The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks

A collection of sketches and poems by Seventh-grade students from Arlington School

A detail of Douglas Cooper's mural in the University Center at Carnegie Mellon University.
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Founded in 1964, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation (Landmarks) is a non-profit historic preservation group serving Allegheny County. It is dedicated to identifying and preserving the architectural landmarks, historic neighborhoods, and historic designed landscapes of Allegheny County, and to educating people about this region’s architectural heritage and urban and landscape design history.

Landmarks is recognized as one of the nation’s leading historic preservation organizations. Its offices and reference library are located on the fourth floor of The Landmarks Building at Station Square.

If you are not yet a member of Landmarks, please join! Call 412-471-5808, ext. 527, for membership information or for details on our tours, preservation services, educational programs, and publications. Or visit our Web site at www.phlf.org. Your support will help us protect the places that make Pittsburgh home.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
100 West Station Square Drive, Suite 450
Phone: 412-471-5808  Fax: 412-471-1633  www.phlf.org
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1134

The printing of this booklet was supported, in part, by a grant from The Grable Foundation.
What’s This Booklet All About?

It’s about a two-hour field trip with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to Carnegie Mellon University on a January morning in 2006 where students:

• Saw Douglas Cooper’s 200-foot-long, 10-foot-high mural of Pittsburgh. The mural includes illustrations of many historic and present-day South Side landmarks, and covers three walls on the second level of the University Center rotunda.

• Sketched a South Side landmark and then taped their sketches to a huge piece of paper, thus creating a mural of South Side landmarks to hang in their school hallway.

• Used one word they were assigned (such as “steel,” “curved,” or “walking”) to write one sentence about the South Side landmark they sketched. Then, all the sentences were arranged in two “group poems” and published on pages 4 and 5 of this booklet.

It’s also about a 75-minute classroom session in the afternoon of the same day where each student:

• Selected a photograph of a South Side landmark and then used a charcoal pencil to sketch it.

• Composed a poem of at least four lines about that South Side landmark. Students were asked to use personification, alliteration, metaphors, and similes in their writing.

The student poems and sketches created during the afternoon session are published in this booklet. Each student was given a booklet and a copy was donated to the school library.

“The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks” helps fulfill academic standards in the Arts and Humanities, History, Geography, and Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. The program also encourages students to look more closely at their neighborhood and to realize that the buildings and places close at hand can be sources for inspiration and creativity. Learning about a community helps build pride and encourages young people to take care of the places that add character and give significance to their hometown.
South Side area buildings and details
Contents

Mrs. Baumann’s Seventh-Grade Class Group Poem 4
Miss Kiesel’s Seventh-Grade Class Group Poem 5
Angel Ketter 6
Lamar Thomas 7
Kara Yanosick 8
Ashleigh Weeks 9
William Faulkner 10
Rhonda Young 11
Allen Poston 12
Megan Dees 13
Lia Madeja 14
Julionna Eleam 15
Mike Wolfe 16
Bernard Williams 17
Chelsey Martin 18
Mrs. Baumann 19
Rob Matchett 20
Candice Bigos 21
Jeffrey Grentz 22
Tom Hagan 23
Nicole Murin 24
Zachary Owens 25
Julie O’Keefe 26
Robert Duttine 27
Reese Kichi 28
Samantha Ruszecki 29
Carlin Gale 30
Matthew Huston 31
Miss Kiesel 32
**The South Side Market House**

I am the market house and I have an arched entrance.
My arched entrance greets people.
I have a bunch of red bricks on my walls.
The stone on my foundation is as sturdy as brick.

I, the big, bright building, am bigger than a tree.
I am taller than trees and as red as fire.

I am the big, beautiful building with fragile glass windows.
In the center of me there are five long and thin windows.
The sun shines through my curved windows.
I have many big, beautiful windows that are like eyes seeing the South Side.

A cartouche is on the forehead of my flat building face.
The bull’s head is known to be a market where everything is for sale.
My horns beckon all to buy.

My market place was a wonderful space
Filled with all sorts of food—but now there’s no trace,
For I’m a community center where people come to play bingo, floor hockey, and have fun.

Arlington School, Mrs. Baumann's Seventh-Grade Class
January 9, 2006
*The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks*
The Tenth Street Bridge

I swing in the wind like a monkey in a tree.  
I’m sky high like a wild bird.  
I am as cool as a river!  
The flowing river roars under me as I let people pass over my shoulders.  
I love it, even though the waves feel like rolling boulders.  
The wet water is swaying to and fro on my stone feet.  

My pillars are connecting like two friends.  
My steel is as yellow as an old sick fellow.  
My deck is as gray as my grandma’s hair.  
Cars go driving as fast as they can go, or they drive over me very slow  
Cars rumble across me like a stampede.  
The people walking on me are tickling my sides.  

The graceful wind howls in the dark night and vibrates my cables.  
My cables are as golden as a ladle.  
I am painted golden like the dome on St. John’s Church.  
My entrance is like the gateway to heaven.  

Arlington School, Miss Kiesel’s Seventh-Grade Class  
January 12, 2006  
The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks  

The Tenth Street Bridge and South Side Slopes  
Photo by Jim Judkis
I am like glue because I hold the building together so it will not fall.
I am the star on the front of the building.
I give the people inside the power to do what they do!
Whenever the sun shines on me, I have a shadow.

Angel Ketter
On Sunday, I go to the St. Joseph Church.
The arched entrance welcomes me in, like it is my family,
But only on Sundays.
My arch is as strong as people who survive war.
That’s why I like St. Joseph Church so much.

Lamar Thomas
I am a stained glass window looking above the town.  
There is wooden tracery that divides my window decoratively.  
I am a window made in the early 1900s.  
As you walk by me, look at my big, beautiful colors and shapes.

Kara Yanosick
I am a clock, taller than a telephone pole.
I tick and tock, and without me
you would not know the time.
I am in a place where four neighborhoods meet,
kind of like the Pittsburgh Point.
And, I have four faces too.
For as old as I am, I’ve only had to get new hands
on one of my four
twenty-foot-high faces.

Ashleigh Weeks
Mrs. Baumann’s Seventh-Grade Class

I am a building who serves a purpose
to my community of people
who come to meet here.
On my surface, I have bright red bricks.
Behind my walls are people who care.

William Faulkner
I am made of iron in a pretty style.
When you pass me you will smile.
I am like a nail because I hold up buildings so they don’t fall.
And I have lots of bricks to make up a wall.

Rhonda Young
I have seen many people, tall and small.
The children play on the sidewalk across the street.
I am as old as your grandparents.
My sign says my name.
My windows show tools and supplies that help you get by.

Allen Poston
I am a building that is like a giant,  
towering over the people and cars. 
Years ago, I used to be another building,  
but then that building burned down. 
So now I am a big, beautiful building that is red,  
which reminds me of my favorite thing which is FIRE!

Megan Dees
My windows sit and let the sun glare through.
But who could see my beauty from the red and the blue?
The paint may chip but I stand so new,
And when you come up in me, you will see the view.

Lia Madeja
I am like an anchor that holds a ship in place.
I keep the building young and strong.
I lie on two hard bricks and get tan in the sun.
I am dull and gray like an old horse that can’t run.

Julionna Eleam
I am a Hardware store,
And I prepare people for their jobs.
When they walk through my door,
I greet them more and more.
My beautiful, opaque peach-color
Is like a wonderful sunset.

Mike Wolfe
I am tall like a tree.
I have a sheet of concrete at my feet.
I see people getting off of the bus.
They head right, they head left,
And they are always in a rush.

Bernard Williams
I am an anchor plate.
I am the heart and the strength of the building.
I am as strong as a bull.
If I were not here, this building would fall.

Chelsey Martin
My walls echo with the sounds of the past.
The people rush by, always moving fast.
Packages, parcels, umbrellas, and such.
Who knew one building could mean so much!

Mrs. Baumann
**Equitable Gas Clock**

I am a clock as tall as the sky,
Who always sees people walking by.
I am made of steel and never need to heal.
People look to see the time as the bells chime.
I light up as blue as the sky,
I also see the river move by and by.
At night, as I still stand high in the sky
People say “Bye.”

Rob Matchett
I am St. Joseph.
I watch over Bishop Leonard School.
Every day I see people passing by.
I am sad they never stop to say “Hi.”
One day I will say “Hi.”
But for now,
I am just like a bird high in the sky.

Candice Bigos
I am a bull.
I am on the old Market House of South Side.
I'm high like a kite in the sky,
So I can guide the people into the recreation center.
My plaque talks about a fire that burned me,
And that is something that I'll never forget.

Jeffrey Grentz
I am the Market House.
I survived a fire.
People walk past me and admire.
People walk past and call me a liar
    for saying I survived a fire
    because I look so good
    and I’m in the South Side hood.
You should really walk past me if you could.
If you don’t want to, Oh well,
But I would!

Tom Hagan
Miss Kiesel’s Seventh-Grade Class

I am the Victorian building
    on East Carson Street.
I am very tall
    and can see all.
I feel the wind
    going through my golden brick
    of egg and dart patterns.
When I see a man walking by,
I kindly say “Hi.”

Nicole Murin
I am gray and dark,
But way more beautiful than bark.
I am pretty,
But that isn’t all:
I make sure this building doesn’t fall.
I watch people walk,
As I gaze upon.
All I can do is wonder,
‘Cause I’m stuck on this wall
—What a blunder!

Zachary Owens
Little House on the Hill

I am the house on the left,
With all kinds of different clefts.
I am made out of wood and brick,
Not stick.
I am on a hill,
With all my friends built beside me still.
I need a key to open me.
As birds soar by, I would say “Hi,"
But I can’t fly.
I stand on a hill on Arlington Avenue,
By the South Side Slopes.
One day I will fly as I hope.
I have a uniform design,
And all sorts of shadows and lines,
With vines going down my sides.

Julie O’Keefe
I'm a perogie-making church full of people,
And I have domes instead of a steeple.
I have four gold crosses that shine in the sky,
And every time a guy walks by
He says “Hi”
And I say “Bye.”
My bells ring all the time
And the gold plates on me shine.

Robert Duttine
I'm in the shape of a star.
I'm beautiful by far.
I'm a terra-cotta medallion,
With a brick surrounding.
I'm made of hard, baked clay.
I'm up here night and day.
I wish I could fly,
So I could be with the other stars in the sky.

Reese Kichi
I am a shield as strong as can be,
With three eagles over the City I can see.
My color is bluish gray,
And I'm up here night and day.
The checkerboard represents Pitt,
And above me my castle sits.

Samantha Ruszecki
Drawings of the Tenth Street Bridge, by Carlin Gale.
I am the clock tower,
And I'm as tall as my grandma's house.
I have four clocks all over me.
They have the right time for all to see.
It says 9:15...
Can that be?

Matthew Huston
Busy As Bees

The harder we worked, the sweeter the rewards.
We worked our wings off to prove that point.
We’ve helped lots of people for years and years
Finding housing and work, made a good business here.
Today we’re retired to a brick wall on Fifteenth,
We’re tired from helping more people than you’d ever think.

Miss Kiesel
More Programs Featuring
South Side History & Architecture

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation offers the following educational programs to South Side schools, community groups, and the public through the Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program.

Website—check it out!
www.spotlightonmainstreet.com

Field Trips
• Eye Spy on the South Side
• LTV/South Side Works Tour: Our Changing Community
• Pittsburgh Voyager: Seeing South Side from the Monongahela
• The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks
• South Side History & Architecture Days
• South Side School and Neighborhood Explorations
• South Side Silk Screens at the Andy Warhol
• East Carson Street Scavenger Hunt

In-School Resources
• South Side Back Then and Now Artifact Kit
• South Side Fact Sheets
• Career Awareness Programs

South Side Strolls
• Summer walking tours, every Saturday; free for everyone!

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these educational programs or participate in any of these programs, call 412-471-5808, ext. 537, or email: maryann@phlf.org.
SOUTH SIDE BUILDING PRIDE
Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program
YEAR 9
Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, PNC Bank, South Side Local Development Company, and the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

For further information about the Neighborhood Assistance Program, contact the South Side Local Development Company by calling 412-481-0651 or visit: www.southsidepgh.com

Thank you DCED, PNC, and SSLDC for your funding support that makes these programs possible.

—South Side Area Students

PNC Bank
1736 East Carson Street