HOSPITAL TO ADD TWO STORIES TO PARKING GARAGE

A special general membership meeting was held on January 23, at the request of the administration of Pennsylvania Hospi- tal to discuss the proposed extension of the parking lot at 8th and Delancey Streets by the addition of two additional stories of parking, which would enlarge the structure to a height of 65 feet and add approxi- mately 140 spaces to the existing 440.

Ted Bartley, architect of the Hospital, presented a rendering of the proposed building as well as schematic drawings. The present five-story plus roof building was designed to hold an additional floor. New construction methods now enable this construction to hold an additional two floors. The present plans call for the commencement of construction in June of 1985 and the completion in March of 1986. These dates were chosen so that the most disruptive portion of the construction will be performed when school is closed. Moreover, the hospital generally has a smaller census during the summer. The lot will be open during construction.

Mr. Bartley explained that the plans must be reviewed by the Advisory Board of Design as the structure is located in an area under the jurisdiction of the Redevelop- ment Authority. Thereafter, a zoning hear- ing is necessary as the structure will require a variance. This is necessary because the building will exceed the coverage limits of the space it is con- structed upon.

In question to responses, Mr. Bartley stated that the employees presently pay 50 cents for parking at the rate of $5 per month. He admitted that the area was served by adequate public transportation and that a higher monthly rate might reduce the number of employees parking there.

Questions were asked about the 1978 agreement between the SHCA and the hospital which permits the building to extend to a 65 feet height, but which also requires the approval of Air Management. He stated that they had discussed the construction with John Brotherton of Air Management.

I-95 EIS DRAFT READY IN APRIL

The Pennsylvania Department of Trans- portation, in cooperation with the Federa- Highway Administration and the City of Philadelphia, presented the I-95 Access Improvement Program's preliminary in- terim report in September of 1984. Jack Smythe, head of The Delta Group, a consulting firm employed to make the two- year access study, offered literature on the study and described the six alternatives for improving vehicular access throughout the study area at a general meeting of the SHCA. The access study was in compli- ance to the Consent Decree obtained through litigation initiated by the Neighbor- hood Preservation Coalition which rep- resented several waterfront community groups. The Decree, signed in 1975 and amended in 1979, required the study of access needs between the Ben Franklin and Walt Whitman Bridges. The Consent Decree also required an Environmental Impact Statement for any additional access to I-95.

The draft Environmental Impact Study is expected to be available the beginning of April to neighborhood civic groups and to individuals who request a copy in writing. Copies will also be available in Philadelphia's libraries. This EIS draft is subject to a 45 to 60-day review which includes a public hearing scheduled tentatively, for April 30th. The location of the hearing has not been chosen, yet will be conveniently located in the area of the neighborhood groups involved. According to Delta spokesman Sam Little, the final EIS will address all comments written to the fed- eral, state, and city departments involved or brought up at the public hearing.

This EIS draft will offer an additional vehicular access alternative to the six already presented. This seventh alterna- tive, The Ramp Completion with Market Street Ramp, listed as alternative number four in the draft, is a combination of the Queen Street off-ramp alternative to I-95 northbound and the Market and Morris Streets on-ramp to I-95 southbound. The EIS draft will project traffic conditions twenty years from the earliest expected completion of the ramps, which covers up to the year 2008. According to Mr. Little, Delaware Avenue reconnection is still scheduled to be started this summer or fall, but it may begin sooner than that, with completion in a three-year construction time frame. Mr. Little emphasized that no I-95 access would be opened until the Vine Street Expressway is completed be- cause the Expressway is an important part of the overall plan to relieve access pressure.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The next general membership meet- ing of the SHCA will be held on March 20th at 8 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard. A presen- tation will be made by representatives of the Hall-Mercer MR/EMR Community Mental Health Center on its program to aid recently deinstitutionalized persons.

Clean-Up Day plans will be an- nounced. Pennsylvania Hospital's pro- posed expansion of the 9th and Delan- cey Street garage by two levels, and the Hospital's plans to build on the vacant lot at 7th and Pine Streets will be reviewed.

(Continued on page 8)
ELECTIONS ARE COMING

SHCA Nominations Are Open

The general membership meeting to be held on May 15, 1985 will be the meeting at which the election of officers and directors will be conducted. Members who wish to run for any of these positions should file a petition with the signatures of at least 10 members who are residents of the district from which they wish to be elected if the office sought is that of quadrant director, or 10 members if the position sought is that of an officer. These petitions should be addressed to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. They should be mailed so that they will be received no later than April 15, 1985.

NW  NE

SPRUCE  STREET

SW  SE

SHCA QUADRANTS

As the diagram above indicates, Society Hill's eastern and western quadrants are divided by Fourth Street. The northern quadrants include all residences on Spruce Street.

Society Hill Sheraton Nears Reality

For residents near Second and Dock Streets, the news of groundbreaking for the Society Hill Sheraton on January 30 was bittersweet. For some it means noise, dirt, congestion and inconvenience, yet for others this construction signals a four-story luxury hotel with landscaped grounds, outdoor cafes and retail stores, all of which will be an improvement over the former parking lot.

This 365 room hotel will cover 2.4 acres and cost an estimated $41 million; its completion date is June 1988. It will include basic and luxury overnight amenities, as well as a health club, sauna, indoor pool with sunroof, a bi-level restaurant, an entertainment lounge for 200, a 7400 square foot ballroom for 700 guests, outdoor gardens, sidewalk cafes, retail stores, and underground parking for 264 cars.

Although this site has been slated for a hotel since 1960, it was not until 1983 that Rouse and Associates, a Malvern-based national developer and general partner in the project, was selected to develop the property by the city. The hotel will include an estimated 300 permanent jobs, and according to city estimates, will contribute $1 million annually in City taxes.

The hotel's exterior was designed by a New York firm and will be brick with varying roof heights and complemented by iron fences, trees, flowers and fountains. According to a statement by Rouse, the hotel was designed to blend in with the neighborhood's tradition and charm.

As you will recall, the site was recently the scene of an archaelogical dig which revealed the oldest-known artifacts of their kind in Philadelphia, as well as streets, stores and home foundations from the 17th century.

During the groundbreaking ceremonies, Willard Rouse acknowledged the cooperation of the Society Hill Civic Association and the Society Hill Towers Association in getting the project underway. Both groups have been diligent in their efforts to monitor the hotel's development.

The original plans were approved by the SHCA at its January 12, 1983 meeting when they were chosen over those of two other developers. However, revisions to those plans were made which did not require neighborhood approval. Some neighbors are concerned about the change of access to the 264-car underground garage. The original plans called for one entrance/exit from Front Street and another from the off-street entrance facing Dock Street. The new scheme, according to Project Director Lois Attalis, affords only one entrance/exit on the southern side of the hotel at Dock Street where many residents feel traffic is already congested. Another change is proposed for the northwest corner of the hotel—a sidewalk cafe to be situated along Walnut Street—a feature some residents oppose, however, Attalis says these cafe plans are very tentative.

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BE A BLUE RIBBON NEIGHBOR—JOIN THE SPRING CLEAN UP

Sweeping, shining, painting, and planting are the order of the day on Saturday, May 4th, when the Society Hill Civic Association sponsors the Sixth Annual Spring Clean Up Day.

Linda Blakemore, the 1985 SHCA Clean Up chairperson, said that the day will begin with the red trolley, filled with scouts, balloons, and free cleaning supplies, driving through the streets as a reminder that it is time to wash our community face.

At 11:30 a.m., city officials will gather together with kids, clowns, and neighbors on the steps of the Central Penn Bank at 2nd and Pine Streets for the annual awards. Prizes will be given for posters made by young artists from area schools, and several city street sweepers will be honored for their good work in our neighborhood. After the awards, everyone is invited to a community picnic in the Central Penn parking lot.

New this year will be the prizes for kids under 12 who bring in litter-filled trash bags plus one of the specially marked "Treasure Trash" soda cans. There will be a neighborhood flyer later. And for the first time, SHCA will award blue ribbons to those residents who always keep their walks clear, their household trash properly bagged and disposed of, their window boxes and planters filled with flowers and greens, and their popper-scoopers on the ready.

Prior to the event, block captains under the chairmanship of Donna Willmarc will inventory needed repairs in Society Hill. Damaged signs, potholes, dead trees and stumps will all be documented and turned over to the appropriate city officials for action. Keep your fingers crossed.

At Spring Clean Up Day 1984, SHCA's President Steve Mize presented the Golden Scarecrow Award to Mayor Wilson Goode as City Managing Director. Leo Brooks looked on. SHCA's Corresponding Secretary and Block Captain head Donna Willmarc and her son, Kirk (right) put some muscle into pushing their brooms on Second Street.

So on Saturday, May 4th, get up and wash the windows, wash the stripe, wash the walk, and wash the dog. Then join the rest of your blue ribbon neighbors for the first-ever Society Hill Spring Clean Up and Community Picnic.

Photos by Susan Dudley

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WASHINGTON SQUARE—MORE YEARS OF NEGLECT?

Once again, Washington Square is to be forgotten. Congressman Foglietta’s proposal to have the National Park Service take over the responsibility for maintenance was changed in Congress. The Park Service is to become involved only in activity in programming the Unknown Soldier’s Memorial in the square. There are no improvements or changes in the fore- cast. The replacement and refinishing of all the flagstone pavers through the square and the perimeter will be deferred.

“Potter’s Field,” the graves of more than 2,000 anonymous soldiers who died after the Battle of Germantown and other battles of the Revolution, has been forgotten.

In 1883, William Penn laid out five great Philadelphia squares. Originally named Southeast Square, Washington Square was renamed in 1826 when a memorial to President Washington was planned. The cornerstone was laid in the center of the square, but the memorial got no further.

Finally, in 1952, the history of the square was brought to light and plans were made to create a memorial to the unknown soldiers of the American Revolution. This project was undertaken on a local and voluntary basis, with no participation from the Federal or Commonwealth government. About a quarter of a million dollars was contributed by firms and organizations located around the square. These groups, organized as the Washington Square Association, also planned the memorial and supervised its construction. An appeal for donations from the public brought thousands of small individual contributions.

Some cities have resorted to adoption programs to save or enhance public monuments. For Washington Square we could consider adopting a tree, a flagstone walkway, etc., once again appealing for private donations to make the necessary improvements, or we could allow the park to be forgotten once again.

We welcome your suggestions. Send them to Washington Square Committee, The Resident Newsletter, P.O. Box 3, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

MEMBER BROCHURE READY

An attractive new brochure extolling the advantages of membership in the SHCA and including a convenient application to join is expected to be off the press in time for distribution at the March 20th general meeting. SHCA is grateful to member Norman Tissian of Spina and Associates for his help with the design and layout of the work.
OPEN HOUSE COMES TO SOCIETY HILL

For the 7th consecutive year, visitors will converge from far and near to see Philadelphia at its spring-time best during Philadelphia Open House. An active committee of neighbors is organizing two tours to be held in Society Hill on Saturday, May 4 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, May 9 from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. Residents are encouraged to serve as hosts and hostesses in the private homes open for the tour. As there are two shifts during the tour times, volunteers will also be able to take the tour themselves. If you'd like to seize this opportunity, call Lisa Eizen at 925-8563 to sign up. For further tour information call Ginny Moore, 592-0800 or Libby Browne, 925-1372.

Expanded this year, Philadelphia Open House will run from May 3 to May 19. New tours this year range from The Academy of Music to The Zoo, from Haddonfield to Chester County, from “The Swedish Connection” to Bucks County. Old favorites include visits all over Center City, to Germantown, Chestnut Hill and the Main Line — and even trips on the Delaware River. Twenty-five organizations cooperate in sponsoring these tours under the aegis of the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. For a free brochure and further information call the Philadelphia Open House Office, 928-1188.

Attention Gardeners: It's Plant Sale Time

Local gardeners can look forward to the annual plant sale at Hill-Physick-Kest House on Saturday and Sunday, April 27th and 28th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. The HPK Garden Committee will, as usual, have a wonderful selection of hardy greenery, herbs, hanging baskets, and bedding plants especially selected to thrive in Society Hill’s growing conditions. The sale is to be held in the garden at the rear of HPK House at 321 South 4th Street (enter from Cypress Street). All proceeds will go to help maintain the historic house, owned by The Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

A WONDERFUL PARTY!

Thank you, NewMarket and NewMarket management and the food purveyors’ team for celebrating the opening of the Market at NewMarket with the Society Hill Civic Association members January 16th.

Thanks to SHCA President Myrna P. Field, Party Chairperson Nancy Frentze, NewMarket Coordinator JoAnn Simon of Domsky & Simon Advertising Agency, Inc., and volunteer at the membership table; Liz Ostrander, Rosalie Thompson, and Loyde Harkey.

Thank you to the spectacular turnout of Society Hill neighbors and all our new members. A good time was had by all.

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THE TUNEL IN FOR A MOST
UNUSUAL TEA PARTY

Philadelphia's 77-year-old Settlement Music School will present a live concert (8:00-10:15 p.m.) featuring students, faculty, distinguished alumni and guest artists. Settlement Music School has mailed out invitations to 300,000 Delaware Valley residents inviting them to stay at home for this Tea Party on March 20th and tune in to the live concert. Each Tea Party invitation will have a tea bag enclosed, compliments of Milford International Tea Company.

This unusual fund-raiser is primarily designed to make people aware of Settlement Music School and its vital place in the community, especially during the School's Three Year Campaign to raise $2,000,000. Now in its second year, the campaign has already raised well over 50 percent of its goal.

The School provides quality education for all students of the Delaware Valley regardless of their backgrounds or ability to pay. The School, a United Way agency, is supported by individuals, corporations and foundations.

Guest artists included on the March 20th Tea Party include pianists Gary Griffman, Jerome Lowenstein and Leon Bates; soprano Benita Valente and Wihtelmia Ferraro; Gower Washington Jr.; guitarists Peter Degel; former executive director Sol Schotzhabach and many others.

If you have not yet received your Tea Party invitation, call Settlement Music School today at 267-3400 and request one—and don't forget to tune in.

THE BALCH INSTITUTE

You have probably walked past it many times and may even have wondered what goes on inside but never ventured to find out. The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies on the west side of Seventh Street between Race and Market is worth a visit. Only twelve years old, this Institute has already achieved international renown among historians and ethnic scholars for their library containing one of the finest collections of materials on ethnicity and the history of immigration in America.

What will interest most Society Hill residents, however, will be its museum which currently has on display "Destina-

Philadephia: The Past Century of Immigration" which tells with photographs and artifacts the little known story of our city as an immigrant port of entry. Very few people know that Pier 53 at the foot of Washington Avenue was an "Immigrant Station" where from about 1890 to 1914 steamships from Europe brought thou-
sands (60,000 in 1914 alone) of new arrivals. Old photographs, drawings, posters, stamps, steamship tickets, steerage trunks, clothing, kitchen utensils even a musical background help to create the era of the great immigration to America.

Visitors to The Balch Institute can also see its famous Banner Room collection of beautiful ethnic banners created by Philadelphia high school art students.

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia, Museum open Monday—Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is Free.

Before you leave, record your own ethnic background on the Institute's "Ethnic Register" which records the ethnic cultural diversity of American Society.

STRANGERS AMONG US

It has become fashionable to blame the dirt which has become a hallmark of Society Hill upon the constant pressure of tourists. Undoubtedly, these strangers do account for some portion of the refuse which lines our streets and sidewalks. But—are these tourists the only ones responsible for the litter on our streets? Do we all actively participate in the disposal of our own waste?

To find out, The Balch Institute will conduct a survey of Society Hill and Society Hill Park on April 16th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. As part of its "Strangers Among Us" project, the Institute will ask the questions: What is the dirt problem? Does discord exist? How is the dirt disposed of? How can the dirt problem be solved?

The Institute will also ask: Who is responsible for the dirt problem? The Institute will ask: How do we feel about the dirt problem? What can we do about the dirt problem?

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All new items to be listed in the Newsletter must be typed, double-spaced. For elite type, please set your margin at 63. For picc, set your margin at 75. This system allows us to estimate the column inches of editorial copy we have per issue. Also, please be accurate! Changes and mistakes flee costly.
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Free Hour Parking
with purchases of $10 or more at the New Market Parking Garage on Lombard between 2nd and 3rd. For validation just present your day’s Market receipts totaling $10 or more, along with your parking check to the garage cashier.

THE MARKET AT NEW MARKET
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MARKET HOURS: Monday, Thursday & Friday 10 am to 8 pm; Saturday, 8 am to 9 pm; Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm
TELEPHONE: (215) 629-1234
Cypress St. Parking Outrages Neighbors

Neighborhood in the vicinity of Sixth and Cypress Streets are outraged over a plan to sell property zoned for residential use as 10 separate parking spaces for $50,000 apiece.
The force behind the plan is the developer handling the property on the south-east corner of Sixth and Spruce Streets and the Rovecca Gratz house next door.
The corner property, for which he paid $160,000, has been converted into a single-family home and put on the market for $400,000.
The Gratz house will be made into 11 rental units, ranging from studio to two-bedroom apartments, with rent starting at $600 a month.
The developer plans to keep the Gratz property for five years to receive full tax credit, then will sell the units as condominiums.
The site beneath these two properties, at Sixth and Cypress, was slated originally for four townhouses, with 10 parking spots for residents of the Gratz property.
When the developer realized the cost to build would be $75 a square foot, however, he scrapped the plan, according to neighbor Jim Foley, who telephoned the developer at his New York office and spent an hour and a half discussing his intentions for the properties.
The plan to sell parking spaces apparently is motivated by a need to recoup losses the developer suffered while he was held up in court by neighbors protesting the townhouse construction.
One Cypress St. neighbor has filed a formal complaint with the Zoning Commission.
According to Foley, a number of people would be interested in talking to the developer about buying the lot, but he seems determined to put in parking spaces.
To do so, however, will require new zoning, and neighbors promise to turn out to protest at the zoning hearing if zoning is approved.
They intend to pursue the matter into the courts.

The Dig on Second Street

If you haven't already noticed, Second Street, between Spruce and Delancey, has been closed down to major sewer replacement.
According to Richard Mulcahy, Office Manager for the City's Water Department, the old brick sewer lines are being replaced with concrete.
This daytime project, which should be completed in March, is being contracted by Martin Mosee Inc.
The cobblestones which have been torn up from the pavement will be replaced.
Although many residents were unaware of exactly what was happening to Second Street, Mulcahy stated that all residents will be affected by the project were sent letters informing them about the upcoming work.

Joanne Dowdow and Dolores La Greca

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RESIDENTIAL & CONDOMINIUM SPECIALISTS

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY GOES COMMERCIAL

A new commercial delivery system for The Resident Newsletter was initiated with our December issue.
For the whole prior history of this publication we have relied upon a network of diligent volunteers to supply every household in Society Hill with the latest in our prose.
Under the capable direction of James Andereck, 40 men and women slugged through sheet, snow and driving rain, climbed countless stairs, tried open innumerable mail slots and wakened thousands of snoozing dogs in their effort to get out the news.
The new delivery arrangement can no way improve on the old volunteer system.
For one thing, a neighbor is allowed to insert a message in a mail slot, but paid delivery people cannot.
It might be your door, but it's Uncle Sam's mail slot.
The Newsletter staff hopes eventually the new system will be as seamless as the old.
We want to thank the volunteers for their past service.
Hope you caught an extra hour's sleep last Saturday.

Hospital Garage

(Continued from Page 1)
Management (686-7966) and that no problems in securing this approval were presently anticipated.

The new lot might be able to afford neighbors an opportunity to park at a competitive rate in the evening when it was not being used for hospital purposes.
During construction, the builders will attempt to minimize interference with Delancey Street traffic and will offer spaces to anyone blocked out of their garage.

In response to a question concerning the visual impact of a 45-story structure, it should be noted that the Dunham building is presently 55 feet tall and 65 feet tall to the top of the gable.
The Preston building is 114 feet tall.
It is not anticipated that the enlarged garage will block the sun.

Mr. Bartley was asked to consider planting an evergreen, the perimeter of the roof to minimize the visual impact of the roof on the residences which back upon it.
In response to a question concerning the use of the vacant lot at 7th & Pine Streets, the hospital is currently conducting a utilization study of this land anticipating an extension from the Redevelopment Authority.
The SHCA representatives were assured that the association would be consulted before any permanent plans for the site were made.
A report will be presented at the March 30th SHCA meeting.
(See MARK YOUR CALENDARS).
CLAY STUDIO CELEBRATES AN ANNIVERSARY

Fall of 1984 marked the tenth birthday of this nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the promotion of the ceramic arts and clay artists. Now an important cultural resource in our community, the Studio began modestly when five Philadelphia ceramists joined together to share space and facilities. A spool factory on Orielie Street in Old City was their first home, and proved so spacious that seven additional artists were enabled to be accommodated. The Board of Directors and the organization of classes soon followed.

By 1979, The Clay Studio, now a tax-exempt educational corporation, was overflowing the spool factory. New quarters were found at 112-114 Arch Street, and soon after the move eighteen artists were working and teaching there. The success of their relocation was unfortunately short-lived; everything was destroyed in a fire in the heating system early one bitter morning in 1980. The devastated artists regrouped, and thanks to a huge outpouring of support, were able to reestablish the Studio at 49 North 2nd Street, its present location.

In the years since, The Clay Studio has expanded its educational, studio and exhibition programs. Nine resident and ten associate artists, as well as visiting potters, conduct classes and demonstrations on a regular basis. The well-equipped facility offers a variety of clays and glazes, several electric and two gas-fired kilns in a spacious work and storage area. In its continuing efforts to provide the public with opportunities to see new clay art, the Studio holds monthly shows in its own gallery. In 1983 it organized a major exhibit in Old City of works by nationally-recognized artists, and plans an even more ambitious show to be held at the Port of History Museum from April 26 to June 8, 1985.

The Clay Studio welcomes inquiries about its programs. 925-3453.

Eleanor Gesensway is Preservationist of the Year

The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation presented Mrs. Eleanor Gesensway with a gold-leaved certificate naming her as Preservationist of the Year in Philadelphia, as the highlight of the organization's Annual Meeting on February 4th. Mrs. Gesensway, long an active supporter of historic preservation causes in the city, was specifically cited for her work in organizing support for preserving the LIt Brothers building complex on East Market Street, and for promoting a stronger preservation ordinance in Philadelphia, which was signed into law by Mayor Goode on December 31st.

PHPC President Robert F. Bowman stated that "PHPC and the historic preservation movement have both grown by leaps and bounds since the organization's founding in 1979. Ellie Gesensway is an outstanding example of a growing number of concerned and informed citizens in Philadelphia who have acted to preserve our city's irreplaceable architectural heritage."

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A NEW LOOK FOR OLD PINE STREET CHURCH

The building housing Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church is about to have yet another chapter added to its long, interesting history of alterations and renovations. The interior of its sanctuary is presently undergoing a major facelifting which, by Palm Sunday it is hoped, will transform the vast, dignified space from an austere monochome to one alive with color, patterns and religious symbols.

Old Pine’s original appearance in 1768 was Georgian in style, similar to St. Peter’s (without the steeples) and St. Paul’s, and designed by its second architect, Peter Smith. Its main entrance in 1777 were on the long eave wall, and its pulpit and communion table were in the center of the west wall.

In 1837 the interior space was drastically altered by the insertion of a floor which divided the building into two stories. The ground floor was partitioned into meeting rooms and offices, and the entire second floor became the sanctuary. The main entrance was changed to the north side of the building, reached by paired exterior stairs, and an alcove was added to the south side for the pulpit and seating for the elders. At this time the windows were enlarged to their present size, and identical ones opened in the west wall to match those in the east, so that the new-oriented arrangement would be symmetrical. The exterior walls were stuccoed.

The church was built in 1857 by the addition of Greek Revival details, most magnificent of which is the monumental porch on Pine Street. The old bullseye windows in the gable ends were covered over, leaving only the sixth and hing of the room above it, with six Ionic columns, balconies and vestibules were constructed, columns and decorative details were placed across the front of the alcove, and the great bronze gaslight chandelier was hung below it, a huge octagon vestibule designed to dispense heat and gases. A new roof was installed a few feet above the original one.

By 1886 the clear window panes had probably been replaced with milked glass. A photograph of that date shows delicate applied decorations on the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary, with especially elaborate attention given to the alcove, the focal point of the Presbyterian liturgy.

This decorative high point, reached in the Victorian period, experienced a slow decline over the following years as tastes changed and the church’s mission shifted as a result of demographic and economic fluxes in the neighborhood. During the first half of the 20th century community services increased, the congregation declined, and the building slowly deteriorated. The Friends of Old Pine Street was formed in 1951 to raise funds for the renovation of the church. Walls were papered, trim was painted, lighting fixtures were hung beneath the balconies, and a new organ was installed.

Some thirty years later the members of the church took a hard look at the present and future of Old Pin Street and determined to implement long-range planning for the building. The ground floor was elegantly remodelled to handle the growing number of community outreach projects. An elevator installation was begun. The sanctuary clearly needed repairs and repainting, which would require its being filled with scaffolding, so why not go ahead with a total renovation?

Architect David Stivic was retained to direct the project, and his firm designed the stenciled starbursts, floral and frisee now being applied to the walls and ceilings. Although patches of some of the original patterns—stencilled and then hand-painted—were inadvertently uncovered by the removal of a marble plaque and a piece of wallpaper (and which will be preserved for the record), no attempt will be made to copy them exactly because of the constraints of time and money. The intention is to reproduce the feeling of the late 19th century interior through creative interpretation.” said Harold Bair, Parish Administrator. The 1900’s lighting fixtures have been removed, and wall sconces reminiscent of an earlier time will be installed. The gas chandelier will be rewired. Stencilled religious symbols from the Old Testament to modern Christmas, designed by Lotus Yu, will be arranged chronologically, much as in the stages of the cross, above the wainscoting on both side walls. And everywhere there will be vibrant color such as the Old Pine Street sanctuary has not seen in years. The Post-modern Victorian result should be stunning.
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DARTS AND LAURELS

Dart—To those people who disobey the rules and do not shovel their sidewalks, thereby creating hazardous icy paths—a menace to pedestrians.

Dart—To those "Sneaky Pets" who walk their dogs down the dark little streets (like Stamps Street) looking for plantings to hide all the evidence.

Laurel—To those people who proudly walk their licensed, up-to-date inoculated pets and pick up after them conscientiously.

Dart—To the owner of the unleashed, overgrown Doberman Pinscher with the studded collar who can be seen at dusk in the vicinity of 6th and South Streets frightening passersby.

Dart—To new Market for neglecting to repair the loose and missing bricks in their sidewalks.

Dart—To the Parking Authority for ticketing properly stickered cars causing ire to owners for the inconvenience of rectifying these annoying errors.

Laurel—To the City Streets Department for sending out crews to clear clogged storm drains after one of this winter's snowstorms.

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