricks and mortar of the Hill come to life through Mr. Wilson's own words, the authors' words, and the photographs. . . . Mr. Wilson's work is built upon the foundation of all great art—the artist's ability to make the particular, through its very detail, represent the universal—thereby bringing the artist's own story home to us all. I congratulate all involved in the book.

—Ray Penso, PHLF member, Alameda, CA

and PHLF presented complimentary books to local high schools, colleges, and libraries, and BNY Mellon volunteers helped with book sales. The guidebook was supported by a Preserve America grant from the National Park Service, administered under the Preserving African American Heritage in Pennsylvania program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and by BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Multicultural Arts Initiative and 75 PHLF members and friends also contributed.

August Wilson is one of America's great playwrights. He lived in Pittsburgh from his birth in 1945 to 1978, when he moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, and later to Seattle, Washington. He died in 2005 and is buried in Pittsburgh. Wilson composed 10 plays chronicling the African American experience in each decade of the twentieth century—and he set nine of those plays in Pittsburgh's Hill District. He turned the history of a place into classics of the American stage.

(continued on page 10)
New Granada Theater Listed on National Register

The New Granada Theater retains . . . integrity of location; it remains where it was originally constructed. It retains integrity of design; the only major change to the exterior was the alteration of the Centre Avenue façade to accommodate its conversion to a movie theater; however, since this change was made during the period of significance, it does not compromise integrity. Although much of the interior fabric has deteriorated over time, the large interior spaces designed in 1926 remain impressive and readily adaptable for future use, as they were in 1937. . . . The theater retains integrity of setting; although there have been numerous teardowns and there are many vacant lots, the area still retains its urban setting. The theater retains integrity of association; the exterior still reads as an entertainment/recreation venue. . . . The theater also retains integrity of feeling for the same reason. In sum, the architectural integrity of the Pythian Temple has largely survived, and patrons who attended the first event at the New Granada Theater on May 20, 1937, or anytime thereafter, would recognize the landmark immediately.

—New Granada Theater, National Register Nomination

On December 27, 2010, the New Granada Theater in Pittsburgh’s Hill District was added to the National Register of Historic Places, based on a nomination submitted by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. From 1927 through the 1970s, the three-story brick building on Centre Avenue was one of the largest and most celebrated live entertainment venues, community events centers, and movie palaces in the Hill. Originally the Pythian Temple, the Pittsburgh headquarters of a black fraternal society, the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, the building housed shops on Centre and Wylie Avenues; hosted lodge meetings and events; sponsored local dances, athletic events, beauty pageants, cooking classes, etc.; and presented America’s leading black musicians: Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Eubie Blake, Cab Calloway, Baron Lee and the Cotton Club Orchestra, and many others. The Pythians defaulted on their mortgage during the Depression and the Tudor Revival building was remodeled as a commercial theater in 1936–37 with a polychromatic Art Deco marquee and reopened as the New Granada Theater. The large first-floor drill hall/banquet room became a movie theater, while the musical events and community activities continued on the upper floors. The architect of the Pythian Temple was Lois Arnett Stuard Bellinger (1891–1946), Pittsburgh’s first African American architect; indeed, he was Pittsburgh’s only African American architect until the 1950s. Bellinger studied mathematics and engineering at Howard University (B.S. in Architecture, 1914). After serving in World War I, he arrived in Pittsburgh in 1919 and opened his architectural office in 1922. In 1923 Bellinger was the first African American to be hired by the office of the City of Pittsburgh Architect; as an assistant architect, he designed a police station and remodeled service buildings in the city parks. Bellinger returned to private practice in 1926. Despite being largely ignored by Pittsburgh’s (all-white) architects, Bellinger persevered and established himself within Pittsburgh’s African American community. He was one of three black architects invited in 1927 to display his work at the first exhibition of African American art in the United States sponsored by the Harmon Foundation in 1928 in New York City. In 1931, Bellinger designed Greenlee Field on Bedford Avenue in the Hill District for the Pittsburgh Crawfords baseball team. Baseball historian Rob Ruck called Greenlee Field the “finest independent ball park in the country, and one of the few black controlled ones”; it opened on April 29, 1932. In 1932, Bellinger became the first black candidate for Congress from the 32nd Congressional district, but he lost the election. (An African American did not win a Congressional seat from Pennsylvania until 1958.) In 1933, Bellinger was invited to contribute to the Harmon Foundation’s second African American art exhibition. In 1937, Bellinger became the first African American hired as a City of Pittsburgh Building Inspector; he held that position from 1937–39 and 1941–42. Bellinger died suddenly at age 54 in 1946 and is buried in Pittsburgh’s Allegheny Cemetery. The New Granada closed in the 1970s and has been vacant ever since. In 2007–10, the Hill Community Development Corporation (the building owner), African American architect Milton Ogot, and PHLF collaborated in a $1.1 million stabilization of the New Granada, funded by The Heinz Endowments, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Allegheny County. As the National Register of Historic Places nomination (quoted above) states, despite many changes, this African American landmark retains integrity of location, design, setting, association, and feeling. For more information and historical photos, see “Pittsburgh’s African-American Architect Louis Bellinger and the New Granada Theater,” www.phlf.org.

150 Students Envision New Uses for the New Granada

On March 3 and 4, thirty-two teams of middle and high school students from Westmoreland County presented their models and drawings showing their vision for the New Granada Theater during the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation’s 15th Annual Architectural Design Challenge. Their plans included jazz-themed restaurants and bookstores; an ESPN Sports Zone; a restored theater and stage for community performances; a grand ballroom and a Hill District museum; and an organic grocer and rooftop restaurant. Architects and interior designers evaluated the models according to feasibility, creativity, and historical accuracy, among other criteria. After the competition, students shared some of the lessons they had learned:

At first I thought old buildings were a waste of time. Now I see there are a lot of cool things in them.

I realized that not every old structure is what it seems and it can be made into something great.

It showed us that while you can keep the historical value of a building, you can also throw a new twist into it.

—Yough, Team 2

I just figured it’s an old building, what are you going to do? But, it turns out that we can do a lot with an old building.

This is the most ambitious project that we do all year, and without it, our gifted program wouldn’t be as exciting.

I realized that the history of the building can inspire new ideas.

I like coming up with ideas for an old building and making them come to life.

Through this project we learned how to work together and share ideas.

—Franklin Regional, Team 1

I learned to see the greatness in old cities. Time goes by so fast, and due dates are closer than they appear.

Fun! Fun! Fun! Do this next year!

—Penn Trafford, Team 1

www.phlf.org
Seven Houses in Manchester Are Restored

Nine units of housing have been created in seven historic residential buildings in Manchester, thanks to the Manchester Citizens Corporation (MCC), the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, State Senator Wayne D. Fontana, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, TriState Capital Bank, and Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCC). A $1 million casino contribution from the Rivers Casino, the Northside Leadership Conference awarded a $75,000 grant to the Manchester Housing Program from the $1 million casino contribution. Landmarks Design Associates (LDA) was the architect and Mistick Construction Company served as contractor for the $2.1 million project.

Ahmed Martin, executive director of MCC, said: “This is merely the beginning of our $35 million comprehensive neighborhood strategic plan. The housing units are a mix of market rate and affordable housing—and we have signed sales agreements for every one. People will begin moving into the restored houses this month. It is a tremendous accomplishment to have these seven houses—previously vacant and in deplorable condition—restored and useful again. This project has shown the value of restoring, rather than demolishing, vacant housing in Manchester.”

Market at Fifth Praised

Market at Fifth, a mixed-use development of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, has transformed a deteriorated group of downtown buildings into a handsome, fully occupied, retail and apartment complex—and has helped decrease crime in the area. “District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr., called to say that crime had decreased fully occupied, retail and apartment complex—and has deteriorated group of downtown buildings into a handsome, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, has transformed a

PHLF received three awards in 2010 for Market at Fifth: a Historic Preservation Award from the City of Pittsburgh and the Historic Review Commission; a Sustainability in Historic Preservation Award from Preservation Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; and a Commonwealth Award (Silver) from 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania in recognition of Market at Fifth’s contribution to the economic and environmental health of the Commonwealth. Many people have sent e-mails of congratulations to PHLF; several are reprinted here:

I just wanted to thank you [Arthur Ziegler] for all you do for Pittsburgh. . . . Your latest effort for Market Square is looking great. I’m 43 years old with a family living north of Pittsburgh and have always enjoyed working downtown.

You have encouraged me at some point in my life to try to help out Pittsburgh in some way like you have and volunteer with PHLF.”

—Tyler Boyer, February 7, 2010

The Buld Building and Market at Fifth stopped me in my tracks. Just fantastic. Stopped into Heinz Healey’s, met the owner, and told him thanks for coming downtown. I can’t think of any organization more effective and worthwhile to the city and region than PHLF.

—Kern Allen, Pittsburgh, PA.
March 18, 2010

For the first time in quite a long time, I walked Fifth and Forbes and it looks spectacular. I remember all of those tours encouraging folks to see the possibilities still remaining and Mayor Tom Murphy repeatedly saying the buildings were worthless.

Congratulations—what a tremendous asset PHLF has saved!

—Cathy McCollom, Confluence, PA.
April 7, 2010

Visit PHLF’s offices and two libraries on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square.

Welcome New Trustees

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Kelly S. Lyons
Corbin P. Miller
Landmarks Community Capital Corporation
Don Kortlandt
Michael Stipanetzt
Annabelle Javier Wilburn
Landmarks Development Corporation
Aaron Bibro
Joe Kiddis
Landmarks Financial Corporation
Jerry Schiller

About PHLF

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation was founded in 1964 by a group of citizens who passionately believed that historic preservation, rather than massive demolition, could be a tool for renewing communities, building pride among residents, and achieving sustainable economic development.

PHLF includes two nonprofit subsidiaries, Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCC) and Landmarks Financial Corporation (LFC). PHLF also includes a for-profit subsidiary, Landmarks Development Corporation (LDC). PHLF is chartered to work within 250 miles of Pittsburgh, PA.

For information: www.phlf.org;
412-471-5808, ext. 527.
Staff Facts & Profiles

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation employs 26 people on a full- or part-time basis (please see the staff list on page 24). Plus, more than 150 docents, office volunteers, college interns, architects, and community leaders donate their time and energy throughout the year.

Two staff members have joined us since the last issue of PHLF News, and Michael Sriprasert has been elected president of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation.

Michael Sriprasert, director of real estate development at PHLF, was elected president of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation (LCC) on February 16. “Since Dr. Howard B. Slaughter, Jr.’s departure from LCC in April 2010, Michael has been deeply involved in restructur ing the non-profit subsidiary to serve as PHLF’s lending agency,” said PHLF President Arthur Ziegler.

“Our goal with LCC,” said Michael, “is to increase the number of loans we do and grow our loan funds so that developments in historic communities can be carried out by nonprofit and for-profit organizations within a 250-mile radius of Pittsburgh.”

A native of Washington, D.C., a Bloomfield resident, and a 2005 graduate of CMU’s Heinz College of Public Policy and Management, Michael is completing a Master of Business Administration at Berkeley, California, and earned an undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Architecture in 2002.

Heinz College of Public Policy and Management (HCPM) is a research-oriented, public policy program that teaches methods of data collection and analysis and the skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and managing diversity in public policy analysis.

Michael Sriprasert, a local resident, and a 2005 graduate of CMU’s Heinz College of Public Policy and Management, is completing a Master of Business Administration at Berkeley, California, and earned an undergraduate degree from Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Architecture in 2002.

Karamagi Rujumba, executive assistant to the director of real estate development, joined PHLF’s staff on October 17, 2010. A natalized American, Karamagi was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and was raised in Uganda before coming to the United States in 1997. He is a graduate of Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, and of Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism in New York City. A Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reporter from 2006 to 2010, Karamagi covered the suburban communities east of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County government, city politics, and the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He works closely with Michael Sriprasert on the Wilkinsburg and Pittsburgh Public Schools. He works closely with Michael Sriprasert on the Wilkinsburg and Allegheny County government, city politics, and the Pittsburgh Public Schools. He works closely with Michael Sriprasert on the Wilkinsburg and

Anne Riggs, regional main street coordinator for the Crawford-Leechburg Apollo Group (FBLA), manages historic downtown revitalization in three Armstrong County towns. A native of Berkeley, California, Anne earned her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Architecture in 2007 and joined PHLF’s staff in February 2010 after participating as a volunteer critic for PHLF’s Architectural Design Challenge. She works on a variety of design-related projects, including façade restorations through Allegheny County’s Aligned Together program.

The John Roberts House: A Preservation Success

The John Roberts House, 225 North Central Avenue, Canonsburg, PA. The 1809 stone and 1840 brick portions of the house face North Central Avenue.

“By creating an arts center in the house,” said Ellen, “we will be re-establishing this as a significant educational site and providing new opportunities for Canonsburg citizens.” Canonsburg Middle School—and John McMillan’s Log School—are across the street from the John Roberts House.

Feasible Reuse

“This year, work will proceed on restoring the exterior of the house. Next year, interior work will begin. “The more we investigate the house, the more questions arise about its construction and development,” said Ellen. “We look forward to bringing experts in to help us uncover the story of the house, and we hope to conduct an archaeological dig on the property at some point.”

July 23 Bus Tour

PHLF members are invited to visit the John Roberts House during an exclusive bus tour on Saturday, July 23 (see page 24). The bus tour also includes visits to “Woodville Plantation” in Collier Township, the National Historic Landmark home of John and Presley Neville, and to “Plantation Plente,” a 400-acre organic farm in Avella, Pennsylvania. Plantation Plente is on Preservation Pennsylvania’s list of endangered places due to threats from mining. Members of the Isaac Manchester family have owned and occupied the farm for 210 years.

This member fee is $65 per person. Space is limited; contact Mary Lu Denny for reservations: 412-871-5808, ext. 527, marylu@phlf.org.

PHLF’s July 23 bus tour to the John Roberts House also includes visits to Woodville Plantation (below) and Plantation Plente (bottom).

Significance and Integrity

The John Roberts House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1975, is one of the most significant eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century historic properties in Western Pennsylvania. The property traces its roots to 1791 when John Canons donated the lot to Canonsburg Academy. A log house was erected on the lot in 1798. When the academy was chartered as Jefferson College in 1802, the college’s first president, John Watson lived in the log house. He died there the same year.

A stone addition was added behind the log house in 1804—and another stone addition was added in 1809. John Roberts, for whom the house is named, operated a general store and post office there for a time. Circa 1840, the log house was replaced and to some extent encapsulated in a brick structure. Some of the log walls are still visible inside. For over 30 years, Jefferson College (now Washington & Jefferson) owned the house and used it as a residence for either its president or faculty members.

The Roberts House is an extraordinary example of multigenerational design and building,” said Albert Tamler, historical collections director of PHLF. It is referenced in numerous historical and architectural books, including The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania, by Charles Morse Storz, and A Guidebook to Historic Western Pennsylvania, by Helene Smith and George Swinem.

Local Constiuency

Ellen Sims is president of the Washington County Cultural Trust, established in 2007 for the purpose of protecting historic landmarks for use by the arts. “Members and organizations within the community have united to save this architectural gem,” said Ellen. “They are eager to re-establish the John Roberts House as a center for art and education.”
Planned Gifts, Easements & Awards

A Gift Built on a Firm Foundation

Most people wouldn’t know a cornice from a cornerstone, but Albert Tannler isn’t most people.

Al joined the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation in 1991 as archivist and as editor for All Aboard, Station Square’s magazine. In 1994, he became PHLF’s historical collections director.

Al’s passion is the architectural history of our region, something that’s obvious from the time he spends defining, defending, and writing about the subject, and it’s something he wants to share.

So recently, Al informed PHLF President Arthur Ziegler that he would use his condominium and retirement plan assets to create the Albert M. Tannler Fund.

“I discovered architecture in Chicago,” Al noted, “and began researching and writing architectural history while working in the University of Chicago Library’s Department of Special Collections.”

“In Pittsburgh, inspired by the writings of Jamie Van Trump and working with Mayor Tom Murphy, I have been able to explore regional architecture and design in the most gratifying and exciting ways.”

Several years before his death, Walter, PHLF’s architectural historian for more than two decades, made PHLF the principle beneficiary of his will and retirement plans. When Walter died in 2003, he left more than $300,000 to create the Walter C. Kennedy Library and Publications Fund.

“Like Walter, I am an only child and unmarried,” said Al, “and Walter’s gift inspired me to do something similar.”

“When Al met with me to discuss his goals, a unique opportunity presented itself,” said Jack Miller, PHLF’s director of gift planning. “Given Al’s specific circumstances, he was in a position to do something that Walter couldn’t—fund a gift during his lifetime.”

Using his Traditional IRA and the cash value from a life insurance policy, Al had enough money to pay off his mortgage. He was then in a position to give his condo to PHLF, retain the right to live there for the rest of his life and use the resulting federal charitable income tax deduction to offset most of the tax owed on his IRA and insurance policy distributions.

In addition to Al and Walter’s gifts, two other current PHLF employees have made planned gifts in the past decade. Collectively, the four gifts have exceeded $750,000 in value.

“Anyone who has ever worked for a nonprofit knows that our salaries aren’t too high,” said Al, “but if you can’t find a way to direct at least some of what you have to what you care about, what’s the point of having anything in the first place?”

Like the local architect he admires and promotes, Albert’s gift is set on a firm foundation. Let’s hope that others consider using his blueprint to build their own preservation plan.

House Gift Supports Our Work in Wilkinsburg

In any neighborhood revitalization project, support comes in a variety of ways. PHLF thanks Landmarks Community Capital Corporation Board Member Kasey Conors for her gift of 517 Jeanette Street in Wilkinsburg. The house has now been incorporated into Phase 2 of our Hammert Place Restoration Program (see pages 12–13).

Four More Historic Landmarks Protected

Since the February 2010 issue of PHLF News, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has received preservation easements on four buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A preservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement made between a property owner and PHLF to protect historic buildings from exterior alteration or destruction and is recorded with the deed to the property.

The Burke Building at 209 Fourth Avenue is the oldest work of high-style architecture in downtown Pittsburgh. Designed by English-born and-trained architect John Chislett, the three-story stone building was constructed in 1836 as an office building and survived the Great Fire of 1845. The easement was donated by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, prior to the sale of the building to Burke Building Enterprises L.P.

The Willis McCook Mansion at 5105 Fifth Avenue in Pittsburgh’s Shadyside neighborhood is one of only four houses remaining of Pittsburgh’s Millionaires’ Row. It, and the nearby McCook-Redd House, were protected when the owner donated preservation easements associated with a development loan. The two properties are being restored into a luxury hotel.

The John Roberts House, located in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, once served as the home of Jefferson College, which later became Washington & Jefferson. PHLF sold the property in 2010 to the Washington County Cultural Trust, subject to a preservation easement (see page 4).

For more information on the benefits associated with preservation easements, contact Jack Miller, who directs PHLF’s easement program: jack@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

Charitable IRA Rollover Extended for 2011

Former Board Member Frank Fairbanks had to wait until his death to direct his Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to endow the Frank B. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive. Now, persons taking mandatory distributions from an IRA may not need to wait that long.

Among the multitude of items included in the Tax Relief Act signed into law by President Obama on December 17, 2010, was an extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover provision through the end of 2011. The provision is a significant opportunity for donors who:

• hold assets in their IRAs that they do not need;
• would like to make a large one-time gift;
• are subject to the 2% rule that reduces itemized deductions;
• do not itemize; or
• plan to leave part or all of their IRA to PHLF at death.

Here are some important points:

• Individuals age 70½ and older may once again request direct transfers of funds from IRAs to PHLF without income tax on gifted funds. (Note that such contributions do not qualify for a federal charitable income tax deduction since they were not first realized as income to the donor.)

• The funds must be directly transferred from an IRA account to PHLF (donors should ask their IRA custodians for special forms to make these requests).

• Each individual is entitled to make a total of $100,000 in gifts to charities in 2011 under this provision and the contributions may be applied to minimum distribution requirements.

• Only standard IRAs and Roth IRA accounts qualify under this law; other retirement accounts such as 401(k)s, 403(b)s, SEP KEOGH, and SIMPLE IRA plans cannot be used to make an IRA rollover gift.

• Donors of IRA rollover gifts must receive no personal benefits from this gift, nor are they available for planned gifts such as charitable remainder trusts or gift annuities.

For more information on how the Charitable IRA Rollover may be beneficial to you and PHLF, please contact Jack Miller, director of gift planning: jack@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

Note: PHLF does not provide tax or legal advice; please consult with your own legal and tax advisors.
Sign Up for PHLF’s Small Business News

The Small Business News is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. The goal of the newsletter is to highlight topics that are relevant to business owners in traditional downtown areas.

Over the past two years, the newsletter has addressed topics such as how to provide good customer service and create eye-catching window displays. The newsletter also always features a Q&A with a business that has been successful in a traditional downtown setting. Business owners have commented that it is a valuable resource that they look forward to reading.

To receive the Small Business News, contact David Farkas: david@phlf.org, 412-471-5808, ext. 516.
A segment of the sidewalk along Columbia Avenue was improved, thanks to a Growing Greener Grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection to the Westmoreland Conservation District. The District worked with the VIP to utilize new technology to plant three linden and three sycamore trees along a segment of Columbia Avenue. Silva cells were installed beneath permeable concrete to support and contain tree growth; the permeable surface will allow water and nutrients to flow easily to the tree roots. The former J. C. Penney building at 134 Grant Avenue, owned by the VIP, housed two major events in 2010: in April, students from Kiski Area High School and the University of Pittsburgh showed their plans for transforming the second-floor mezzanine into a lounge; and, in November, the popular Farmer's Market moved indoors, filling the first-floor space. The VIP hopes to transform the vacant building into an arts and community center.

For details on the Farmer's Market and other events in 2011, visit www.officialvandergrift.com or call the VIP office at 724-567-5286.

sign up this year for FLAG’s River Sojourn on the Kiskiminetas on September 18.

Armstrong County’s FLAG Takes Off

Thanks to the support of local residents, businesses, the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, and State Senator Jim Ferlo, the Freeport Leechburg Apollo Group (FLAG) is off to a fast start. Anne Riggs is PHLF’s key staff person assisting the regional downtown revitalization organization. “Working with the business owners and residents of these Kiski River Valley communities is an exhilarating experience,” said Anne. “The area is one of great natural beauty and the main streets have so much to offer.”

During its first full year as a Main Street participant in 2010, FLAG achieved many of its goals, including the following:

• launching a website, Flagpa.com, featuring up-to-date information about the organization and community as well as resources for business owners and residents;
• completing six façade improvement projects; and
• hosting the second annual FLAG River Sojourn, attracting twice as many participants as in 2009.

The first FLAG Annual Meeting in December 2010 drew 30 participants, including State Senator Jim Ferlo and Armstrong County Commissioner Patty Kirkpatrick, to review FLAG’s accomplishments and discuss future goals. “This year,” said Anne, “we plan on completing at least nine more façade improvement projects; hosting e-commerce seminars and providing inexpensive websites for local businesses; promoting outdoor recreation through an expanded series of events; and implementing a Buy Local campaign to support local retail and increase sales to regional customers.”

PHLF members can learn more by visiting flagpa.com or by contacting Anne Riggs; anneriggs@phlf.org; 724-719-9700. Ask her to mail you the new FLAG brochure.

Façade renderings showing improvements for Steve Banco’s State Farm Insurance Agency in Leechburg and for the St. Vincent de Paul store in Apollo
New Life for Historic Religious Properties Program

Last year showed the leadership and commitment of our members and friends. For the first time in our history, two members of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation came forward to offer a challenge grant. Their initial goal was to generate $50,000—through their $25,000 challenge grant matched by others—in support of PHLF’s Historic Religious Properties (HRP) program so our staff could offer a technical assistance workshop in the fall of 2010 and announce a new grant cycle. The outcome? PHLF immediately offered a gift of $12,500, thus increasing the challenge grant to $37,500. Within 60 days, by the end of June, our members and friends had met the challenge through their generous gifts. PHLF continued to receive contributions through December 2010. In all, $106,380 was raised for the HRP program between May and December, including the challenge grants.

The program results? PHLF hosted a Technical Assistance Workshop on September 20, 2010 at Calvary Episcopal Church. More than 90 people attended from 36 historic properties in Allegheny County, and staff from PHLF welcomed participants by reminding them that “we are the survivors, serving people on Saturday and Sunday and throughout the week. It is our prayer that your places of worship will be part of our future.”

George Dorman, chair of PHLF’s HRP Committee, added: “We appreciate your dedication to these marvelous worship sites that are sources of life for Pittsburgh’s communities. Over a 12-year period, from 1997 to 2009, PHLF made 213 grants totaling more than $700,000 to 98 different sites, leveraging more than $2.9 million in construction/renovation work. Today’s workshop signals a new start for the HRP program.”

By December 1, 2010, twenty-six congregations had submitted applications requesting a total of more than $260,000 to carry out critical façade preservation and maintenance work. Each application was carefully reviewed during an intensive and lengthy committee meeting on January 24, 2011. A Technical Assistance Workshop participant reads about PHLF membership benefits.

$78,600 Awarded in 2011

PHLF awarded 14 grants totaling $78,600 and five technical assistance awards during a reception on March 2 for HRP recipients and new members. In his opening remarks, Mr. Dorman noted that PHLF had not been able to award any grants in 2010. Only because of the successful challenge grant campaign were the 2011 grants possible. PHLF’s grant awards will be matched by funds from each congregation and will leverage close to $375,000 in preservation and construction projects. Grant recipients are:

- Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church
- Eileen E. Diet
- Karen H. Dempsey
- Mr. & Mrs. Hazen D. Denney IV
- Robert Dickman
- Robert J. Dickson, Jr.
- Dollar Bank Foundation
- Patricia and John Donovan III
- Keith G. Dorman
- Dormont Historical Society
- Ruth and Seymour Drescher
- W. Douglas Drumheller
- Elizabeth and Rene Duquesney
- Mr. & Mrs. M. W. Duzy
- ESB Bank
- Lorrie C. Ebbert
- James C. Edwards, MD
- Susan and John Esley
- Roseann and George Emly
- Congregation Poale Zedeck
- Congregation Poale Zadeck (Squirrel Hill), for brick pointing and masonry repairs;
- First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, for refashioning of exterior doors;
- First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh (Downtown), for refashioning of exterior doors;
- First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Oakland), for repairing box gutters and replacing missing slates;
- Mr. & Mrs. William Campbell, for restoring stained glass windows;
- Pittsburgh Mennonite Church (Swissvale), for brick pointing;
- • Congregation Poale Zedeck
- Philip Friedman
- Sharon Shaw, architects, 1928), at Shady and Phillips Avenues in Squirrel Hill
- • Jerusalem Baptist Church
- • First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Squirrel Hill), for brick pointing and masonry repairs;
- • First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood, for refashioning of exterior doors;
- • First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh (Downtown), for refashioning of exterior doors;
- • First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Oakland), for repairing box gutters and replacing missing slates;
- • Mr. & Mrs. William Campbell, for restoring stained glass windows;
- • Pittsburgh Mennonite Church (Swissvale), for brick pointing;
- • Congregation Poale Zedeck
- Philip Friedman
- Sharon Shaw, architects, 1928), at Shady and Phillips Avenues in Squirrel Hill

Thank You Historic Religious Property Donors

(January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011)
From left: Pat Jones, new PHLF member; Simone Spaulding Cephas, Bethesda Presbyterian Church; Dolores Nypaver, Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh; and Kevin Bevard, Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

• Sacred Heart Church (Shadyside), for repairing stained glass windows;
• St. Nicholas Catholic Church (Millvale), for repairing and repainting the exterior woodwork;
• St. Paul Baptist Church (Point Breeze), for relining the box gutters and replacing missing slates;
• South Side Presbyterian Church, for replacing the main roof;
• Stewar Avenue Evangelical Lutheran Church (Carrick), for brick pointing and masonry work;
• Waverly Presbyterian Church (Point Breeze), for repairing masonry on the main entrance stair.

In addition:
• The Byzantine Catholic Seminary, in Perry Hilltop, received a grant from The Kim and Miller Family Fund at PHLF, payable over a four-year period, to help with dome repairs.
• Calvary United Methodist Church, in Allegheny West, received a grant from the Barnesfeld Fund at PHLF, to help with its handicapped-ramp project.

Technical assistance was awarded to:
• Bethesda Presbyterian Church (Homewood)
• Brown Chapel AME Church (Central North Side)
• Ethnan Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church (Wilkinsburg)
• Greenfield Presbyterian Church
• Jesus’ Dwelling Place (North Braddock)

Endowing the HRP Program

The two members who issued the challenge grant also had a long-term goal. With their major gift, they hoped to encourage other HRP donors to help build an endowment for the HRP program so funds are always available for critical preservation efforts. As PHLF Trustee David Vater noted, "Historic religious properties are long-term assets. They are centers of art, culture, and community, and places of value for contemplation and for many services. There is no other single building type in Allegheny County that is as architecturally and historically significant as religious properties."

Therefore, the goal of PHLF’s annual fundraising campaign, to be launched this June, is to encourage major gifts to help build an endowment for our Historic Religious Properties program. "It takes $2.5 million to principal to generate $100,000 in interest to underwrite our HRP program," said Jack Miller, PHLF’s director of gift planning. "Since few people can make a one-time gift at that level, we encourage supporters to use bequests and other forms of planned gifts as ways to help us endow the HRP program."

"PHLF has the tools to help people leave a legacy," said Mr. Dorman. "I’m hopeful that some of our friends who supported the 2010 challenge grant campaign will call Jack to learn how they can use mutually beneficial estate planning strategies to endow our HRP preservation efforts. We’re the only place most historic properties can turn to for façade-related help, and they are truly grateful for what we do for them."

To contribute, visit www.phlf.org or contact Jack Miller: jack@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

For more information on PHLF’s HRP program, contact Carole Malakoff: hrp@phlf.org or 412-471-5808. The application deadline for the 2012 cycle of grants and technical assistance is Thursday, December 1.

Dear Carole:
We truly appreciate all the support we have received and continue to receive from the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. I would also like to thank you for coordinating the Technical Assistance Workshop for Historic Religious Properties last September. Members from our synagogue who attended the workshop gained valuable information and connected with knowledgeable people with whom we still consult for advice.

—Jay Angel, Congregation Poale Zedek

Pam and Tom Keffer
Kelly Art Glass Company
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur John Kerr, Jr.
Jerre and David Kaier
Ellis G. Kight
Agnes Doddi Kinard
Mr. & Mrs. William C. King
David Kleer
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence S. Konsin
Richard Krug
Mr. & Mrs. J. Joseph Lackner
Meryl K. Lazar
Martha Lazarevic, in memory of Sarah Eossevic and Bosanka Eossevic
Jeffrey J. Leech
Judith Ann Lesneswicz
Barry Lhormer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Long
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Mary Lou Seaburn
Hartton S. Semple, Jr.
Catherine Serventi
Ava Shaghaghi
Laurie Graham Shearer
Lois Singleton
John A. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. R. Banks Smith
Raymond L. Smith

Society to Preserve Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka
Furman South III
Mr. & Mrs. Sonja Spurlock
William L. and Marguerite O. Stanish
Steven Stine and Diane Bratt
Peg Souffler
Frank J. Stromer III
Mary Ann Stuart-Templeton
Loisane and Martin Sturges
Dr. & Mrs. Kamthorn Sukarochana
Emily and Oscar Swan
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Mr. & Mrs. Bruce P. Wells
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PHLF News April 2011

HRR Gifts in Memory of Dom Magasana
Scott, Sherry, Taylor, Julia and Katelyn Bozak
Jerry E. and Mary Kathleen Carothers
Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Dear III
Loretta Denay
William S. Garrett, Jr., MD
George and Evelyn Gurman
Ann Fay Ruben

Jason and Annabelle Javier
Wilburn
Wilkinsburg Historical Society
Teresa M. Williams
Frances H. Wilson
Helen A. Wilson
Jacqueline H. Wilson
Richard A. Woods
G. A. Woznak & Associates
Jade A. Wiacek
Johnny Younkins
Arthur P. Zeiger, Jr.
Florence B. Zimmerman

To contribute, visit www.phlf.org or contact Jack Miller: jack@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 538.

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HRR Gifts in Memory of Dom Magasana
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Loretta Denay
William S. Garrett, Jr., MD
George and Evelyn Gurman
Ann Fay Ruben
Walk. Carnations at the end of the 2010 Jane's business owner and resident, gave away Paulette Still-Khouri, a Polish Hill May 7 and 8, 2011. Jane's Walks taking place in Toronto, on Our goal is to top the 120 different lead a Jane's Walk in their neighborhood. Many of its members will volunteer to Jane's Walk through Polish Hill last year. More than 60 people participated in a walk, plan a route, set a meeting time, and spread the word to your neighbors. The purpose of the walk, named in honor of Jane Jacobs (1916–2006) —author of The Death and Life of Great American Cities—is to look at your neighborhood more closely by walking the streets, observing the surroundings, commenting on what is working and what isn't, listening to stories, and meeting neighbors. After your walk, send an e-mail to info@phlf.org and share your observations with us. Contents include:
- introductions by Kimberly C. Ellis and Sala Udin;
- essays on the life and work of August Wilson and on Pittsburgh's Hill District;
- a guide to 45 places in the Pittsburgh area associated with Wilson's life and plays; and
- summaries of the 10 plays in Wilson's Pittsburgh Cycle and a bibliography.

Book Specifications:
- 166 pages, soft cover, 5" x 9"
- 104 photos and maps (mostly color)
- Price: $8.95
- ISBN 978-0-9782884-7-9
- Trade discount available

August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays was designed by Greg Pytlik of Pytlik Design Associates and was printed by Knepper Press Corporation. It is the fourth in a series of guidebooks published by PHLF. Other guidebooks feature H. H. Richardson's Allegheny County Courthouse; architecture and urban spaces in downtown Pittsburgh (second edition forthcoming); and Connick stained glass.

To order books, contact Frank Stroker: frank@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 525. Or visit www.phlf.org and click on STORE. PHLF members receive a 10% discount on all publications. There will be a walking tour based on the guidebook on Saturday, June 4 (see page 24).

More than 60 people participated in a Jane's Walk through Polish Hill last year on May 1. This year, PHLF hopes that many of its members will volunteer to lead a Jane's Walk in their neighborhood. Our goal is to top the 120 different Jane's Walks taking place in Toronto, on May 7 and 8, 2011.

August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays

(continued from page 1)

August Wilson: Pittsburgh Places in His Life and Plays guides visitors to key sites in the playwright's life and work in the Hill District and elsewhere in the Pittsburgh area. The guidebook enriches the understanding of those who have seen or read his plays, inspires others to do so, and educates all to the importance of respecting, caring for, and preserving the Pittsburgh places that shaped, challenged, and nurtured August Wilson's rich, creative legacy.

PHLF is offering a 10% discount on all publications. To order books, contact Frank Stroker: frank@phlf.org or 412-471-5808, ext. 525. Or visit www.phlf.org and click on STORE. PHLF members receive a 10% discount on all publications.

The August Wilson book has opened my eyes to what's in my own community and you have inspired me. We always go away to tour other places—Baltimore, Philadelphia—but now I realize that my own backyard matters too and is significant.

—Dunlace Moore, Hill District resident

Acknowledgments:
This project is supported by a Preserve America grant from the National Park Service, administered under the Preserving African American Heritage in Pennsylvania program of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

The activity that is the subject of the guidebook has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.

This program receives Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability or age in its federally assisted programs. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1649 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.
FocusNOW presentation, participants people on March 19. During Dr. Reid's awareness programs for young offered the first of six career assessment Herman L. Reid, Jr., a trustee of PHLF , the reassessment appeals process. Dr. Allegheny County's property reassessment homeowners need to know about Attorney Greg Beinacki discussed what March 12 workshop, Pittsburgh restoration and home financing. During energy efficiency techniques in house and community meetings on topics such hosted a series of monthly workshops a workroom space; a kitchen; and conference room for smaller meetings; outfitted with high-tech equipment; a large meeting room for 60 people developed personal career plans based on their strengths. On March 22, PHLF partnered with 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania and the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University to screen "The New Metropolis," an award-winning documentary about the revitalization of America’s first suburbs, such as Wilkinsburg. First Niagara Bank is sponsoring a continental breakfast on business façade improvements on April 27 at 8:30 a.m. Representatives will be on hand to discuss financing options. If you own a business or building in a traditional downtown, plan on attending. RSVP to Mary Lu Denny at PHLF: marylu@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 527. The LHRC is also being used by a group of Wilkinsburg residents who are participating in PHLF’s vacant lot reuse initiative, which was designed to complement our $8.6 million housing restoration project of the Wilson House and the Crescent Apartments (see pages 12–13). To learn more about programs at the LHRC, visit www.landmarkshousingresource.org or contact Karamagi Rujumba: karamagi@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 547.

PHLF’s Housing Resource Center Encourages Community Investment

The Landmarks Housing Resource Center (LHRC), located at 744 Rebecca Avenue in Wilkinsburg, opened in October 2010. What was once a luxury car dealership and later an auto repair shop is now used as a state-of-the-art meeting space for PHLF programming related to home ownership, maintenance, building restoration, and community development.

The interior of the LHRC includes a large meeting room for 60 people outfitted with high-tech equipment; a conference room for smaller meetings; a workroom space; a kitchen; and restrooms.

Since its opening, the LHRC has hosted a series of monthly workshops and community meetings on topics such as cost-effective home renovation and energy efficiency techniques in house restoration and home financing. During a March 12 workshop, Pittsburgh Attorney Greg Benacki discussed what homeowners need to know about Allegheny County’s property reassessment process and how they can navigate the reassessment appeals process. Dr. Herman L. Reid, Jr., a trustee of PHLF, offered the first of six career assessment and awareness programs for young people on March 19. During Dr. Reid’s FocusNOW presentation, participants developed personal career plans based on their strengths.

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During a “Tour and Art” Saturday workshop series at the LHRC in November and December 2010 with PHLF artist Ernest Bey, and facilitator Josie Bryant, Wilkinsburg children and adults created collages of neighborhood landmarks. Their artwork was hung and unveiled during a celebration at the LHRC on December 11. PHLF members Russell W. Coe and Harry C. Goldby funded the program.

Funders

Lead Donors
• Richard M. Scaife
• Allegheny Foundation
• The Hillman Foundation
• Fifth Third Bank
Major Donors
• TriState Capital Bank
• PHLBank Pittsburgh
• H. M. Birner Charitable Trust
• E. Whitney Snyder Charitable Fund
• Russell W. Coe
• Varten K. Tchekmeian
• U. S. Hotel Group, Inc.

PHLF Named Funds
• Carl Wood Brown
• Catherine Hornstein
• Thomas Hornstein
• Shadybrook

PHLF Facts

• Governed by a board of 75 community leaders
• Has had a balanced budget in each year of operation since its founding in 1964
• Involves people of all ages in carrying out its mission
• Offers a preservation easement program to protect historic properties in perpetuity, and holds easements on more than 30 historic properties in Western Pennsylvania
• Provides consulting services and develops real estate through a for-profit subsidiary, Landmarks Development Corporation, and through various limited partnerships
• Provides leadership and assistance to local, state, national, and international organizations

Through the place, we renew the spirit of the people. Historic preservation can be the underlying basis of community renewal, human renewal, and economic renewal. Preservation is not some isolated cultural benefit.

—Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., President, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Continue Giving
Your money is put to good use and the need is great. Contributions this year are helping PHLF:

• continue downtown revitalization efforts;
• offer programs at the Housing Resource Center and expand revitalization efforts in Wilkinsburg;
• continue Main Street programs in Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Armstrong counties;
• continue our Historic Religious Properties Program;
• offer educational programs to more than 10,000 people;
• reprint Whirlwind Walk, a downtown Pittsburgh guidebook; and
• offer gift planning opportunities to people who share our goals.
This is a really exciting time to live in our neighborhood and in Wilkinsburg. It isn't often that a community gets the kind of investment we are getting and it was really inspiring to see the array of people who were at the press conference today and who have brought considerable resources to the table to make these projects and others a reality.

—Wilkinsburg Councilman Jason Cohn, October 12, 2010

Thank you again for an inspiring presentation at today’s WQED Editorial Board Meeting. We’re still talking about it. And I must admit it was one of my best. Who’d have thought it wasn’t so long ago when the Mexican War Streets were almost leveled. . . . You could hear a pin drop in the room as you discussed your planning, execution, and development of Station Square.

Your current Wilkinsburg neighborhood revitalization endeavor is of great interest to us. . . . I’m thrilled about Mr. Scaife and so many others continuing their financial commitment to PHLF.

—Michael Barley and WQED Editorial Board, June 25, 2010

Your efforts to revitalize historic neighborhoods are particularly impressive. And it’s because of people like you, who can step into an abandoned flooded parking structure and see opportunity, look at a blighted block and see possibility, or take a chance on a creative vision and make it a reality, that struggling areas, such as my hometown of Wilkinsburg, might one day see springtime again.

We would enjoy finding a way of becoming involved with the organization and putting our hands and hearts (at a minimum) to work in a meaningful way. As a small first step, today we officially joined as members.

—Hannah Arnold and Dan May, NY, June 23, 2010

I am really grateful that you were able to take me on the tour of Wilkinsburg. PHLF’s work continues to be cutting edge, instructive, and vital.

—Carol Clark, Columbia University, April 17, 2010

On October 12, 2010, Wilkinsburg stakeholders, including funders for Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation development projects and initiatives, local government officials, bankers, community leaders, and residents, attended a press conference announcing the ground breaking of the Crescent and Wilson development, Phase II of the Hamnett Place Restoration Program, the opening of the Landmarks Housing Resource Center (LHRC), and the beginning of year two of the Neighborhood Partnership Program. This gathering was especially important because it displayed the interweaving of numerous programs and initiatives, in addition to different types of funding sources, which are working together to bring multiple community revitalization programs to the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

Prior to the press conference, many officials and financiers walked up and down Jeanette Street to view construction that had already begun on the Crescent and Wilson buildings. There was a sense of amazement from many who had seen the site just a year or two ago, since dramatic improvements have occurred in this key block of the National-Register-listed Hamnett Place neighborhood. Many who came also admitted that they could not believe or see the vision for all that is happening in Hamnett Place when they first learned about the initiatives years ago. Going into the spring of 2011, Hamnett Place is blossoming, and it is apparent that preservation is driving revitalization throughout Wilkinsburg.

Neighborhood Partnership Program Continues

The Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP), an initiative of the PA Department of Community and Economic Development, is now in year two, with program funds being split between the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation. With funding support from Tristate Capital Bank of $1.8 million over six years, PHLF is making a big impact through the housing programs being offered at the LHRC, in addition to the vacant lot improvement program in Hamnett Place. PHLF is focusing NPP funds primarily in two program areas, housing and vacant lots.

Three More Houses Are Being Restored

PHLF continues its work to restore single-family homes in and around the Hamnett Place neighborhood of Wilkinsburg, designated a National Register Historic District on June 28, 2010. Following its successful restoration of four houses as part of Hamnett Restoration Phase I in 2008, PHLF is restoring three more houses located at 833 Holland Avenue, 845 Holland Avenue, and 517 Jeanette Street, with funding from Allegheny County Economic Development and The Allegheny Foundation, a Richard M. Scaife charitable foundation. Landmarks...
PHLF News April 2011

Design Associates (LDA) is the architect and Mistick Construction Company is the contractor.

Much like the first phase of residential development in Hamnett Place, PHLF will be working to secure new long-term owners for the properties. The Hamnett Phase II renovations will be completed this fall. Homebuyer incomes are restricted to 120% of the area median income. For more information, please contact David Farkas, PHLF director of Main Street programs: david@phlf.org; 412-471-5808, ext. 516.

Two Vacant Lot Improvements

Thanks to a $25,000 grant from The Heinz Endowments to PHLF in October 2010, work will proceed this year on improving two vacant lots in the Hamnett Place neighborhood: one at 502-04 Jeanette Street, adjacent to the Wilson house, and another at Rebecca Avenue and Mulberry Street, across from the Crescent and the LHRC.

In addition, Allegheny County awarded a $20,000 grant to the vacant lot project at 502–04 Jeanette Street. The funds will help Hamnett Place neighborhood residents create an urban farm and community garden, and purchase gardening tools, materials, seedlings, and technical expertise over a two-year period. PHLF and Growth Through Energy and Community Health (GTECH) Strategies are helping the community craft a site map of the garden on the 19,000-square-foot lot. PHLF was able to leverage Neighborhood Partnership Program funds for vacant lots to obtain these two grants.

PHLF owns the vacant lot at 502–04 Jeanette Street, next to the Wilson.

Left: PHLF members and friends joined Wilkinsburg residents on a walking tour of the Hamnett Place neighborhood on October 23, 2010 showing off the innovative preservation, gardening, and art initiatives underway, thanks to local citizens and PHLF.

Left: 517 Jeanette Street (center) was donated to PHLF by LCC Board Member Kasey Connors.

The vacant lot at Rebecca Avenue and Mulberry Street is opposite the LHRC.

The Crescent (1904), at 638 Rebecca Avenue, will house 23 affordable units.

833 Holland Avenue

845 Holland Avenue (corner house)

845 Holland Avenue

833 Holland Avenue

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2010 Stats: Education
More than 10,000 people of all ages were involved in PHLF's educational programs in 2010. Staff members and docents presented 30 lectures/presentations, 44 private group tours, 82 walking tours and special events for our members and the general public, 99 school tours (for grades 2–12), and 6 professional development classes/tours for teachers. In addition, 13 schools borrowed PHLF's Portable Pittsburgh Artifact Kit to use in their classrooms.

Plus, we hosted architectural design challenges for Westmoreland County students and an Architectural Apprenticeship program for Allegheny County students, participated in 12 major conferences and community events, including Kennywood's Education Days; and awarded $4,000 scholarships to 5 more college-bound students, thus bringing the total number of students in our Landmarks Scholarship Program to 40, since the program's inception in 1999—a tremendous record of support.

For the first time, PHLF offered CampDEC (Design Explore Create), a 25-day afternoon camp for middle school students, offered through the Pittsburgh Public School's Summer Dreamers Academy. PHLF will be offering CampDEC again, from July 11 to August 10; middle school students can sign up by contacting the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

2011 Landmarks Scholarship Deadline
College-bound high school students who live in Allegheny County, have a 3.25 grade point average or above, and care deeply about the Pittsburgh region are invited to apply to Landmarks Scholarship Program. The application deadline is Thursday, April 21. Visit www.phlf.org to download an application or call: 412-471-5808, ext. 526 and we will mail one to you.

Financial Support and Volunteers Make Possible All We Do
We are grateful to the many donors (see page 23) who support PHLF's educational, scholarship, and book-publishing programs. PHLF is only able to offer and carry out a full-range of year-round educational programs because of consistent funding support from private foundations, businesses, trustees, and members. Thank you!

And, our staff is only able to involve more than 10,000 people each year in educational programs because of consistent funding support from private foundations, businesses, trustees, and members. Thank you!

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Program Compliments
People appreciate our programs. Here are some excerpts from a few of the many e-mails, evaluation forms, and thank you notes PHLF received in 2010:

Now I don’t call something an “old building,” I say, “Look at the potential that historical building has.”
—Anonymous student, March 2010

Going on these tours makes one feel more connected to the city!
—Susan Karas, April 13, 2010

That was the best field trip I ever went on and probably the best one I will ever go on.
—Jimmy L., Pittsburgh Minadeo, May 20, 2010

A magical blend of history and architecture—the students were in awe!
—Anonymous teacher, Summer 2010

Loved by both kids and parents, and extremely educationally valuable.
—Anonymous teacher, Summer 2010

I may not be the first scholarship recipient to achieve this goal, nor do all go into architecture, but I thought you’d like to know that what began so many years ago as a simple $4,000 scholarship helped me get to where I am today.
—Steven Albert, August 27, 2010

This was my first time to Pittsburgh . . . such a great way to start my visit.
—Trisha Knueven, October 23, 2010

(continued on page 17)
In Memoriam

Rege J. Kessler (1944–2010) died on December 26. After a 39-year career as an art teacher in the Upper St. Clair School District, Rege retired in 2005 and began volunteering with PHLF offering his expertise to Pittsburgh Beechwood School, in particular, through our “Building Pride/Building Character” program. Third and fifth grade students at Beechwood created 3-D models of Pittsburgh during six historical time periods, of houses in Allegheny West, of downtown bridges, and of their school.

“The students felt connected to Pittsburgh itself. They saw themselves in a Kessler–designed art project,” said Louise Sturgess, executive director of PHLF, and they wanted to return to school each day to continue working on their projects. Rege took our education program to a whole new level. He was a driving force in helping PHLF expand its farm preservation easement on the parcel to the farm in return for a development and then return that adjoining property to prevent its demolition. He also led the PHLF team in securing a generous and timely Foundation grant to acquire an entitled landmark, Longfellow, to use part of a Richard King Mellon Foundation grant to acquire an entitled landmark, Longfellow, in Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, led PHLF to purchase its early nineteenth-century farm in 2010 at age 64. Her passion for her farm and her children is evident in every project we’ve undertaken with us. We thank members of Reg’s family and his friends for donating to PHLF in his memory. Please see “Memorial Gifts,” page 23.

PHLF member and preservationist Sara L. Wyckoff died on March 12, 2010 at age 64. Her passion for her early nineteenth-century farm in Allegheny West, Pennsylvania, led PHLF to use part of a Richard King Mellon Foundation grant to acquire and preserve this property. The farm was in the family for more than 100 years and will be developing maps of historic assets in Greensburg.

The Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) in Redlands, California, awarded a grant of specialized Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation on February 25. The grant is valued at $160,000.

“PHLF does a significant amount of work in historic and urban inner-city neighborhoods,” said Ronald C. Yochum, Jr., chief information officer. “Understanding the raw data we collect via sophisticated mapping technology helps us better visualize and achieve our goals of successful and sustainable neighborhood revitalization.”

“PHLF had been using a version of ESRI’s ArcView GIS software to produce maps for our work in Wilkinsburg,” said Ron, “however, we wanted to expand the level of spatial analysis of the raw data, so we approached ESRI and applied for their Non-Profit Organization Program.” ESRI offers a variety of programs to support groups working for social and environmental benefit.

PHLF will be using ESRI’s ArcInfo GIS software for a quantitative analysis of activities over the past 47 years and will be developing maps of historic assets in the Pittsburgh region.

For more information, visit: www.esri.com.

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“For having this powerful drafting software will help us improve our talent and interns provide outstanding drawings and renderings for our preservation projects,” said Ron.

For more information on this software, visit: www.autodesk.com.

Recent Guidebooks to Two Important Pittsburgh Churches

Albert M. Tannler


Calvary Episcopal Church in Shadyside was designed by Ralph Adams Cram for Calvary and in 1905 and was completed (save for many of the stained glass windows) in 1907. This centennial edition, the fifth edition of the guidebook, is organized according to sections of the building. A floor plan, section drawing, chronology, glossary, list of stained glass makers, “Scheme of Stained Windows,” and “Index of Biblical and Historical Characters” are included.

However, there are errors and omissions: Cram’s “first major work” is not Calvary’s “Sacred Heart” (but rather Holy Trinity, 1904-1906, which predates the church), and the book was produced 16 years earlier. The Greubly Faience Company was located in Boston, not Chicago [52]. The Lady Chapel window was not the first American window “to move away from the Tiffany School of stained glass” [72]; in fact, Cram considered the chancel window, not the first, “one of the most notable examples of the revival of . . . the art of stained glass.” [The Architect’s Report to . . . the Vestry (1909).] That report is mentioned in the text but in the absence of a bibliography, citations are not clear. A list of sculptors, woodcarvers, and tile makers—three were founding members of the Society of Arts & Crafts, Boston—would have been an important counterpart to the list of stained glass window makers.

Nonetheless, this clearly organized and beautifully illustrated book is the best introduction to this twentieth-century American Gothic masterpiece.


The architects of Shadyside Presbyterian Church (1889–90) were Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, successor firm to E.H. Richardson. Shadyside Church is the sole surviving Pittsburgh building by this firm and a splendid essay in Richardsonian Romanesque. Tim Engleman’s book, illustrated with historical and handsome color photos, explores “the history of the relationship among worship, architecture and symbolism at Shadyside Church, fitting it into the context of churches rooted in the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century.” However, according to the author, “close scrutiny of building form, fenestration and circulation patterns are omitted. Stained glass is touched only tangentially as it relates to symbolism.” [4]

After a brief discussion of the earlier church buildings of 1867 and 1874, of church architecture within the Reformed tradition, and of Romanesque revival architecture and architectural forms, Engleman takes us through the primarily interior changes made to Shadyside Church from the original auditorium plan, to the addition of the richly carved wooden narthex screen in 1919, to the installation of a new chancel by architects Wilson Eyre & McWaine and designer Charles Marcus Oehmke (who also worked at Heinz Chapel), that reflected the liturgical revival of the 1930s. The author notes that Calvin and Knox would have disapproved. I only mention this part. Philip Schiff and John Nevin’s pioneering Calvin scholarship at the German Reformed seminary at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, had demonstrated as early as the 1840s that John Calvin, sacrificially and liturgically, would have felt at home in the new chancel.

Evidence of Things Not Seen is a thoughtful, wide-ranging, and usually compelling exploration of one of Pittsburgh’s most important churches.
Civic Arena

Update

The fate of the Civic Arena—the large, domed structure in Pittsburgh’s Lower Hill District—is uncertain.

The Pittsburgh Penguins, a principal tenant of the arena, began moving out in mid-July 2010 to the Consol Energy Centre, a new facility across Centre Avenue. The board of the Sports & Exhibition Authority of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County (SEA) voted unanimously on September 16, 2010, to demolish the Civic Arena, in order to clear the way for a mixed-use development proposed by the Penguins that would re-establish an urban street grid. (By agreement with the SEA in 2007, the Penguins were given an option to purchase the 28-acre property, including the Civic Arena, for development.)

However, on November 24, 2010, a Hill District resident nominated the vacant structure as a City of Pittsburgh Historic Structure, thus setting a review process in motion. On March 2, 2011, the Historic Review Commission unanimously rejected the building’s nomination; the City Planning Commission rejected designation on March 22; City Council is required to vote by the end of April and will need an affirmative vote of at least six members to override the previous votes.

We at the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation regret the potential loss of the Civic Arena as a unique example of early modernism in American architecture. Conceived by philanthropist Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr., and funded as an innovative public-private partnership, the project was intended to be a grand contribution to the region—a “civic” auditorium and convention center. Mitchell & Ritchey, the premier Pittsburgh architectural firm during the city’s Renaissance, designed the arena in 1954; it was completed in altered form in 1961. It was a daring, contemporary design and an extraordinary feat of engineering with the world’s largest retractable roof.

However, we also understand the practical difficulty of saving and finding a feasible new use for the arena that will generate sufficient revenue to adapt and maintain it.

The fate of the Civic Arena—the large, domed structure in Pittsburgh’s Lower Hill District—is uncertain.

We recognize that many Hill District residents and community groups have negative feelings about the existence of the arena, which caused the taking and demolition of many houses and businesses and the displacement of more than 8,000 people.

From the outset of the discussions, we have advocated that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) be followed by the SEA.

The Section 106 review process requires that alternatives be evaluated “that could avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on historic properties.” We understand that the SEA feels that the report by Michael Baker does that. However, the report fulfills only the State History Code requirements and does not follow all the processes defined in the Section 106 regulations.

We believe there is the possibility of jeopardizing the future use of federal funds for the redevelopment of the entire 28-acre Lower Hill site without Section 106 compliance. Section 110(k) of the NHPA prohibits “anticipatory demolitions” by placing a penalty on applicants of federal funds, including local governments, that intentionally destroy or harm historic properties prior to the completion of the Section 106 review.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, our organization, and others have informed the SEA that proceeding with the demolition of the Civic Arena may jeopardize the future use of federal funds at the site and make the federal funds vulnerable to legal challenge.

In the case of the Civic Arena, we would favor its preservation if a practical plan were to be put forth that did not add to the financial burden of the City, that generated tax revenues from the land in the Lower Hill and development opportunities as well, and was supported by the Hill District residents.

If the arena is to be removed, we then support the plan to establish an urban street grid, opening the land to provide development opportunities to a variety of developers, and we will suggest that a high standard of contemporary design be required.

The Pittsburgh Region is Our Classroom

(continued from page 15)

Free Downtown and Main Street Walking Tours
Visit Pittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, and Mainstreet’s Pittsburgh helped fund PHLF’s downtown and main street tours in 2010. PHLF also offered free neighborhood tours in conjunction with the Car Free Fridays and BikePGH. For a listing of events this year, see page 24.

About 120 children (ages 3 to 6) participated in “People, Buildings, and Pittsburgh” with PHLF on January 20, 2011.

Assignment Room Restoration Completed

Under the leadership of the Honorable Raymond Novak, the Allegheny County Historic Properties Committee, chaired by PHLF President Arthur Ziegler, raised about $125,000 from 71 donors to fund improvements in the Assignment Room on the seventh floor of the City-County Building. A bronze plaque recognizing the donors will be installed in the room later this year.

PHLF News April 2011 17
Award from Allegheny County Council

PHLF President Arthur Ziegler accepted a proclamation from Allegheny County Council on March 15 honoring the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation “for its continued efforts to restore beauty and to revitalize historic structures and neighborhoods in Allegheny County. Because of the foundation, our area’s history, economy, and culture have been enriched and have been encouraged to grow.” Councilman Bill Robinson sponsored the proclamation, he specifically mentioned our work in Wilkinsburg.

Courthouse Benches

Two more custom-made benches will grace the halls of H. H. Richardson’s Allegheny County Courthouse. PHLF Trustee Martha W. Jordan and an anonymous donor recently contributed funds for a Courthouse bench in memory of the architect. In addition, Judge Manning’s office donated funds for a bench in memory of The Honorable Amy Reynolds Hay.

Twenty-three benches have been made so far. Every time we are able to add one of these heirloom benches to the Courthouse corridors, we are able to remove several inappropriate chairs.

Carve Your Name in History

You can underwrite a solid, White Oak bench with a fully tax-deductible $4,200 contribution, payable to PHLF. Oh, you can purchase more than one bench at a special rate:

- 3 or more — $3,400/each
- 2 benches — $3,750/each
- 1 bench — $4,000/each

County Architect Samuel Taylor designed the limited edition heirloom bench; each is hand built by Wilson & McCracken. Your name, or the name of someone you would like to honor, is carved in the front of the bench.

To place your order—and to enhance the bench.

For more information, contact Anne Nelson; 412-471-5808, ext. 545.

Why Homestead?

David Lewis

You don’t have to think long and hard to find the answers.

Pittsburgh is a city rich in neighborhoods. And the spine of each neighborhood is its main street. Lawrenceville has one. So does East Liberty, Squirrel Hill, Bloomfield, Shadyside, South Side, and old Allegheny on the North Side, among many other city neighborhoods. Main streets are the spines that hold urban neighborhoods together. And, they are coming back.

Of course our hills and valleys and rivers have a lot to do with the formation of our many neighborhoods and main streets. In the old days, our topography gave physical definition to our communities. Every community was in a real sense a small town. Before the advent of automobiles, everyone lived within ten minutes’ walking time from shops, churches, schools, and parks.

Communities were places where people knew one another, where children went to school together, where porches were outside living rooms, and where the shopkeepers on main street knew your name.

The three boroughs—Munhall, Homestead and West Homestead—were just such a community. Their cohesion was the blast furnace. When steel collapsed in the early 1980’s, the economy tanked. And the main street of those three communities died.

Or did it? Well no, it didn’t. Enough physical assets survived to become the foundation for new life.

Changing Attitudes

When I first came to Pittsburgh in the early 1960’s, the talk was all about the Golden Triangle becoming “an island of excellence.” Gleaming corporate towers in steel and glass, the houses on two-acre lots in the commuter suburbs were being built very moment when corporate towers would reach for the skies, and radial highways would take automobile traffic out of our city. The Inner-city neighborhoods like the Lower Hill and East Liberty with their vibrant street life were declared blighted; huge areas within them suffered massive demolition. There were plans for the Hill District and the Strip to be replaced by slab blocks of apartments erected in park-like settings.

Into this situation stepped the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF). I was on the Board in the 1960’s and I remember it well. Architectural historians James D. Van Trump—and later Walter C. Kidney—helped us understand that our great buildings—our courthouses, libraries, and churches—had to be preserved. But PHLF also recognized the need to preserve historic neighborhoods. PHLF President Arthur Ziegler introduced preservation strategies on the North Side with Manchester, the Mexican War Streets, and Beech Avenue in Allegheny West.

It still strikes me as ironic that at the very moment when corporate towers in the Golden Triangle were being built in steel and glass, the houses on two-acre lots in the commuter suburbs were not being designed as modern boxes but rather as imitations of nineteenth-century domestic architecture, with hip roofs, dormers, and bay windows. It is also ironic that so many commuter suburbs in cities all across the U.S. are struggling, 50 years later, to create traditional town centers. Indeed, new developments like the Southside Works, following the model of New Urbanism, are being fashioned on historic models.

No wonder the Mexican War Streets became so successful. They combined the density of a historic neighborhood with a traditional main street, park, and cultural facilities within a five-minute walking distance. And this is precisely the appeal that South Side, Lawrenceville, Shadyside, and now the Southside Works have for a new generation of urbanites.

The Main Street Next Door

So, back to my question and subject: why Homestead?

Here is a world-famous community that is the same distance from downtown Pittsburgh and from Oakland, with its universities and medical centers, as it is from Highland Park and Point Breeze. It also has the Monongahela River, the bike trail, Sandcastle, and The Waterfront mixed-use development.

But what most people don’t know is that next door to The Waterfront— which attracts 1.5 million visitors a year to its shops, restaurants, and theaters—is a traditional “Main Street USA” that PHLF helped local citizens get listed on the National Register of Historic Places. And next door to that main street are 12 ethnic churches and the great Carnegie Library of Homestead, all also on the National Register, and street after street of historic “pattern book” houses, all within a 10-minute walking radius.

Today that main street, East Eighth Avenue, is being patiently restored to historic standards, building by building. It already has restaurants, high-rent loft apartments, businesses, antique furniture stores, streetscapes, and public art. The great Homestead Bakery building is being renovated by Charlie Batch, Steelers’ quarterback and Homestead native. PHLF’s façade grant program of 2003 helped restore several handsome buildings, and PHLF’s leadership prevented CVS’s pharmacy from demolishing the 100 block of East Eighth Avenue and resulted in dismissal of the CVS lawsuit.

What are needed now are more dedicated and historically sensitive investors to add to the critical mass of renewed vitality on which every main street depends. Come meet me for a cup of tea at the Tin Front Café, and we can talk more about the opportunities and possibilities of renewing this historic main street.

David Lewis is a Homestead business owner with his wife and family; a resident of West Homestead; a PHLF member; and a distinguished urban designer, architect, sculptor, and professor emeritus at Carnegie Mellon University.
Swan Acres, “the nation’s first Modern subdivision,” Revisited and Reassessed  
Albert M. Tannler

By 1932 [Harry E. Pople] was ripe to listen to the talk of Clinton [sic] Beck, a young man who had taken honors in architecture from Penn State College. Beck showed sketches. A firm was organized forthwith: Beck, Pople & Beck, and their first house went up in 1934. Since that time they have put up some twenty more houses, all of modern design, around western Pennsylvania. Architect C.[sic] C. Clepper now does the bulk of the B.P.B. Company’s designing; young Beck helps out with occasional ideas.

"Homes All to Be Modern" is the Remarkable story has become an extraordinary one.

"Architect’s sketch of one of the typical houses of modern design to be built in Swan Acres." Pittsburgh Press, August 23, 1936. [Frederick Horst residence, 14 Swan Drive]

A clained by Architectural Forum as “the nation’s first Modern subdivision” in November 1937, Swan Acres in Ross Township, 10 miles north of Pittsburgh, has drawn the attention of historians since 1977, when PHLF Co-founder James D. Van Trump published the first assessment of its significance.

Exploring Swan Acres

I began my investigation of Swan Acres, as many do, with the information supplied to an Architectural Forum writer in 1937 by Harry E. Pople, president of the Swan Realty & Development Company and the design firm, Beck, Pople & Beck (B.P.B.). Although the project instigator and first designer, Quentin Beck, and architect H. C. Clepper who “now does the bulk of the B.P.B. Company’s designing” were mentioned, they were not interviewed.

It became clear that Pople, who specialized in real estate financing, was an unreliable informant. Where are the 20 modern houses designed by B.P.B. in 1934? Several historians have been inclined to accept Pople’s numbers at face value and emphasize the role of architect Harry C. Clepper (Franklin Toker, Pittsburgh: An Urban Portrait [1986], p. 300; Pittsburgh: A New Portrait [2009], p. 460; David Gebhard, The National Trust Guide to Art Deco in America [1996], p. 65).

I visited Swan Acres in 1997 and met the owners of 103 Circle Drive, designed for Arthur Goetz. (All house numbers are current.) Elaine and Stuart Gordon had the blueprints of their house, dated July 25, 1936. The Goetz house adjoined the house of his brother-in-law William Miller at 105 Circle Drive (also illustrated in Architectural Forum) — both houses have been unsympathetically re-roofed. We viewed the well-maintained houses designed for Frederick Horst at 14 Swan Drive, and for Harry Pople at 16 Swan Drive (also illustrated in Architectural Forum) — without the incongruous awnings added later. Pople’s widow was living in the house in 1997 and many residents had the impression that he had designed the Swan Acres houses.

I located a two-page spread in The Pittsburgh Press, “Swan Acres, A Planned Community in the Country, Opening Today” (August 23, 1936). A rendering of the Horst house was published and the public was invited to tour the grounds. “Now under construction in Swan Acres are the first two of five exhibition homes which will set the standard for future construction. They will be constructed of Haydite Concrete Block walls, insulated with Thermax. All equipment in them will be of the highest quality and strictly modern.” Indeed: “Only houses of strictly modern design—or international style—will be permitted.”

The four first concrete houses—for Horst, Pople, Miller, and Goetz—were completed at the beginning of April 1937. They are composed of the same materials and are stylistically akin—all are two stories, corners are either right-angled or gently rounded, the top of each house is defined by prominent coping, all have second-floor terraces, casement windows are recessed and meet at corners, glass block is sometimes used. Originally all were painted white. The forms are more characteristic of American Art Moderne than of the European buildings shown in the H. R. Hitchcock/Philip Johnson International Style exhibition, on view in Pittsburgh at the Carnegie Museum of Art, June 4–24, 1932.

My interest centered on the aesthetic conception behind Swan Acres and on the architecture of the four original houses designed and erected 1936–37. The response to my first article, “Swan Acres: first Modern subdivision,” published in the Tribune-Review Focus magazine, June 1, 1997, would provide some answers:

On June 2, 1997, the telephone began to ring. . . . Sondra Goetz Abrahamson and Mimi Goetz Fleming shared information about Dorothy and Arthur Goetz, their home, and their Swan Acres neighbors. Ruth Beck and Karen Beck Bock told me about Quentin Beck, gave me a tour of houses he designed in Rosslyn Farms, and directed me to colleagues like Bill English who had worked for Quentin Beck in the 1950s, Homewooder Marcia Mastrangelo provided a critical document. Their contributions have been invaluable. They provided additional evidence and an already remarkable story has become an extraordinary one.

(continued on page 20)
The Model for Swan Acres

The new information appeared in my second Swan Acres article, "A Man Ahead of His Time," published on October 5, 1937 (and quoted from above), which focused on the career of Quentin S. Beck (1909–67). Beck studied architecture at Pennsylvania State College (now University) and received his B.S. degree in 1933. In 1934 Quentin and his uncle, Wilbur G. Beck (inspired by the Architectural Forum as "Clintoon’s [sic] father"), established the design/construction firm of Beck & Beck. They built a modest house in suburban Rosslyn Farms, where his parents lived. Ruth Beck took me to view the house—
in 1957 a subsequent owner had it sheathed in brick veneer, adding a hipped roof and porch. I met the owner, Marcia Mastrangolo, who gave me a tour, pointing out a few modernist interior details, then produced a full-page illustrated article that appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on June 8, 1934: “Only House of Its Kind in the World: Unique Modern Home Built by Becks in Rosslyn Farms As Seen in Completed Form and During Construction.”

The article compares the homes, commissioned and owned by brothers Joseph and Jerry Vokral, are not adjacent but are located on either side of Mt. Royal Boulevard. The Vokral brothers worked with their father, Czech-born Joseph Vokral, brewmaster for Fort Pitt Brewing Company, Sharpburg, who moved to Pittsburgh in 1925 from Chicago.

Swan Acres development, they secured permission from the owners for public inspection for a short period as these two structures are typical in design and construction to those being built in Swan Acres.

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Swan Acres Reassessed

“Four homes of new modern American architecture have been completed [at Swan Acres],” the Pittsburgh Press announced on April 4, 1937, “except for painting and landscaping, and are occupied by their respective owners for whom they were designed and built.”

Photographs of the houses appeared in the Pittsburgh Press, May 2, 1937. Seven houses designed by Quentin S. Beck for Beck & Beck and B.P.B. were standing in Rosslyn Farms, Glenshaw, and Swan Acres. Despite his skill, however, Quentin Beck was not licensed to practice architecture. In order to construct houses and move the development forward it was necessary to hire an accredited architect to sign B.P.B. drawings. Enter Harry C. Clepper, Registered Architect, who is first identified in print as working for B.P.B. in October 1936.

Harry C. Clepper (b. 1873) partnered c. 1910 with Charles R. Moffitt in the firm of Clepper & Moffitt and later opened a Pittsburgh office of E. E. & H. C. Clepper with his brother, Edgar E. Clepper of Sharon, Pennsylvania. Some of Harry Clepper’s buildings 1927–29 have been documented and include the Church of God, Alverton, Pennsylvania; Daughters of Divine Redeemer Mother House, Elizabeth Township; Glassport High School; and various projects in Leechburg, Kittanning, Chalfant, and Vandergrift. Clepper was almost 63 when he joined B.P.B.

There is nothing in H. C. Clepper’s oeuvre to suggest modernist tendencies but there needed to be if his function was to sign drawings on behalf of the firm. That brings us to the fifth house erected in Swan Acres.

Gilbert McInnes residence, 111 Circle Drive, Swan Acres

As I wrote in my second article:

The fifth house built at Swan Acres appears to be the house at 111 Circle Drive, erected for Gilbert McInnes, a prominent funeral director, whose tenancy is confirmed by the 1937 city directory. clad in stone, with a heavy boxy symmetry unlike the earlier concrete houses, and with a prominent (rather than concealed) three-car garage, the McInnes house is clearly the work of a different architectural bent.

Swan Acres Reconstructed

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Joseph J. Vokral residence, Glenshaw

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architect. Although the August 1936 Swan Acres prospectus had touted concrete houses, the character of the designs and the materials for the Swan Acres houses changed with the appointment of Harry Clepper as chief architect.

I now know that Clepper did not design the McInnes house. He did not design any houses erected in Swan Acres between 1936 and March 1939. Harry Pople's statement, reported in November 1937, that "Clepper now does the bulk of the B.P.B. Company's designing" was false.

Elbert R. Moses residence, 127 Circle Drive, Swan Acres
March 19, 1939

Pittsburgh School of Speech, through whose courtesy the house is being made available. . . . The style is modern. . . . Homes of modern style only may be erected in Swan Acres.

The contractor was J. J. Trunick & Son. Joseph Wilfred Hoover (1906–80) graduated from Carnegie Tech in 1930 and apprenticed with residential architect Theodore Eichholz from 1929 to 1931. He is known for his many traditional houses in Mt. Lebanon, where he lived, the Greater Pittsburgh Airport (1952, demolished), and many school buildings in Western Pennsylvania.

To use innovative styles at all was a bold decision at the time" [327]. The 1940 plat of Swan Acres in the Hopkins Real Estate map shows 13 buildings: the four original concrete houses designed by Quentin Beck (1936–37), the large stone house at 111 Circle Drive designed by Lindeberg (1937), the substantial brick house at 127 Circle Drive designed by Hoover (1938–39), and seven small brick buildings clustered together—two on Swan Drive and five on Circle Drive. The map visually confirms the "small brick villas" that Jamie recalled and "a dozen houses . . . offering several interpretations of Modern architecture" in one place" that Walter noted.

The small brick houses—traditional forms stripped of ornament, with a few "modern" touches—erected c. 1939–40 (all have been greatly altered) may someday be documented as the work of H. C. Clepper who was employed by Swan Realty through 1940.

The house in Rosslyn Farms, one of the houses in Glenview, and the Goetz and Miller houses in Swan Acres have been drastically altered and have lost integrity (enterprising persons might yet restore the latter two). Yet the vision and skill of a young architecture student from Penn State, Quentin Beck, gave metropolitan Pittsburgh "the nation’s first Modern subdivision"—as the surviving houses of Joseph Vokral, Frederick Horst, and—ironically—Harry Pople—eloquently attest.

**Plat Map of the Northwest Vicinity of Pittsburgh, Vol. 11 (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Co., 1940). Composite photograph from plates 16, 17, 27, 30.** The six houses erected between 1936 and March 1939 are identified by name. The remaining seven brick "villas" erected c. 1939–40, are outlined in white.
Welcome New Members (January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011)

Members are vital to the work and growth of PHLF. Many members volunteer their time to help with educational programs, office work, and preservation projects. By joining, each person demonstrates his/her belief in our mission—and contributes to a strong, collective voice for historic preservation in the Pittsburgh region.

Nath Adams
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Elisa and Stan Beck and family
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Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
Molly Blauser and family
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Brown Chapel AME Church
Emily Burnett
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Jane Butler and Jim Roberts
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Michal Gould
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Katy Koran
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Valentine Landsberger
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Grace Lincoln
John E. Lippel
Miguel Linhas
Emma T. Lucas-Darby
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Mount Lebanon United Lutheran Church
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Elise Obedreck
Samuel Owenshine
Kathleen M. Papaleo
Kathleen K. Petruska and family
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Elke Puskarich and family
Abbe Rabeneck and family
Maeve Raferty and family
Elena Ramsey
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Amy Rybacki
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Saint Nicholas Catholic Church
Saint Paul Baptist Church
Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Church
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Mildred Selton
Robert and Joann Seifried
Kenneth P. Service
Sewickley Unitled Methodist Church
Ina Silver
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Robert A. Smith
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State Street Elementary School
Elizabeth Storley
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Feedback from Members

What wonderful projects and initiatives you all have accomplished or are undertaking or considering. Truly, I know of no other more impressive or effective public service organization—or really organization of any stripe.
—Kevin Allen, Pittsburgh, PA, December 9, 2010

PHLF’s James D. Van Trump Library

We recently paid a visit to your Station Square offices to review your references relative to the Isaac Lightner House. . . . .
It is our intention to try to reverse the present deterioration and restore the house to its original condition. We were delighted by the staff’s knowledge and their readiness to provide assistance. . . . [We have extended] our membership for the next five years.
—Tim and Sue Dreier, Glenshaw, PA, September 28, 2010

Angela and Doug Marvin, tour participants
and PHLF members

We went on the Market Square tour yesterday and really enjoyed it.
I’ll be anxious to do more.
The city has come a long way.
I’m so glad they didn’t tear down all those buildings that Mayor Murphy wanted to.
I got my membership renewal and I wanted to know about the multiple-year membership.
—Gary George, Natrona Heights, PA, June 25, 2010

PHLF News April 2011 ADVOCACY COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION EASEMENTS EDUCATION & RESEARCH FARM & LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION
Thank You for Contributing
(January 1, 2010 – January 31, 2011)

Your gifts support historic preservation programs and services throughout the Pittsburgh region and are especially welcome during these challenging economic times. Gifts PHLF received between January 1, 2010 and January 31, 2011 include the following.

Allegheny County Courthouse Bench Project
• Anonymous
• Martha W. Jordan

Assignment Room Restoration Project
• Anonymous

August Wilson Guidebook
• Anonymous (2)
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Corporate Matching Gifts
• BNY Mellon Community Partnership, for matching gifts from Barrie H. Athol and Clifford Mull
• Dollar Bank Foundation, for matching a gift to the Historic Religious Properties program from Esther Barazzone, PhD
• Domonkos Foundation, for matching a gift from James B. Richard
• EQT Foundation, for matching a gift from Martin A. Fritz
• Google, for matching gifts from Paul and Mary Placeway and from Catherine Serventi

Easement Program (for easement and endowment gifts)
• Fifth & Amberston Holdings, LP
• Onyx Bedford Springs Resort & Spa
• Thomas County Cultural Trust (Roberts House)
• Pennsylvania Conservancy (Burke Building)

Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program
• Alabamy Technologies Incorporated
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• Furman South

Frank R. Fairbanks Rail Transportation Archive
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Gift Memberships
• Sandra Danko, for a gift membership for Jon J. Danzak
• Joe DiMenna, for a gift membership for Joe and Cotty DiMenna
• Rose and John Eversicc, for a gift membership for Alcine and Elaine Eversic Lozada
• Mary L. Jordan, for a gift membership for Barry and Barbara Nelson
• Rick Leach, for a gift membership for Richard F. Leach
• Tom and Sara McIver, for a gift membership for Peter Gordon
• Jack Miller, for gift memberships for Melody Miller, Mr. & Mrs. John C. Miller III, and Teresa Williams
• Anne Nelson, for a gift membership for Barry and Barbara Nelson
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• Pig Soufflé, for a gift membership for Ina Silver
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Memorial Gifts (continued)
• Mary Lu and Jim Denny, Martha M. Grottenthaler, Samuel D. Levine, Audrey and Kenneth Menke, and Michael and Karen Menke Paciorek, for gifts to the Audrey and Kenneth Menke Fund for Education in memory of Jack Zordan
• Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., for a gift in memory of Vinnie DeWinter Ziegler

Named Funds
• Janice and Kim Abraham and Audrey and Kenneth Menke, for gifts to the Audrey and Kenneth Menke Fund for Education
• Carl Wood Brown, for a gift to his Named Fund
• George and Eileen Dorman, for gifts to their Named Fund
• Marion V. Green, for a gift to the Mary DeWinter Fund
• The Thomas O. Hornstein Charitable Fund at The Pittsburgh Foundation, for a gift to the Thomas O. Hornstein Named Fund
• Anonymous, for a gift to the Shadybrook Fund

Neighborhood Revitalization and Preservation Services
• Allegheny County Community Infrastructure Tourism Fund
• The Anne L. and George H. Clapp Charitable and Educational Trust
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• Paula and David Scally

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• John and Cathy Cisfani and MaryAnn and Tim Davis; Susan and Nelson Early; Fran and Steven Kayatin; Ronald and Joyce Maxaizens; Jan Rankin; Ray and Darlene Ronchetto, Edward and Lorraine Sarey; Robyn Smigel and Josh Criswell; Bob and Mary Ann Sostag, Lawrence and Frances Warzinski, Janice Zahurak; and Frederick L. Zinger, for gifts in memory of Rege J. Kessler
Special Tours & Events

Space on tours is limited: reservations are accepted by phone or e-mail. For reservations or further details, contact Mary Lu Denny: membrevents@phlf.org. 412-471-3808, ext. 527. Also contact Mary Lu if you would like to receive e-mail reminders about these events or have a flyer mailed to you: do this only if you are not already receiving information from us in these ways. Event details listed below are subject to change. Contact Mary Lu or visit www.phlf.org for up-to-date information. Students qualify for the member fees.

PLUS There's More:

Society of Tavern Seekers “S.O.T.S.”
Save the dates of June 23, September 22, and December 15, always from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Young professionals and historic preservation enthusiasts are invited to three more evenings of fun, networking, and talking at historic taverns; the first S.O.T.S. event was on March 24 at the Gandy Dancer in Station Square. For locations and details contact saramcquire@phlf.org

Free Self-Guided Jail Museum Tours
EVENY Monday, February through October, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Closed on court holidays
440 Ross Street, downtown Pittsburgh
Free Guided Public Walking Tours (Downtown/Pittsburgh skulls)
Every Friday, Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Contact PHLF for meeting locations
• May: Grant Street & More
• June: Market Square Area
• July: PPG Plaza
• August: Fourth Avenue & PPG Place
• September: Bridges & River Shores
• October: Oakland’s Civic Center

Free Career Assessment and Awareness
Five more Saturdays: April 9, May 14, June 11, September 10, and October 1, always from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
PHLF is sponsoring this career planning initiative with Dr. Herman L. Reid, Jr., a trustee. The goal is to educate students and young adults about trade and technical career choices, including the preservation trades and other technical trades associated with rehabilitating historic structures. For details contact: marylu@phlf.org

Professional Development for Teachers (through the ALU)
• “Getting Real” (Teacher Induction)
  Monday, May 2, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.
  • Community Connections: Pittsburgh Architecture & Resiliency Wellness
  June 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, always from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Plus, we have hundreds more school tours and private group tours scheduled throughout the year. Almost every day we’re out exploring!