Bulldozers began the long expected demolition of Pittsburgh's Syria Mosque before dawn on August 27.

As the giant bronze sphinxes that adorned the front of the 75 year old concert hall were loaded onto trucks, a bulldozer moved up the granite steps and began smashing the elaborate portico. City Councilman Jim Ferlo and three other preservation supporters were arrested by police as they tried to stop the bulldozer from continuing its work.

Since March 1991, the Syria Shriners, owners of the Mosque, have had an agreement to sell the property to the University of Pittsburgh's Presbyterian Hospital. The University had in turn contracted with National Development Corporation to erect a $40 million medical office building on the site. The University decided not to proceed with the scheduled sale closing until the Pittsburgh City Council acted on historic designation of the Mosque.

However, in a statement issued by the Shriners after the demolition began, they (the Shriners) "decided to proceed with the demolition in the best interests of the Syria Temple" without waiting historic designation.

The Committee to Save Syria Mosque, members of City Council, several members of the faculty of the University, and professional preservationists, failed to convince the Shriners and the University to stay the demolition until alternatives could be explored.

The Syria Mosque is one of the few remaining examples of the "City Beautiful" architectural movement of the early twentieth century left in Pittsburgh.

The demolition is continuing despite a vote by the City's Historic Review Committee recommending that City Council designate the Mosque as a city landmark. On September 4, Council voted to include the Syria Mosque site in the Schenly Park Historic District but did not approve individual landmark status citing extensive damage to significant exterior features of the building resulting from the demolition work.

Although site designation came too late to alter the demolition process, it does require that plans for any new structure on the site be approved by the Pittsburgh Historic Review Commission.

Special thanks to Bill Keyes of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania for his contribution to this article.
Bank runs, bread lines, dust bowls, and FDR, all conjure up images of the Great Depression of the 1930's. The social upheavals brought on by the stock market crash of 1929 and the subsequent programs of the New Deal changed the face of America forever.

The famous "alphabet" agencies of the New Deal provided relief and employment to millions of Americans during the desperate years of the Depression. At the same time they brought the federal government closer to the public than it had ever been before.

One of the more interesting and visible legacies of the New Deal was the proliferation of art, commissioned by the federal government, for the enjoyment and inspiration of the general public. Between 1933 and 1943, the government commissioned over 150,000 works of art including easel paintings, sculptures, and murals. The basic concept behind these projects was to create art that the common citizen could identify with and could feel a sense of pride in. It also brought art to a segment of the population traditionally unexposed to it. This democratization of art had the desired effect of helping the public feel community pride and a sense of optimism in a time of great uncertainty. It also employed thousands of virtually starving artists.

The United States Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts commissioned 1400 mural paintings for public buildings then under construction across America under various federal programs. In keeping with the government's desire to make these art projects "local", area artists were hired. They were given a free hand to create murals or sculptures that reflected the area's history or a significant industrial or agricultural feature. A mural in a school in Pittsburgh, for example, has a mural depicting important events in local history while a mural in the Allentown Post Office shows local rivermen and their cargo.

Localism was the prevailing theme in most public building art of the 1930's. While the government could have chosen to commission works of art that symbolized federal primacy, they instead chose to have local artists create works that mirrored community and daily life. Art really became public for the first time.

New Deal art is now a part of our public building record on which communities look with pride. As 1930's era public buildings are being evaluated for their historic importance, the presence of artwork is an important factor in that evaluation.

According to the book *Democratic Vistas, Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal*, there are 93 post offices in Pennsylvania that contain some form of art from the New Deal projects.

The art of the New Deal is a telling record of one of this nation's most important periods. Its preservation is vital for a better understanding of the Depression era. Next time you are in a 1930's period public building, look up and you may catch a picture of history.

For more information on art in the Depression, see *Democratic Vistas, Post Offices and Public Art in the New Deal* by Marlene Park and Gerald Markowitz. Temple University Press, publishers.

**PRESERVATION AND BRIBERY**

A prominent Philadelphia businessman has been charged with bribery and the obstruction of the administration of the law. He allegedly attempted to influence the city's historical commission into approving past alterations to his historic building in Olde City. A $10,000 bribe was offered to Philadelphia historic preservation officer Richard Tyler by businessman Paul Rimeir last October. Tyler then contacted city police who established a sting operation complete with hidden electronic surveillance devices. The arrest occurred this June.

In 1987, the Philadelphia Historical Commission, headed by Tyler, disapproved plans for alterations to Rimeir's historically certified building at Front and Chestnut Streets. In violation of the city's preservation ordinance requiring prior approval, alterations were made to the building. Rimeir also violated "stop work orders" on the project issued by the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

Wearing a hidden tapping device, Tyler went to Rimeir's Olde City office and

Continued on page 7
Cynthia Zujkowski of the Architectural Heritage Association said that local support for saving the Crawford House has been overwhelming. "This is the largest public response to a preservation project we have ever had. The high visibility and historical attachment that the Crawford House has in Scranton has made this an important issue for the citizens here," she stated.

An independent study of Crawford Estate options is currently underway.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation has announced the recipients of the Preservation Service Fund grants.

The Alfred O. Deshong Museum and Cultural Arts Center in Chester County received $1800 in matching funds to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study of rehabilitating the Deshong Estate.

The Brandywine Conservancy, Inc. has been allocated $2500 to match local funds to develop a feasibility study for the creation of a statewide non-profit preservation organization in Delaware.

The Quakertown Historical Society was allocated $1000 in matching funds to hire a consultant to advise its volunteer builders and craftsmen in the restoration of the fire damaged Quakertown Fire Station.

The Architectural Heritage Association in Scranton received $1600 to match local funds to hire a consultant to conduct an independent survey and cost analysis for the renovation and re-use of the Crawford House.

Matching grants from the National Trust are available to non-profit incorporated organizations or public agencies and to members of the National Trust’s Preservation Forum program. All grants must be matched on at least a dollar-for-dollar basis using primarily cash contributions. There are three funding rounds each year. Deadlines are February 1, June 1, and October 1. For information call the Mid Atlantic Regional Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation at 215-438-2886.

Mayor Wilson Goode inaugurated the second phase of the rehabilitation and restoration of Philadelphia City Hall by announcing the selection of Vitetta Group in association with Kelly/Maiello—both Philadelphia firms—as City Hall Master Plan consultants.

The master Plan will guide the restoration, modernization, and rehabilitation of the renowned landmark over the next ten years.

The two Philadelphia firms won the $3.5 million contract in a selection process that involved a national search. Hy Myers, Vitetta’s principal, will lead the project. Mr. Myers has directed other noted restorations in Philadelphia including the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the ongoing restoration of the Academy of Music. He is also a director of Preservation Pennsylvania. Vitetta is also restoration architect for the Pennsylvania State Capitol in Harrisburg and the Bellvue in Philadelphia.

Clinton County’s landmark jail has been abandoned and faces an uncertain future. The massive Italianate villa-styled combined jailers’ residence and lock-up was in operation from 1852 until early this past spring.

According to Dave Winton of the Clinton County Historical Society, the County Commission received public bids on the structure on August 15. None of the three bids received called
PROPERTIES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER

The following recent listings on the National Register of Historic Places are a result of an “in house” thematic nomination researched and written by the Bureau for Historic Preservation staff.

The nomination of Pennsylvania National Guard Armories represents the study and evaluation of remaining armories associated with the Pennsylvania National Guard from the Guard’s inception in 1777 until the historic cutoff date in 1940.

The listings represent the remaining armories that meet National Register criteria of historic significance and physical integrity.

Individual and district nominations not associated with the armory nomination are denoted by an asterisk (*).

Hamburg Armory Berks County
Altoona Armory Blair County
Butler Armory Butler County
Corry Armory Erie County
New Castle Armory Lawrence County
Bradford Armory McKean County
Kane Armory McKean County
Lewistown Armory Mifflin County
East Stroudsburg Monroe County
Stewart Armory Montgomery County
William Grubb Mansion Montgomery County*
College Hill District Easton, Northampton County*
Milton Armory Northumberland County
Mansfield Armory Tioga County
Wellboro Armory Tioga County
Oil City Armory Venango County
Warren Armory Warren County
Washington Armory Washington County
Ligonier Armory Westmoreland County
Scottsdale Armory Westmoreland County

For more information on the procedure for and advantages of listing in the National Register, contact the Bureau for Historic Preservation at the address/phone below.

GLASS TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Brent Glass, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission testified before the United States House Republican Research Committee’s Historic Preservation Task Force on June 7.

Glass was asked to be part of a distinguished panel of preservationists from around the country that addressed current trends in private sector solutions to historic preservation issues.

Dr. Glass presented the committee with several highly visible and successful projects throughout Pennsylvania. These included the renovation of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad Station into a magnificent luxury hotel; the rehabilitation of Pittsburgh’s YMCA through the judicious use of private foundations and government agencies; and the Regent-Rennoc Court apartment complex rehabilitation in West Philadelphia. The YMCA in Pittsburgh and Regent-Rennoc in Philadelphia primarily benefitted low-income families.

The committee also heard Glass discuss the highly successful history of the Investment Tax Credit program and how the Tax Reform Act of 1986 blunted that program. He went on to encourage members of the committee to urge congressional support of the 1991 Community Revitalization Act (H.R. 1566). It will offset some of the negative effects of the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

For more information on state historic preservation programs contact:
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026
717-783-8946
LIBRARY PROJECT CONTINUES

The Hershey Public Library became the most recent recipient of books on historic preservation through Preservation Pennsylvania’s Library Project.

With a grant from Hershey Foods, Inc., twenty-five books representing the best general information available on preservation are now available to the Hershey Pennsylvania community.

Previous beneficiaries of this project have been the Lancaster County Library through Penn Savings Bank and the Berks County Library, also through Penn Savings.

A NEW EASEMENT

Preservation Pennsylvania’s latest preservation easement acquisition is the Humphry Marshall House in Marshallton, Chester County.

The easement, given by the Chester County Historical Society to Preservation Pennsylvania, covers both exterior and interior features of the National Landmark.

The Marshall House is a rare surviving example of a Pennsylvania country house from the period 1773–1813. Humphry Marshall was an important 18th century botanist as well.


Grace Gary ......................Executive Director
Bill Wright ......................Editor

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PRESERVATION PENNSYLVANIA WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four new members have joined Preservation Pennsylvania’s Board of Directors replacing four whose terms expired this year.

Michael H. Ranck of Strasburg is a partner in Ranck and Ranck Attorneys in Lancaster. Mr. Ranck specializes in personal injury litigation, probate and real estate law. He served as Assistant District Attorney and District Attorney for Lancaster County and is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. A founding member of Pennsylvania Crime Stoppers, he currently serves on the Board of the Rockford Foundation, the Donegal Society and the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County. Mr. Ranck

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Rohm & Haas
Stockton Rush Bartol Foundation
Sun Company, Inc.
Susquehanna-Falzgraff Foundation
Tighe Industries

For information on becoming a member of The Pennsylvania Heritage Club, contact Preservation Pennsylvania.
Directory of Museums and Historical Organizations in Pennsylvania. The 1991 edition lists over 800 museums and historical organizations alphabetically, by type, by collections, and by county. Also listed are National Park Service sites in Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Trail of History. Readers will also find listings for historical societies, museums, galleries, community arts centers, nature centers, planetariums, botanical gardens, zoos, battlefields, historic houses and sites. Federal resource agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Library of Congress are also available. The directory is valuable to anyone interested in working with or visiting museums and historical organizations in Pennsylvania. Available through Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations, P.O. Box 1026, Department S, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026. $5.95 paper plus 6% sales tax and $2.50 shipping.

Made In Pennsylvania is essential reading for the serious and casual Pennsylvania or industrial historian. It is available through Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Publication Sales Program, Friends of PHMC, P.O. Box 11466, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1466. $6.95 + $1.00 shipping and 6% sales tax.

Patron tickets are $250 and proceeds will benefit Preservation Pennsylvania and The Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia. For tickets and information, call 215-644-6003.

Don’t miss the preservation event of the year!

A developer’s request to the City of Harrisburg to build a 17-story (225 feet) tower in the downtown area has preservationists concerned. The tower is to be opposite the State Capitol Building and would obliterate the long-range view of that structure. The project also threatens other restored historic properties in the downtown area by encroaching on their views and taking away needed alley space. This reduces their property values.

Since 1975, the City of Harrisburg has regulated the size of buildings in the downtown area to promote architecture that is complementary to taller center city buildings. The current height limit in the area in question is 70 feet or 6 stories.

In the News (continued from page 3)
for the total demolition of the structure. All bids proposed saving the primary structure and removing some of the later additions.

The commissioners are now considering the bids.

Put on your dancing shoes ‘cause Wanamakers is back. The re-opening of one of Philadelphia’s most beloved landmarks will be celebrated at a gala dinner/dance Saturday, September 28.

The magnificent Wanamakers Department Store was designed by Daniel Burnham and opened in 1911. It was considered such an architectural and engineering marvel that President William Howard Taft dedicated the building—the only time a U.S. President has christened a privately owned building.

Brickstone Realty, the firm that undertook the highly acclaimed restoration of the Lit Brothers Department Store in Philadelphia, is the driving force behind the restoration and renovation. The Wanamakers store will occupy the first five floors of the building while the upper seven will combined restored period features with modern office space.

The gala event will be held in Wanamakers magnificent Crystal Tea Room.

From Made in Pennsylvania
courtesy of Hagley Museum
MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual $15
- Family $25
- Associate $50
- Patron/Professional $100
- Benefactor $500
- Pennsylvania Heritage Club* $1000 and above
- Nonprofit Organization $35

*Includes special membership benefits. For information contact Preservation Pennsylvania.

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Board Members (continued from page 5)
is a graduate of the University of Pittsburg and Dickinson School of Law.

DeCourcey E. McIntosh of Pittsburgh brings to the board a distinguished career in preservation and the arts. Since 1984 he has been Executive Director of the Helen Clay Frick Foundation and the Clayton Corporation in Pittsburgh. Mr. McIntosh has also served as Vice President of the Minnesota Society of Fine Arts in Minneapolis and was Executive Director of the Historic Savannah Foundation in Savannah, Georgia. He holds an A.B. degree from Harvard University and attended Georgetown University Foreign Service Institute.

Chistine Lange of Meadville has long been active in civic and preservation concerns in Meadville. She has served on the Meadville City Council since 1980 and was on the Main Street steering Committee. Ms. Lang is also on the First National Bank of Pennsylvania Board of Directors, the Academy Theater Foundation Board, Chairperson of Family Health, Inc., and on the Family Planning Services of Crawford County Advisory Board. Ms. Lang attended Allegheny College.

Nancy McFall has been involved in numerous highly visible and successful preservation projects in the York, Pennsylvania area including the General Gates House and the Golden Plough Tavern. She was a member and past president of the York Junior League and has long been an active member of Historic York, Inc. Ms. McFall graduated from Connecticut College for Women and served in the United States Coast Guard during the Second World War.

Ex-officio board member Kurk Zwikl has designated Ann Greene of Philadelphia to serve in his place on the Board of Directors. Ms. Greene is Assistant Dean of Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been active in preservation organizations including the Special Advisory Committee Historic house Project of the Fairmount Park Commission in Philadelphia.

Bribery (continued from page 2)
received the bribe offer. A letter stating that the money was for “improvements” to the building and that said improvements would be approved “as is by the historical commission” accompanied the payoff. Rimmieir has been arraigned and released on his own recognizance.

In the News (continued from page 6)
The City of Harrisburg is apparently seriously considering the developer’s request to waive the height restriction for the project citing supposed tax revenue benefits.

For more information on this and other preservation issues in Harrisburg, call Historic Harrisburg at 717-233-4646.
Calendar

Sept. 12  Eighth Annual Rural Coalition Conference, Grantsville, PA. For registration information call 717-662-4808.


State Craft Festival. Tyler State Park, Richboro, Bucks County. 215-860-0731. Sept. 28

Grand Opening of the Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia; 7:00 pm. Benefits Preservation Pennsylvania and the Preservation Coalition of Greater Philadelphia (see page 6 in this issue).

“Preserving the Land: Conference for Professionals” sponsored by Lancaster Farmland Trust. Millersville University, Millersville, PA. Topics include countryside protection, conservation easements, tax issues, estate planning. For registration information call 717-293-0707.


Oct. 25  Housing Rehab Workshop. Muhlenburg College, Allentown, PA. Cosponsored by the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Department of Community Affairs and the City of Allentown. Contact 717-787-0771

Oct. 26  HARBC-CLG Workshop. City of Bethlehem Town Hall. Cosponsored by the Bureau for Historic Preservation, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Department of Community Affairs and the City of Bethlehem.

Mission Statement
Preservation Pennsylvania, through creative partnerships, targeted educational and advocacy programs, advisory assistance, and special projects, assists Pennsylvania communities to protect and utilize the historic resources they want to preserve for the future.