HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

JAMES D. VAN TRUMP: STUDIES IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF PITTSBURGH

Compiled by John H. Richman
Introduction by Franklin K. B. Toker

Introduction

Among the first books I purchased in Pittsburgh on my arrival in 1974 was Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, by James D. Van Trump and Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr. Invited by Carnegie-Mellon University to teach architectural history after six years of fieldwork in Italy, I sought and found in the book a thorough orientation to a new and complex region. Even to a newcomer, it was clear from the thirty-seven Van Trump entries in Landmark Architecture’s bibliography that one man had made the buildings of Pittsburgh his special concern. In 1978, I conducted a seminar at Carnegie-Mellon on the architecture and urbanism of Pittsburgh and directed John Richman in the preparation of a Van Trump bibliography. As a frequent user of bibliographies, I suggested to Mr. Richman a system of categories which I have found more useful than conventional alphabetical or chronological listings. These categories begin with the general scope of Pittsburgh architecture and proceed to detailed studies of specific buildings and architects:

I. Urban Studies: Pittsburgh and Neighborhoods
II. General Architecture
III. Architectural Styles
IV. Architecture by Types
   1. Bridges
   2. Civil
   3. Commercial
   4. Domestic
   5. Ecclesiastic
V. Pittsburgh Architects

Richman’s original bibliography is on deposit as a typescript at the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania
Division of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (Harrisburg). While the original typescript aimed at completeness in documenting Van Trump's every text, I have edited it here to concentrate on his unique research on Pittsburgh architecture. In the case of studies that were reprinted in several periodicals I have selected only the most accessible and the most developed variants.

The author of these studies, James Denholm Van Trump, was born in Pittsburgh in 1908 and educated at Carnegie Institute of Technology and at the University of Pittsburgh (B.A. 1931; M.A. 1932, with a thesis on Baroque town-planning in Rome). Van Trump's career in the architectural history of Pittsburgh began only in 1956, with his appointment as recorder for the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) in Western Pennsylvania. In 1962, he assumed the editorship of *Charette: The Pennsylvania Journal of Architecture*, of which Van Trump, Ziegler and Shane, Inc. was publisher.

In the 1960s, Van Trump began the "activist" phase of his work on Pittsburgh architecture, with appointments as visiting critic in the Department of Architecture at Carnegie-Mellon University and as visiting professor of Fine Arts at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1964, he cofounded the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, where he currently serves as vice-president and director of research. In the latter capacity, Van Trump planned surveys of downtown Pittsburgh and of historic neighborhoods and historic buildings in Allegheny County, which reached publication in his major work (with Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.), *Landmark Architecture of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*, in 1967.

In the 1970s, both the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and Van Trump expanded the scope of their activities: the former in its massive redevelopment complex at Station Square, the latter in a series of weekly radio and television programs on the physical history of Pittsburgh. Van Trump is presently chairman of the board of directors of Preservation Consultants and of Landmarks Planning, Inc.; vice-president of Ober Park Associates, Inc.; a member of the board of directors of the Iron Clad Agreement; chairman of Pittsburgh Ethnic Churches; and a member of the Mayor's Committee on Housing Relocation.

On behalf of John Richman and myself, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the kind assistance of Mr. Van Trump; Robert Gangewere,
editor of *Carnegie Magazine*; Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr., president of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation; and William F. Trimble, editor of the *Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*. It is our hope that printing this bibliography will encourage the recognition of both James Van Trump's scholarly work and of the rich architectural heritage which it documents.

**ABBREVIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Carnegie Magazine</td>
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<tr>
<td>CPJA</td>
<td>Charette: <em>The Pennsylvania Journal of Architecture</em></td>
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<td>ISAH</td>
<td><em>Journal of the Society of Architectural History</em></td>
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<td>LA</td>
<td><em>Landscape Architecture Magazine</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>MSP</td>
<td><em>Market Square of Pittsburgh</em> (newspaper)</td>
</tr>
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<td>PHLF</td>
<td>Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation</td>
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<td>WPHM</td>
<td><em>Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine</em></td>
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I. Urban Studies: Pittsburgh and Neighborhoods


**Homewood-Brushton** — "Valley of Memory and Decision: Homewood-Brushton, Past and Becoming." *CM* 47:6 (June 1973), 243, 247.


**New Alexandria** — "Halicarnassus, Pittsburgh, and New Alexandria: A Memorial Excursion." *WPHM* 48:3 (July 1965), 221-34.


**Shopping Malls** — "Castles in the Urban Air . . . or the New Mall-to-Mall Magic Carpeting." *CPJA* 42:2 (Feb. 1962), 12-15, 22.

II. General Architecture

"Passage Through a Southwest Landscape: A Brief Comment on the Historical Society Tour." WPHM 44:3 (Sept. 1961), 305-7.


III. Architectural Styles

Byzantine — see Ecclesiastic; Eastern Orthodox
Federal Revival — see Domestic; Berry Hall
Gothic — see Domestic; Evergreen Hamlet


IV. Architecture by Types

1. Bridges


**Footbridges** — “Of Footbridges and Preservation.” *WPHM* 43:2 (June 1960), 135-46. (Diamond Market Bridge and Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail’s Bridge of Sighs).

**Point Bridges** — see Bridges; Brady Street Bridge see “Spanning the Years.” *CPJA* 47:7 (Nov./Dec. 1967), 22.
reprinted: *CM* 42:6 (June 1968), 203.

**Sixth Street Bridge** — “Pittsburgh’s River Bridges.” *Military Engineer* 69:448 (Mar./Apr. 1977), 86-88.


2. Civil


**Americus Club** — “Pittsburgh’s Forgotten Buildings II: The Americus Club.” *MSP* 3 (June 1, 1973), 9, 14.

**Anderson Memorial** — “The Fate of the Anderson Memorial or What is the Workingman Reading?” *CM* 51:8 (Oct. 1977), 24-33.


"This Great Hospital, Part IV: From Baroque to Modern, Four General Hospitals in Pittsburgh." *CPJA* 46:12 (Dec. 1966), 6-11.


"Autumn Wine and Preservation: The Heinz Hall and the


**Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall** — see Urban Studies: New Alexandria


3. Commercial


**Banks** — “Temples of Finance II: Pittsburgh and a Praise of Pillars.” *CPJA* 44:5 (May 1964), 30-35.


**Design Center** — “Design Center Pittsburgh.” *CPJA* 43:7 (July 1963), 24-25, 28. (proposal)


**Hotels** — “The Palace, the Loft, and the Tower: Some Notes on
the Development of the Urban Hotel in Pittsburgh." CPJA 42:11 (Nov. 1962), 12-17, 20.

Jenkins Arcade — "Local Historian Provides Perspective on the Jenkins Arcade." MSP 2:15 (Aug. 11, 1972), 6, 12.


"Towers for the Tycoons." Pittsburgh Quote 5:1 (Spring 1960), 18-23. (deals with real estate also)

100 Ross Street — "Redeveloped Warehouse: 100 Ross Street, Pittsburgh." CPJA 43:6 (June 1963), 24-25.


Pittsburgh's Neglected Gateway: The Rotunda of the Pennsy-
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Station Square — “Station Square." Newsletter of the Society of Industrial Archaeologists (May 1977).


4. Domestic


Heidelberg Apartments et al. — see Pittsburgh Architects: Scheibler, Frederick G., Jr.


“The Infinite Flat House: Some New Pittsburgh and Phila-


**University of Pittsburgh Dormitories Towers A, B, and C** — see Civil: *University of Pittsburgh*


### 5. Ecclesiastic


"Pittsburgh's Church of the Ascension." *CPJA* 36:6 (June 1956), 14-16, 29.


reprinted as pamphlet: Pittsburgh: Bellefield Presbyterian Church, 1966.

**Calvary Methodist Church** — "Gargoyles from Texas." *CM* 30:8 (Oct. 1956), 276-79.

**Demolition** — "The Towers Fall." *CPJA* 51:2 (Mar./Apr. 1971),
11. (With Arthur P. Ziegler, Jr.) (North Side churches).
"The Towers Continue to Fall." *PHLF News* 31 (Nov./Dec. 1971), 2. (Roman Catholic Church of the Most Holy Name of Jesus on Troy Hill).


**Eastern Orthodox Churches** — "Some Orthodox and Byzantine Rite Churches in Allegheny County." *CM* 57:10 (Dec. 1977), 17-32.


**Saint Peter's Episcopal Church** — "St. Peter's, Pittsburgh, By John Notman." *JASH* 15:2 (May 1956), 19-23.

**Shadyside Presbyterian Church** — "The Mountain and the City: The History of Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, As Seen Through Its Architecture." *WPHM* 44:1 (Mar. 1961), 21-34.


**V. Pittsburgh Architects**


see Civil: Carnegie-Mellon University


see Ecclesiastic: Emmanuel Episcopal Church
see Civil: Allegheny County Courthouse and Jail


