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Newsletter

May 2025

About SHHS

The Squirrel Hill Historical Society (SHHS) is a membership organization established in 2000, committed to gathering, preserving, and celebrating the historical memories of our neighborhood. The SHHS sponsors a monthly lecture series on topics of interest primarily focused on Squirrel Hill and Pittsburgh history. Programs take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Ave. A Zoom option is also available.

How to contact the SHHS:

P.O. Box 8157
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Website:
squirrelhillhistory.org

Email:
sqhillhist@shhsoc.org

Most of our programs are recorded. If you would like to view past programs, go to squirrelhillhistory.org and click on the link "Squirrel Hill Past Program Videos and Events."

SHHS Newsletters are sent only to SHHS members. Past issues are posted on the password-protected Members page on the SHHS website. If you are a member and need the password, email the SHHS to request it be sent to you.

The Squirrel Hill Historical Society, Inc. has been determined to be exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). All contributions to the SHHS, including dues, are deductible from federal taxes under Section 170 of the IRS Code.



The Squirrel Hill Historical Society (SHHS) is committed to gathering, preserving, and celebrating the historical memories of our neighborhood. To submit an item of historical interest for publication, suggest a topic for a speech, ask a question, or give feedback, send an email to sqhillhist@shhsoc.org, or write to SHHS, PO Box 8157, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

President's Message

Dear SHHS Members:

Welcome to the May SHHS Newsletter. We continue to celebrate our 25th Anniversary Year through our newsletters and on our display board at the Squirrel Hill branch of Carnegie Library.

The Squirrel Hill Historical Society Board of Directors held a board meeting on April 17. I am pleased to announce that our officer vacancies were filled at the meeting. Audrey Glickman was duly elected to fill our Recording Secretary position, and Rod Permigiani, who joined the board a few months ago, was elected Treasurer. New board member Alex Musicante will assist with technology. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Rod and Alex and also would like to thank Audrey and all the board members for their voluntary service and dedication in making the SHHS organization the best it can be.

Squirrel Hill is filled with history and culture, which the SHHS's newsletters, programs, and activities help keep our members informed about. The SHHS Board wants to thank our members for your membership and donations that afford our organization the ability to continue with our efforts.

May is a month of many holidays. It is Jewish American Heritage Month and Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. Mother's Day is May 11. Armed Forces Day is May 17 and Memorial Day is May 26—both days to thank, honor, and recognize the men and women for their service in protecting our country and defending our freedom. Cinco de Mayo, May 5, celebrates Mexico's victory over France in the Battle of Puebla in 1862. World Migratory Bird Day is May 10, and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is celebrating all day at the Frick Park Environmental Center. Join them there for bird watching, informational programs, and other activities.

Spring brings many things to do in Pittsburgh. Visitpittsburgh.com, the region's tourism agency, is a wonderful resource to find activities in the Pittsburgh area. Columnist Brian O'Neill coined the phrase "Paris of Appalachia" to describe why Pittsburgh is a great place to live or visit with our unique landscape of mountains, hills, streams, rivers, and many bridges.

It is sad news that Pope Francis (1936-2025) died on Easter Monday, April 21. Pope Francis was a strong advocate for peace and understanding for all. He wished for all faiths to find common ground and be inclusive of all, and we honor his memory.

Thank you for your support!

Jim Hammond President of SHHS

Editor's Note: History Through Houses

Helen Wilson

SHHS Officers and Board

The SHHS is an all-volunteer organization. Board Members are Toby Chapman, Audrey Glickman, James Hammond, Tony Indovina, Stanley Klein, Todd Miller, Alex Musicante, Rod Permigiani, Charles Succop, Helen Wilson, Todd Wilson, and Eveline Young.

President: Jim Hammond
Vice-President and Newsletter Editor: Helen Wilson
Program Coordinators: Todd Miller and Toby Chapman
Membership Coordinator: Stanley Klein
Email Coordinator: Tony Indovina
Treasurer: Rod Permigiani
Media Specialists: Audrey Glickman, Alex Musicante
Website Manager: Janine Michael
Principal Researchers: Helen Wilson and Tony Indovina

All SHHS members are welcome to contribute articles, suggest programs, and participate in our activities.

In the past few weeks I was a Squirrel Hill time traveler. I stood in the Neill Log House in Schenley Park, dating to 1795, the oldest log dwelling in Pittsburgh. Next, I visited a house designed in 1926 by noted architect Benno Janssen on Robin Road. Then I went on the SHHS tour of Lucy de Barbaro's state-of-the-art Passive House on Fernwald Street, built in 2017, which meets a variety of Green Building and EPA standards. The three houses, taken together, not only show the evolution of building materials and construction through the years but also commonalities among the houses. What struck me most was that all three were designed with a concern about heating the house in winter and cooling it in summer. The thick logs of the Neill Log House provided good insulation, but the house had to have been drafty from the cracks in the chinking and around the windows. In the Janssen house, closets were built against outside walls to provide insulation in rooms. In the Passive House, a thick layer of cellulose insulation was stuffed in the walls, and the windows were triple paned with 3-inch thick trims. Lucy emphasized the care she and her husband took in making sure even the corners of the house were sealed "like a thermos," she said.

When I got home after visiting Lucy's house, I took a fresh look at my own house. Like the Janssen house, it was built in 1926 but had none of its elegance. Just an ordinary old house. But it has a history, too—not only mine and my family's, but all the people who ever lived in it, including the bootleggers making whiskey in the basement before the house was raided in 1938.

Squirrel Hill's development can be illustrated through its houses, and that's why the SHHS has a House History page on its website. The stories of the Neill Log House, my house, and Lucy's house are there, and so are others. Check out the page on our website, and send us your house's story!

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Upcoming SHHS Programs (Live and on Zoom) and Other Events of Interest

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, all programs are presented both live and on Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. unless inclement weather causes a program to be aired on Zoom only. In that case, a notice will be sent to members and those on our extended mailing list the day of the program. Live programs are held at Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Avenue. Free parking is available in the Church of the Redeemer and St. Edmund's Academy parking lots. Members will be sent a link to the Zoom program a few days before the program. Programs are recorded and put on YouTube and can be accessed a few days after the program through the "SHHS Past Programs and Events" link on our website.

Wednesday, May 7, 3-6 p.m. Opening of the Neill Log House to Visitors

After a delay caused by the April 29 storm to allow for park cleanup, the Neill Log House will be open for visitors from 3-6 p.m. A Park Ranger will be on hand to welcome people and talk about the house and its history. No reservations are necessary.

Tuesday, May 13: "Pittsburgh Rising: From Frontier Town to Steel City, 1750-1920"

Rob Ruck and Ed Muller, co-authors and professors of history at the University of Pittsburgh, will discuss their recently published book, *Pittsburgh Rising: From Frontier Town to Steel City, 1750-1920*.

Tuesday, June 10: "Pittsburgh's Orphans and Orphanages"

Jim Wudarczyk and Joann Cantrell, co-authors, will discuss their book, *Pittsburgh's Orphans and Orphanages*. Their research showed that in the early 1900s, orphanages in the United States housed more than 100,000 children, thousands of whom lived in Pittsburgh. Buildings that became group homes were constructed through churches and fraternal organizations. For the orphans living in such homes, everything was communal and privacy was nonexistent. Some children still had a living parent, but due to dire circumstances of the times, their fate was in the hands of those who operated the orphanage.

Tuesday, July 8: Members' Social Celebrating the SHHS's 25th Anniversary

It's time to get together to celebrate the SHHS's 25th Anniversary. Members and guests are invited to a social gathering to celebrate the SHHS's own history! This event is still in the planning stages but will definitely include refreshments and a presentation consisting of our members sharing their Squirrel Hill and SHHS stories with everyone.

Tuesday, August 12: No Meeting The SHHS generally doesn't schedule programs in August, so see you in September!

Tuesday, September 9: "Red-lining in Pittsburgh"

Randy Weinberg, Professor of Information Systems at CMU, will discuss the origins and substance of racial covenants and other discriminatory housing practices in the city of Pittsburgh throughout much of the previous century.

Tuesday, October 14: "Tales from the Graves of Smithfield Cemetery"

In keeping with this spirit of Halloween, **Jan Kurth**, editor of *Print*, Pittsburgh's East End Newspaper, will share captivating stories about some of the people buried in Smithfield Cemetery.

November 11: "Pittsburgh's Historic Stadiums and Arenas"

Mark Fatla, author of the book, *Pittsburgh's Historic Stadiums and Arenas*, will present information about many of the city's iconic sports venues, including Forbes Field, one of the first "modern" concrete and steel ballparks; PNC Park, the best of the new millennium's retro design movement; Schenley Casino and Duquesne Garden, the first artificial indoor ice rinks; and the engineering marvel of the Civic Arena's movable dome.

Tuesday, December 9: "The ABCs of Pittsburgh Aviation"

Western Pennsylvania History magazine editor **Brian Butko** and public historian **Sue Morris** will discuss the thrilling early days of flying in their new book, *Bettis: Where Pittsburgh Aviation Took Off*. Beginning in the 1920s, the daredevil women and men of West Mifflin's Bettis Field helped shape the industry from barnstorming to passenger service in less than a decade. A book sale and signing will follow.

SHHS Board Member Eveline Young Named One of Squirrel Hill's Hidden Gems by the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition



Reprinted excerpt from "Hidden Gems: The People in Your Neighborhood," by Melissa Eppihimer and Kimberly Kweder, Squirrel Hill Magazine 23/1 (Summer 2025). Published here with the permission of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition.

Eveline Young is a community organizer at heart, and she shines in Squirrel Hill for her wealth of cultural and educational activities during her over 51 years of outreach. One of her proudest memories is helping launch the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Squirrel Hill, where she assisted with the dragon dance in its early years before professionals got involved.

"I'm really proud of the Lunar New Year parade. People first thought it would impede business," she said. However, "because of the parade, we [SHUC] brought a lot of business to the community and exposure to the Chinese culture."

Young's community service has deep roots in Pittsburgh. When her husband was appointed to the University of Pittsburgh in 1974, they moved here from Chicago. "I really wanted to be active in the community and make a difference," she said.

As a former licensed teacher, Young continues to stay active with school field trips and Lunar New Year activities with the students at St. Edmund's. She also is a volunteer facilitator of free income-tax return preparation at the Squirrel Hill Library for elderly and other community members needing assistance. Previously, she was a member of the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition Board and Treasurer of the Squirrel Hill Historical Society, where she remains on the Board.

Young, who is a University of Chicago graduate with a Master of Arts in social work, is also involved in international outreach. She cares about the needs of faculty spouses for whom English may not be their first language. She is Co-Chair of the International Women's Association of Pittsburgh, where she encourages members to discuss, ask questions, and find resources. Every year she also puts on her chef hat and holds a barbecue meal for the women.

Volunteering Opportunity at Dragon's Den on May 10

Giula Lozza Petrucci, executive Director of Dragon's Den, invites SHHS members to volunteer at their upcoming Remake Learning event at Dragon's Den, 1008 Amity St, Homestead, PA 15120, on Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM! The day will be filled with hands-on activities, creativity, and community engagement, and we would love your help to make it a success. You can choose one or more time slots that work best for your schedule and, if you're already a volunteer at Dragon's Den directly, let us know what area you'd prefer to help in (art, STEM, cleaning, organizing, upper or lower ropes course). Please fill out the volunteer sign-up form here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFB38ZZ4RHpcZhkB2UvhQiVS5Vxr67o6llvyKxX0Q3Drw78g/viewform?usp=dialog>. Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you there!

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May Update on the Friends of Neill Log House (FONLH): Official Opening and Tour Schedule

May 2025

Tony Indovina, FONLH President and SHHS Board Member

Mission Statement for the Friends of the Neill Log House (FONLH Inc.)

Adopted February 2022



“We secure funds to restore and maintain the Neill Log House, foster knowledge of its historic significance, and work with interested parties to ensure the continued educational use of the structure and its site for future generations.”

Individual support for the FONLH restoration effort will always be needed. To make on-line donations by credit card or PayPal, go to the SHUC website, shuc.org, and click on the “Projects” link in the black menu bar at the top of the page. A pull-down menu will appear. Select “Friends of the Neill Log House.” Alternatively, checks can be sent to SHUC (put FONLH in the memo line) at the following address: SHUC, 5604 Solway Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15217.



May brings the opening of the Neill Log House to the public for walk-in and scheduled tours. The opening date was planned to be Sunday, May 4, but damage from the horrendous storm on April 29 has caused a postponement to Wednesday, May 7. Check the Pittsburgh City Parks “Neill Log House” site at <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Recreation-Events/Park-Facilities/The-Neill-Log-House> for updates. Below is the press release that was sent out announcing the opening and tour schedules.

MAY OPENING OF THE NEILL LOG HOUSE IN SCHENLEY PARK ANNOUNCED THROUGH CITY PARKS WEBSITE

Squirrel Hill Historical Society, Friends of Neill Log House (FONLH)

Tony Indovina, FONLH President

sqhillhist@shhsoc.org

Release date: May 1, 2025



The Neill Log House, 5229 E. Circuit Rd. in Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA, is now open to the public after being closed for more than 30 years. City Park Rangers, in collaboration with Friends of Neill Log House (FONLH), the group that recently renovated the historic structure owned by the city, is beginning scheduled openings in May, extending through the 2025 season. FONLH began its efforts in 2021 as a collaboration between the Squirrel Hill Historical Society and the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition.

For information about planning a walk-in or scheduled tour, go to the Pittsburgh City Parks “Neill Log House” site at <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Recreation-Events/Park-Facilities/The-Neill-Log-House>.

The Neill Log House is one of only five remaining city structures from the 18th century and is on the exact site where it was first constructed, with its original fireplace, chimney, and sandstone foundation. It has been dated to 1795 through testing of some of the wood in the house. It is considered to be a restoration to original architectural standards of the reconstruction by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) in 1969. Visitors will learn about the historic significance of the house and its people, with furnishings authentic to the period, on an expanded site with native and period plantings.

Note that the site is not handicap-accessible, and visitors must be able to walk up the new stone steps, which have a handrail installed by the city.

Because the house sits near a spring on an ancient Native American trail, Merriwether Lewis is believed to have stopped there on his last trip to Pittsburgh to outfit and launch his keelboat prior to Lewis and Clark’s Voyage of Discovery.

To learn more about the history of the Neill Log House and those who have worked to maintain it, go to squirrelhillhistory.org and click on the link “Neill Log House.”

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Note on volunteering for the Neill Log House: There will be many opportunities for help going forward, including substitute docent work and other duties in the log house such as examining and preparing artifacts. And there will be much to do on the grounds, including taking care of the garden. If you are interested in volunteering, send us an email through CONTACT US on our SHHS Homepage to express any interest and inquire about specific help most needed. Donations are also being sought for a serviceable 6-ft. folding table and old floor lamp for work in the loft.

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How the Neill Log House Withstood the Storm of April 29

May 2025

Helen Wilson, photographs by Helen Wilson

The day after the April 29 storm, Tony Indovina, president of Friends of Neill Log House, and I went to the Neill Log House to see if there was any damage to the house. Amazingly, the only damage we found was that two shingles had dislodged from the roof and were lying on the ground. The story was completely different just a few yards away. The grove of trees to the right of the house (toward Darlington) looked like a tornado had hit. The red arrow in the picture on the left points to a fallen tree. The arrow in the right picture points to the Neill Log House. The cleanup has delayed the opening of the Neill Log House to visitors until Wednesday, May 7, from 3-6 p.m.

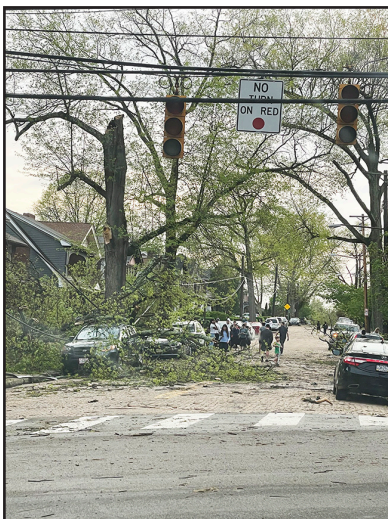


How Squirrel Hill Fared in the April 29 Storm

Helen Wilson and Lauren Winkler, photographs by Lauren Winkler

This newsletter is late, due in part to the severe storm that hit the Pittsburgh region on April 29. The destruction in our neighborhood was devastating—huge trees falling on roads, buildings, and vehicles, bringing down live power lines and even utility and street light poles and causing days-long power outages, some continuing as of this writing. The many closed roads and detours has made getting from one place to another challenging as the cleanup continues.

News reports said severe storm caused widespread damage and power outages all over the region, with wind gusts exceeding 70 mph (90 mph reported in one area). Three deaths occurred due to the storm. At its height, power outages affected over 500,000 of Duquesne Light's customers. The company reported that around 240,000 customers were still without power as of 10:30 p.m. on April 29.



The Duquesne Light Company's website says it has 13,258 customers in ZIP Code 15217, which includes most of Squirrel Hill and Greenfield. As of May 4, around 2,000 customers still didn't have power. We don't know how many people lost power at the height of the outage, but the number fluctuated between about 800-2,000 on Thursday and Friday, and hovered around 2,000 on Saturday.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Duquesne Light and all the companies who are helping with the repair and cleanup efforts. It's a difficult and dangerous job. We appreciate all your hard work!





The Squirrel Hill Cyclone of 1923

Helen Wilson

On April 29, a severe storm with 70 mph winds and heavy rain hit Allegheny County, including Squirrel Hill. Trees were down everywhere, and power was out for over 270,000 people. Storms like these are rare, but they have happened in the past. In June 2017, a severe storm downed trees and power lines in Squirrel Hill. We had to cancel our program that evening because the power was out in the Squirrel Hill business district, including at the church. Also, when I was researching the history of St. Philomena's for the June 2017 SHHS Newsletter, I found a reference to a "cyclone" that hit Squirrel Hill on May 12, 1923, and wrote this article about that storm. I'm reprinting it here, with its original spelling and punctuation.

"A cyclone, which moved one house from its foundation, damaged others seriously, tore scores of trees out by their roots and almost wrecked the clubhouse of the Pittsburgh County club, swept across the Squirrel Hill district. ... The total property damage is estimated at \$20,000. (Note: The Pittsburgh Country Club was located where Frick Park is now. The entranceway was by the Frick Environmental Center, and the clubhouse was located on the high flat area beyond the fields behind the blue slide playground. The sweeping fields beyond the Blue Slide Playground were once the golf course.)

"High in the air when it passed over the Hazelwood and Greenfield districts, a black, whirling, funnel-shaped cloud ... falling lower as it neared the Squirrel Hill district ... struck with all of its fury along a 300-foot path on Tilbury st. between Nicholson and Crombie sts. [One home on Nicholson St. was raised from its foundations, the front porch ripped off and part of the roof torn loose. Badly rocked and shaken, the house fell back to its foundation, several inches out of plumb. ... Occupants of the house were shaken up and furniture and bric-a-brac thrown about. ... G. C. Mars of Nicholson st. watched the storm approaching from a rear yard and not suspecting its fury remained in the middle of the yard. When it struck him he was thrown violently against a hillside 23 feet away. ... Crossing Beechwood blvd. the whirling funnel caught a large signboard, carried it high in the air and dropped it into the boulevard, blocking traffic. ... Sweeping across the grounds of the Pittsburgh Country club, the storm leveled everything in its path. ... The small end of the funnel struck the corner of the sun parlor. Twenty-four guests at a stag party in the dining room scrambled toward the opposite side of the building as the storm struck. Broken glass was thrown about and tables were upset and dishes broken. ... A one-story frame stable in the rear of a home on Monitor st. was practically demolished. A cow, the only animal in the building, escaped injury.

The interval from the time the storm struck Squirrel Hill until it had completely passed was not more than three minutes."

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CMU Intern Update— SHHS Members Can Help with our Squirrel Hill Street Names Project!

Helen Wilson

Our Squirrel Hill Street Names project is moving along. Tony Indovina and I attended an orientation session at CMU to network with other nonprofit organizations who also will have CMU interns this summer. The next step is to meet with our intern after finals are over next week to set expectations and work schedule. The intern will help in researching the origin of the names of the over 200 roads and bridges in Squirrel Hill to discover how those names relate to the history and development of the neighborhood. We've also been researching the names of Squirrel Hill's main buildings. We're excited about this project, which is projected to result in a book.

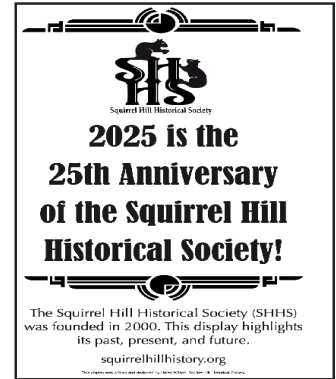
You can help with this project. For example, a few years ago a Squirrel Hill resident gave me a folder with the research he had done on his house and street. Part of what he discovered was that when his house was built in the early 20th century, power lines were considered to be unsightly, so the utility right-of-way was put behind the houses rather than along the street, which now causes problems. When storms bring power lines down, utility companies have a harder time getting to those wires to repair them, delaying restoration of power. The research the Squirrel Hill resident did helped me understand why some power lines ran behind my house as well. Those lines became such a problem that the utility company decided to remove them and move the lines of the affected homes to the front and connect them with the main line along the street. Such a bit of history helps us understand the development of the power grid in Squirrel Hill.

Do you have any research to offer us? Contact us at sqhillhist@shhsoc.org.

This Month's "List of 25 ..." Historic Designations in Squirrel Hill

Helen Wilson

No, this won't be the list of unusual things about Squirrel Hill in this issue of the newsletter, as promised as May's theme in the April newsletter. The "unusual things" list was pre-empted by another. Over the past few months, as I was researching and writing the Schenley Park City Designated Historic Site Nomination Form, I discovered that, not only did the buildings, monuments, and features in the park have various historical designations, so did other places in Squirrel Hill. Some places had more than one designation. Sorting out which places had what historical designations was a challenge, but it was worth the effort. The results of my findings are presented in this List of Historic Designations in Squirrel Hill.



Status of the Schenley Park City Designated Historic Site Nomination Form

Before I list the historic places of Squirrel Hill, I'd like to say a few words about the Schenley Park City Designated Historic Site Nomination Form. The SHHS decided to take on the nomination process because Schenley Park is almost entirely within Squirrel Hill's official boundaries, and although Mellon and Frick Parks have such designations, Schenley Park does not, but it should, since, in a sense, it was the first and arguably, the greatest. Although most people think of Schenley Park as part of Oakland, the City's official maps put the boundary in Junction Hollow—the deep ravine separating Oakland from Carnegie Mellon University. Schenley Plaza is in Oakland. Phipps Conservatory and the rest of Schenley Park are technically in Squirrel Hill.

The Schenley Park nomination form is now wending its way through the complicated process of approval, with the greatly appreciated partnership of Matthew Falcone, president of Preservation Pittsburgh, who worked with City Planning and the Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition (SHUC) to hold a virtual Development Activities Meeting (DAM) on April 1—a requirement of the application process—to introduce the nomination to the public. Two other Squirrel Hill places were also nominated at the DAM meeting—Anathan House and Robin Road. They will be written about in a future newsletter.

After the DAM meeting, Falcone reshaped the draft of the nomination form I wrote to fit the city's revised criteria for the form, and then he submitted it to the Historic Review Commission (HRC). He says the first evidentiary hearing before the HRC should happen on June 4, and the public hearing before the HRC will occur on July 2. We'll keep you posted on developments in our newsletters.

Types of Historic Designations

There are a number of different historic designations that a place can have. Each type has its own criteria and carries a different level of protection from alterations. Squirrel Hill has examples of most of the designations. Here is the list of historic designations:

National Designations

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) *An asterisk means a place is located within a National Register Listed Historic District.

Pennsylvania Inventory, Eligible for Listing in the National Register (PI). "Eligible" means a site meets the criteria for Eligibility in the National Register but hasn't been designated yet.

State Designations: PA Historic Marker

City Designations: City Designated Historic District (CDHD), Structure (CDHS), Site (CDHS), or Object (CDHO)

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks (PHLF)

Historic Designations of 25 Buildings and Sites in Squirrel Hill (in Alphabetical Order)

1. **Andrew W. Mellon House.** PHLF 2001. The mansion on Woodland Road was built in 1897 by the architectural firm of MacClure & Spahr for George McCully Laughlin, the son of James Laughlin of the J&L Steel Company. Andrew Mellon bought the house in 1917 and added a swimming pool, bowling alley, tennis courts, breakfast room, and gardens. Andrew Mellon was a prominent banker in Pittsburgh and also a member of Chatham's Board of Trustees. The red brick Tudor-style home contains many pieces of carved stone, wood paneling, bay windows, and a marble solarium. The house was donated to Chatham by Paul and Mary Mellon in 1940. The mansion is now used by the university as a student center and administrative offices. In 1971, an addition was made to the Hall for a large dining hall and recreational space for the students.

2. **Murray Hill Avenue, 1010-1201.** CD 1981; PHLF 2004. The houses were built in various architectural styles, beginning in 1890.
3. **6661 Aylesboro Avenue.** PHLF 2003. This large stone house was built in 1886. James T. Steen was the architect. The house was originally located in The Homewood Cemetery and was moved across Dallas Avenue by the John Eichleay Company in 1922, when the cemetery built a larger complex with a chapel on the cemetery grounds.
4. **Catahecassa (Snyder) Spring,** E. Circuit Road, constructed c. 1906-7, Schenley Park, CD*, 2017.
5. **Colfax Elementary School,** 2332 Beechwood Boulevard, NRHP 1986, CD 1999, PHLF 2001.
6. **Comès, John T., house,** 3242 Beechwood Blvd., PHLF 2016
7. **Frick Park,** CDHD 2024.
8. **Haller-Bursztynowicz house.** 5738 Northumberland Street, c. 1890. PHLF 1972
9. **Hamburg Hall,** 4800 Forbes Ave. NRHP, 1974. Formerly the main building of the U.S. Bureau of Mines, Hamburg Hall was designed in the Beaux Arts style by noted architect Henry Hornbostel, who designed six other CMU buildings in the early 1900s. The building was purchased by CMU in 1984 and renovated in 2016 and is now the home of the graduate-level Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy.
10. **Howe-Childs Gatehouse,** Chatham University (“Willow Cottage”), 5918 Fifth Avenue, c. 1860. CPHD 1986; PHLF 2004.
11. **Howe Springs,** Fifth Ave. and N. Woodland Rd., built in 1896 by architects Alden & Harlow and W. H. Van Tine in 1912, CDHS 2016..
12. **Koerner, Henry and Joan house,** 1055 S. Negley Avenue, PHLF, 2021; NRHP, 2025.
13. **Landis, Mr. and Mrs. Jack, house.** 2717 Mount Royal Road, built 1957. Peter Berndtson and Cornelia Brierly, architects. PHLF, 2012.
14. **Murray Hill Avenue, 1010-1201,** is replete with outstanding history and architecture, with more than eight historic house types arranged in spectacular streetscapes along the quiet, tree-lined Belgian block street. CDHD 2000.
15. **Neill Log House,** E. Circuit Road in Schenley Park, PHLF 1970; CPHS, 1977* as part of Schenley Park; CDHS INDIVIDUAL, 1985.
16. **Panther Hollow Bridge,** spanning Panther Hollow in Schenley Park, CDHS, 2002.
17. **Phipps Conservatory,** Schenley Drive, NRHP, 1976; CDHS, 1972, PHLF, 1970.
18. **Pittsburgh Allderdice High School,** Formerly Taylor Allderdice High School, 2409 Shady Ave., built 1927, Robert Maurice Trimble, Architect; Architectural style Classical Revival; NRHP 1986; PHLF 2002.
19. **Pittsburgh Golf Club, The.** 5280 Northumberland Street, 1899; enlarged 1904. Alden & Harlow, architects. PHLF 2004.
20. **Riesmeyer, Lydia A., house,** 5818 Aylesboro Avenue, Squirrel Hill. 1914. Richard Kiehnel, Kiehnel & Elliott, architects. PHLF 2014
21. **Schenley Bridge,** Schenley Drive, 2002 CDHD
22. **Schenley Park.** NRHP, 1985; PHLF 1989, CDHD pending, nomination submitted.
23. **Speyer, Tillie S., house.** 1500 Wightman Street, 1963. A. James Speyer, architect. PHLF 2014.
24. **Steinberg, Abraam, house.** 5139 Penton Road; PHLF 1951. Peter Berndtson and Cornelia Allderdice
25. **Sunnylegde (McClelland house).** 5136 Fifth Avenue at Wilkins Avenue, 1886. Longfellow & Harlow, architects. PHLF 1974 CPHD INDIVIDUAL, 1995.

But wait! There's more! More than 25, I mean!

26. **Temple Sinai** (Worthington house). 5505 Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill. 1910, 1915. Louis S. Stevens, architect. PHLF 1976.
27. **Tufa Bridges,** Schenley Park, Panther Hollow Ravine, CDHD INDIVIDUAL.
28. **Westinghouse Memorial,** Schenley Park, W. Circuit Drive, 2019, CDHD.
29. **Wightman School,** now Wightman School Community Center, 5604 Solway Street, built 1897. Ulysses J. Lincoln Peoples, architect. Classical Revival, Romanesque Revival, NRHP 1986.

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There are also some buildings and sites eligible for historic designations and/or are in the process of their application being accepted by the Historic Review Commission. They are:

1. **Anathan House**, 5824 Forbes Avenue. CDHS nomination pending. The building has a long and significant history.
2. **Born Building**. 1821-35 Murray Avenue is an Art Deco building with small storefronts and offices. The architect was Brierly. An award was given in 1995. The building is NR eligible.
3. **Harter House**, 2557 Beechwood Blvd., NR Eligible. The "Mushroom House" is one of the most well-known houses in Squirrel Hill, originally designed in 1922-24 by renowned architect Frederick G. Scheibler, Jr. for Frank and Eve Harter.
4. **Robin Road**, CDHS nomination pending. Small private road off Fair Oaks Street, with elegant houses designed by architect Benno Jannsen.
5. **Schenley Park** already has several historic designations, but its City Designated Historic Site application is now pending.

In upcoming issues of this newsletter, we'll take a closer look at some of these historic sites and buildings. They could fill a book! We'll also update you on the status of the pending applications for City Designated Historic Site status for Schenley Park, Robin Road, and the Anathan House.

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Important—and Confusing—Special Election Question on May Ballot

Helen Wilson

The May Election Ballot has three Special Election Questions. Two of them are straightforward, but Question #2 is confusingly worded, so we're putting it in this newsletter for your consideration. Here is Ballot Question #2:

"Shall the Pittsburgh Home Rule Charter be amended and supplemented by adding a new Article 11: RIGHT TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS, WASTEWATER SYSTEM, AND STORM SEWER SYSTEMS, which restricts the lease and/or sale of the City's water and sewer system to private entities?"

The League of Women Voters explains the meaning of the question this way:

"Pittsburgh Water (PW), formerly the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA), is a public utility that provides drinking water, and waste and stormwater management for the City of Pittsburgh. When the utility was formed in 1995, PWSA agreed to rent the water management infrastructure from the City of Pittsburgh in a kind of "rent to own" arrangement. The 1995 contract allows PW to purchase the infrastructure from the city for \$1 in the fall of 2025. Although PW remains a public utility, it would then be legal for PW to sell the infrastructure to a private company.

In 2016, Pennsylvania passed a law changing the way the value or sale price of a public utility is determined. This law made it easier for private companies to purchase utilities and has led to an increased number of sales of water utilities in Pennsylvania to private companies.

PW is currently committed to remaining a public utility, and there is no company trying to buy Pittsburgh's water and sewer utilities at this time. This amendment, if passed, would prevent a private company from buying these utilities in the future.

The measure to put this question on the ballot was passed unanimously by the Pittsburgh City Council and signed by the Mayor. The board of Pittsburgh Water has also stated support for the amendment."

The confusion in wording stems from the fact that voting "No" means you are actually in agreement that the water utility DOES have the right to be sold to a private company in the future, and that voting "Yes" means you DO NOT want the utility to ever be sold to a private company. The wording seems counterintuitive. Because of the problems experienced in the past when the water utility was in the hands of a private company, the SHHS feels it is best to keep it public, so please consider voting "YES" for this question on the ballot.

For more information about this question and the other two questions on the ballot, go to the League of Women Voters Pittsburgh, lwvpgh.org.

Click here to return to 2025 Newsletters **The Education of Squirrel Hill Epilog: What About Linden School?**

May 2025

Helen Wilson

After reading the article about Squirrel Hill's public schools in the April SHHS Newsletter, a reader asked, "What about Linden School?" My first reply was that the border of Squirrel Hill was Wilkins Avenue, so Linden is in Point Breeze, and therefore, it wasn't a Squirrel Hill public school. The full answer is a bit more complicated. When Linden School was built in 1903, ward boundaries were what mattered, and Linden was in the 22nd Ward, now the 14th Ward, along with Squirrel Hill. In fact, the whole ward was commonly called the "Squirrel Hill District." The population of the 22nd Ward increased rapidly in the late 1800s, so in 1877 the Sterrett Sub-District was carved out of the northern part of the Colfax School District.

In 1892, a small one-story schoolhouse was built to relieve the younger children of their long walk to Sterrett School. Within ten years, the little schoolhouse was filled to overflowing. A Pittsburgh Education Directory dated 1901-1902 lists the Sterrett District as having two schools: the "Main Building" on Lang Avenue, and Linden, on Linden Avenue. As the population continued to increase, area residents expressed a desire for a complete graded school, so in 1903 the present building was erected. It was first called the Sub-Sterrett School and then renamed Linden School. It opened its doors to 170 pupils in 1904.

After the Pittsburgh Board of Education was created in 1911, sub-districts were further divided. A map labeled "Elementary School Districts, Pittsburgh, as of July 1, 1931," shows the Linden District separate from the Sterrett District. Enrollment continued to increase, so in 1959, ground was broken for a new wing that included four more classrooms and a gym. In the late 1970s, the auditorium was converted to a "cafetorium."



Linden School has an illustrious history, with many noted graduates, including author David McCullough. Anyone who attended Linden, taught there, or even just visited the school will always remember the beautiful marble interior and gorgeous stained glass windows, which feature Longfellow, the "Children's Poet," and two quotations from his poems: "Assert thyself. Rise up to thy full height," and "Our todays and yesterdays are the blocks with which we build."

May 14—Community Scan Day at the Squirrel Hill Carnegie Library

Community Scan Day is a free event where people can scan photos and documents to preserve them digitally. This program visits CLP locations around the city and will be at the Squirrel Hill location on May 14th from 4-7 PM. Scan your old

photographs, documents, slides, and more for free at Community Scan Day! Staff will teach you how to use a portable scanner to digitize your items at CLP locations. If you'd like to donate digital copies to the CLP Digital Community Collection, a staff member will walk you through the donation process.

Appointments are 40 minutes long, with a limit of 10 items. You must bring your own storage for your scans, such as a flash drive or portable hard drive. Go to <https://www.carnegielibrary.org/event/community-scan-day-7/> for more information and appointments. Patrons have the option to donate copies to CLP Digital Community Collection, which will be on HistoricPittsburgh.org and will help the library better preserve a variety of Pittsburgh history.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

COMMUNITY SCAN DAYS

Staff will be visiting different CLP locations each month to help you preserve your personal history. Scan your old photographs or documents for free with a library scanner. Bring your own items to scan and your own storage for your digital scans.

Scan the QR code to see where the next Community Scan Day will be.

carnegielibrary.org

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