There's nothing like walking to get you in touch with a place. You see, hear, notice, explore, and discover.

—Laurence A. Glisco, author, historian, and PHLF Trustee

**FREE TOURS & EVENTS**

Old Allegheny County Jail Museum
Open: Mondays through October (11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) (except for court holidays)

Downtown Pittsburgh and Oakland: Guided Walking Tours
Every Friday, May through October
- Two different free walking tours are offered each month: one from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and another from Noon to 1 p.m. Join us for one, or both.
- Advance reservations are appreciated (see below)

**DOWNTOWN'S BEST**

Special Places and Spaces in a 2 1/2-Hour Walk
Not free. Advance paid reservations are required (see below).
June through August: every Thursday, 9:45 a.m. to Noon. Other dates by appointment for groups of 10 people.

**SPECIAL TOURS & MEMBERSHIP**

Visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on Tours & Events to find out about neighborhood walking tours in the Pittsburgh region, April through October.

Members of PHLF receive discounts on tours and free admission to workshops and presentations at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center (see below), among other benefits. To join, visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on Take Action/Membership.

**WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS**

Landmarks Preservation Resource Center
744 Rebecca Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
Visit [www.phlf.org](http://www.phlf.org) and click on Tours & Events for programs on selected Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**FOR DETAILS & RESERVATIONS**

412-671-5808, ext. 527 or [marylu@phlf.org](mailto:marylu@phlf.org)

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**FOURTH AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**Centennial Building**
241 Fourth Avenue
Constructed in 1876, the interior of the Centennial Building was renovated thanks, in part, to a loan in 2013 from Landmarks Community Capital Corporation, a lending subsidiary of PHLF. Tin ceilings were restored and new office spaces were created.

**Investment Building** (Insurance Exchange)
235-239 Fourth Avenue
This 1927 work of John M. Donn, a Washington, D.C. architect, is between two buildings of the same approximate façade dimensions, but they were built about 25 years earlier. Terra cotta has yielded to limestone, and a darker and more textured brick is in fashion; simplicity and lightness of form and detailing are evident. At the top, notice the corners chamfered with obelisk-like elements.

**Benedum-Trees Building** (Machesney Building)
221–225 Fourth Avenue
Here is a skyscraper of 1905 still evolving out of Victorian elaboration into a more modern simplicity. Although strong verticals dominate the composition for the greater part, the ornament of the spandrels between window levels and the elaborate cornices are carry-overs from the recent past. The choice of materials—light-colored granite, white brick and terra cotta—is in a more modern spirit. Pittsburgh architect Thomas H. Scott designed this building for H. Allen Machesney, an attorney, but it was purchased in 1913 by oil prospectors Michael Benedum and Joseph Trees. See the lobby.

**Burke’s Building**
209 Fourth Avenue
The façade, at least, of the Burke’s Building is the oldest work of high-style architecture in the city. Its year is 1836 (preceding the Great Fire of 1845); its style is Greek Revival; its architect was the English-born-and-trained John Chislett. The three-story landmark—the oldest office building in the city—is privately owned and the façade is protected in perpetuity from alteration through an easement with PHLF. The Burke’s Building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is included in the Market Square City Historic District, and is a City Historic Structure.

**PGP Place**
Between Fourth Avenue and Third Avenue at Market Street
Completed in 1984, PGP Place is one of three Downtown buildings made to show off the company product: the others being the former Alcoa Building and U.S. Steel Tower. Here, the general effect of the mirrored-glass Post-Modern buildings is Gothic, with 231 pinnacles. The 80-story tower is 635 feet high. The architects were John Burgee with Philip Johnson (New York). A fountain enlivens the plaza in the summer (and an ice rink in the winter), thanks to a gift from the Hillman Foundation.

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**Fourth Avenue Area, Downtown Pittsburgh**

1. Dollar Bank
2. Standard Life Building (Pittsburgh Bank for Savings)
3. Fidelity Building (Fidelity Trust Company)
4. Pittsburgh Engineers’ Building (Union Trust Company)
5. Industrial Bank
6. Times Building (Magee Building)
7. Pittsburgh Tech Center (Keystone Bank)
8. Commonwealth Building (Commonwealth Trust Company)
9. The Carlyle (Union National Bank)
10. Point Park University Center (Colonial Trust Company)
11. Point Park University Center (Commercial National Bank)
12. The Bank Tower/First National Bank (People’s Savings Bank Building)
13. Point Park University Center (Colonial Trust Company)
14. Arrott Building
15. Wood Street Commons (YMCA Building)
16. Lawrence Hall (Keystone Athletic Club)
17. Centennial Building
18. Investment Building (Insurance Exchange)
20. Burke’s Building
21. PGP Place

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The shaded area represents the Fourth Avenue National Register Historic District, designated in 1985 and expanded in 2013. Site 20 is individually listed on the National Register.
Fourth Avenue Walking Tour

Fourth Avenue was part of the city’s original street grid defined in 1784 by George Woods and Thomas Vickroy. The narrow 25-foot-wide street became Pittsburgh’s “Wall Street” in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It was restored in 2009-12 and are displayed in brownstone. The bank was enlarged and redecorated for the Pittsburgh area. The material is Connecticut space in Downtown Pittsburgh and a Heritage Center Hobbs, a Philadelphian who designed a dozen houses and a dozen banks. Two new lions were replicated from the originals in 1903.

**FOURTH AVENUE WALKING TOUR**

Fourth Avenue showcases buildings designed by more than a dozen distinguished architects, in styles ranging from Greek Revival to Post Modern, constructed between 1836 and 1984. Tall buildings with banks on the ground level and aggressive little finance when built, now serve multiple new uses or are awaiting renovation. Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse is the first new building on the historical name most often associated with the building is given in parentheses.

**3 Dollar Bank**

340 Fourth Avenue

This rather Baroque work of 1870 with double columns and conspicuous ornamentation is by Isaac Hobbs, a Philadelphian who designed a dozen houses for the Pittsburgh area. The material is Connecticut brownstone. The bank was enlarged and readeeded in 1906 by Pittsburgh architect James T. Steen. The original lions, carved by Max Kohler in 1871, were restored in 2009-12 and are displayed inside the bank. Two new lions were replicated from the originals and were installed outdoors on the entrance pedestals in 2013. Go inside to use the best preserved banking space in Downtown Pittsburgh and a Heritage Center honoring Dollar Bank’s and Pittsburgh’s history.

**2 Standard Life Building**

(Pittsburgh Bank for Savings)

Smithfield Street and Fourth Avenue

Many of the early skyscrapers in American cities were inspired by Italian Renaissance palazzos with dark stonework and exuberant Classical detailing. So is the case here, in a work of 1906.

This building of 1898 was the first Pittsburgh work of the Chicago architects D. H. Burnham & Co., the firm went on to design 10 more buildings in the city including Union Station, the Frick Building, and the Oliver Building. The combination of a cool and correct Greek Doric temple front—notice the plain, cushion-shaped column capitals—with big, florid acroteria on the triangular pediment and the wall behind is typical for the 1900 period. This is now the headquarters of the Engineers’ Society of Western Pennsylvania.

**3 Industrial Bank**

333 Fourth Avenue

Pittsburgh architect Charles M. Barber designed this Neo-classical “swagger bank” in 1903, using architectural elements that proclaimed “Small bar Oh my!” The Pittsburgh Stock Exchange was housed here from 1962 to 1974. Point Park University is renovating the building and incorporating it in its new Pittsburgh Playhouse, to open in the fall of 2018.

**4 Times Building**

Maggie Building

336 Fourth Avenue

This Richardson Romanesque building, originally for the Daily Times, dates from 1892. It was the work of Frederick John Osterling, a prolific architect who was born and trained in Pittsburgh. The building was trained in Pittsburgh. He enlarged H. C. Frick’s home “Clayton” and H. H. Richardson’s Allegheny County Jail (that set the style for Times Building), and designed the Union Trust Building on Grant Street and five buildings in the Fourth Avenue area. Incidentally, Pittsburgh’s first female architect, Elise Mercur, had her offices on the 7th floor of the building.

**Pittsburgh Tech Center**

(Keystone Bank)

322 Fourth Avenue

Boston-trained architects Colbert MacClure and Albert Spalt established their Pittsburgh firm in 1901. Remodelings have compromised MacClure & Spalt’s original design of 1903: the central bank has been partially filled in and some windows have been totally bricked up. Fortunately, the lions still soar above the entrances and an eagle stands guard atop an immense keystone. J. J. Vandergrift (1827–99), the famous Pittsburgh riverboat captain and oil magnate, was president of Point Trust Bank and a founder of the Pittsburgh Exchange.

**Commonwealth Building**

(Commercial National Bank)

316 Fourth Avenue

This 20-story skyscraper with colossal Ionic columns dates from 1906 and is by Osterling. (Ionic columns have a scroll-like ornament on the capital.) The former bank building will be renovated, but no firm plans have been announced.

**The Carlyle**

(Union National Bank)

314 Fourth Avenue

MacClure & Spalt introduced a new simplicity to the tall-building architecture of Fourth Avenue in the Union National Bank of 1906. The building materials are appreciably lighter than those used at the time, as well. The rounded corner has a power of its own. The interior lobby, though much remodeled, is impressive still, with its green Cipollino marble columns and ceilings with silver-dollar motifs. This was one of the first uses of Cipollino marble since antiquity, since the quarries reopened around 1905. The former bank building now houses a hotel, a conference center, and a restaurant. The façade is in perpetuity from alteration through an easement with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF).

**Point Park University Center**

(Colonial Trust Co.)

317 Fourth Avenue

This large institution had facades on Fourth and Forbes avenues that were built in 1902 to designs by Osterling. The Classical features of this building are the Corinthian columns, distinguished by capitals, the acanthus leaves, and the entablature. This was one of the first cases of Cipollino marble in architecture, since the quarries reopened around 1905. The former bank building now houses a hotel, a conference center, and a restaurant. The façade is projected in perpetuity from alteration through an easement with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF).

**Wood Street Commons**

(PMCBA Building)

304 Wood Street

Edward J. Weber, who achieved success as an architect for the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, designed this classically inspired building in 1927. The architectural firm Jansen & Cocken. Near the entrance, a bronze marker indicates the crest of the St. Patrick’s Day Flood of 1936 and a plaque indicates the birthplace of industrialist William Thaw in 1818.

**Lawrence Hall**

(Keystone Athletic Club)

Wood Street at Third Avenue

Point Park University has restored the exterior and several interior public spaces of Lawrence Hall, designed by Jansen & Cocken. The original 1927 PHLF was instrumental in the restoration process, helping underwrite a restoration study and helping the University secure a lead grant from the Allegheny Foundation. The University, serving nearly 4,000 students, is embarking on a new construction and historic preservation to enhance its urban campus and to revitalize Downtown Pittsburgh.

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