

The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks

A collection of sketches and poems by
Seventh-grade students from Bishop Leonard Catholic School



A detail of Douglas Cooper's mural in the University Center at Carnegie Mellon University.



An educational program offered by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation through the South Side Local Development Company's Neighborhood Assistance Program/Comprehensive Service Program, sponsored by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and PNC Bank.



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.

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*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 December morning in 2005 where students:

- Saw Douglas Cooper's 200-foot-long, 10-foot-high mural of Pittsburgh. The mural includes illustrations of many historical 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 "cable," "golden," or "steel") to write one sentence about the South Side landmark they sketched. Then, all the sentences were arranged in a "group poem" and published in this booklet on page 5.

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 a 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 also.

"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.



Rotunda, University Center, CMU

South Side area buildings and details



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The Tenth Street Bridge and South Side Slopes

Photo by Jim Judkis

The Tenth Street Bridge

I am the beautiful bridge that shines in the bright golden sun.
I am high up in the sky like a cloud!
I'm a gateway to the many nationalities of Pittsburgh.
I overlook South Side just as if I were a big mountain.

I am the bright yellow bridge that shines like the golden sun.
There's more color to the bridge than just yellow:
there are the colors of the cars and people, too.
As you're driving past my cables, look through and you'll sight many heights.

Cascading cables carry the colossal weight of many cars.
You can hear the melody of my cables while you are walking across me.
My cables swing through the crisp, brisk air just like waving hair.

I am a bridge, standing over the water like a giant.
I, the wide, glorious bridge, look down on the river, watching over the people.
The water flows beautifully under my deck.
My deck stretches like a band from one side to the other so people can get from place to place.

I am the big, black road where cars flow.
I see the cars all different colors rumbling past me.
As cars come and go from the hillside, they use me to come and go from the South Side.
Gracefully I stand, connecting land to land, so cars and people flow just like the river below.

I am a bridge that is above the river. I won't go in because I'll get too cold and shiver.
I am a giant yellow strong bridge, strong as steel can be.
I, the big steel bridge, am like a big steel plate.
People say I am very strong, but others say I won't last very long!...

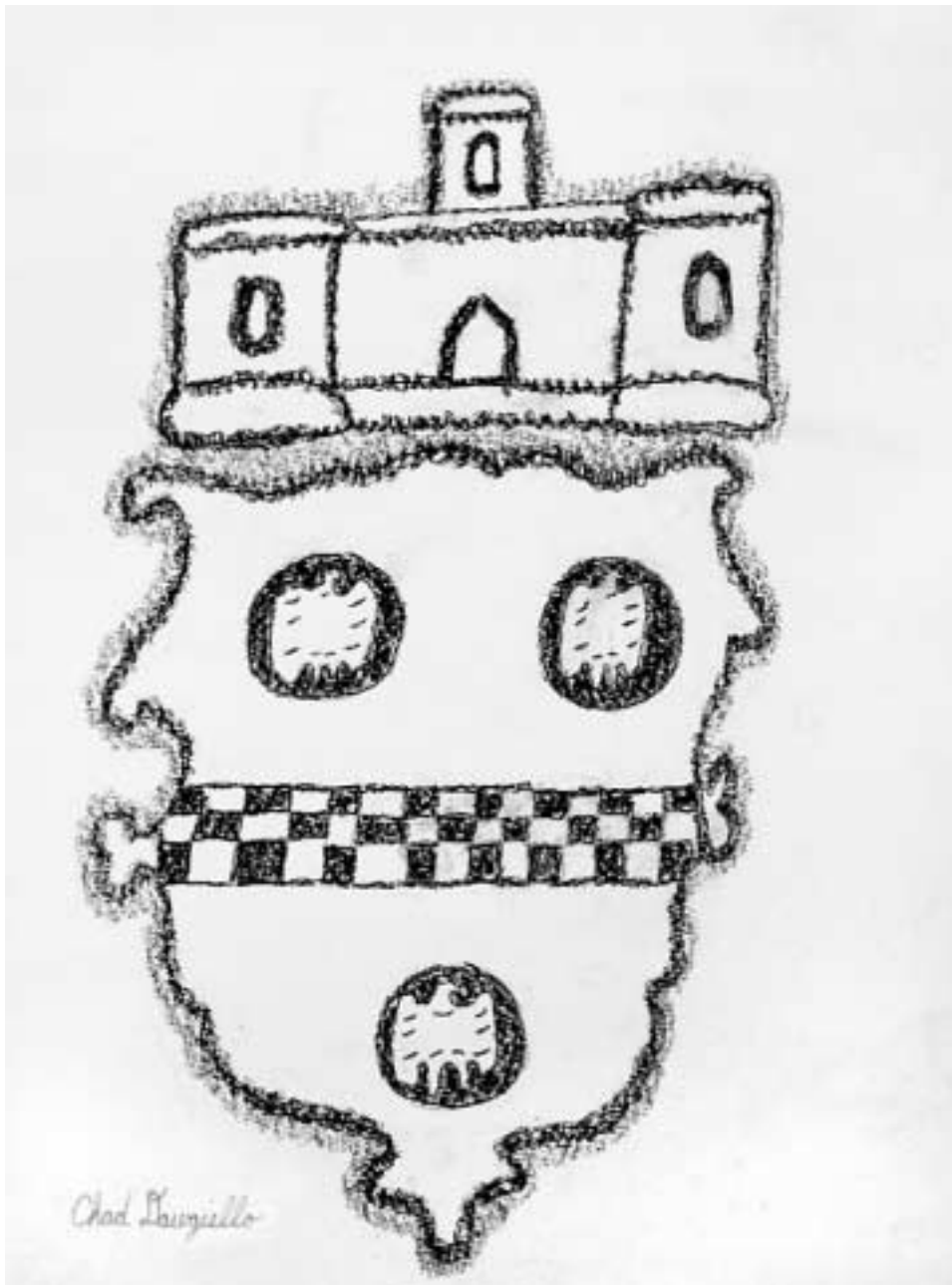
...I hope they're wrong!

Bishop Leonard Catholic School, Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class
December 16, 2005
The Poetry and Art of South Side Landmarks

Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

My castle represents the city,
Which sometimes can be dirty and gritty.
My checkerboard pattern represents William Pitt,
Our city was named for him — Oh yeah, that's it!
My three eagles are black and gold,
With all the symbols they are really bold.

Chad Dawgiello



I am black and white and gold.
I am a landmark that is very old.
My eight domes are very high.
My gold one can touch the sky.
I am St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church.
On Carson Street is where I perch.

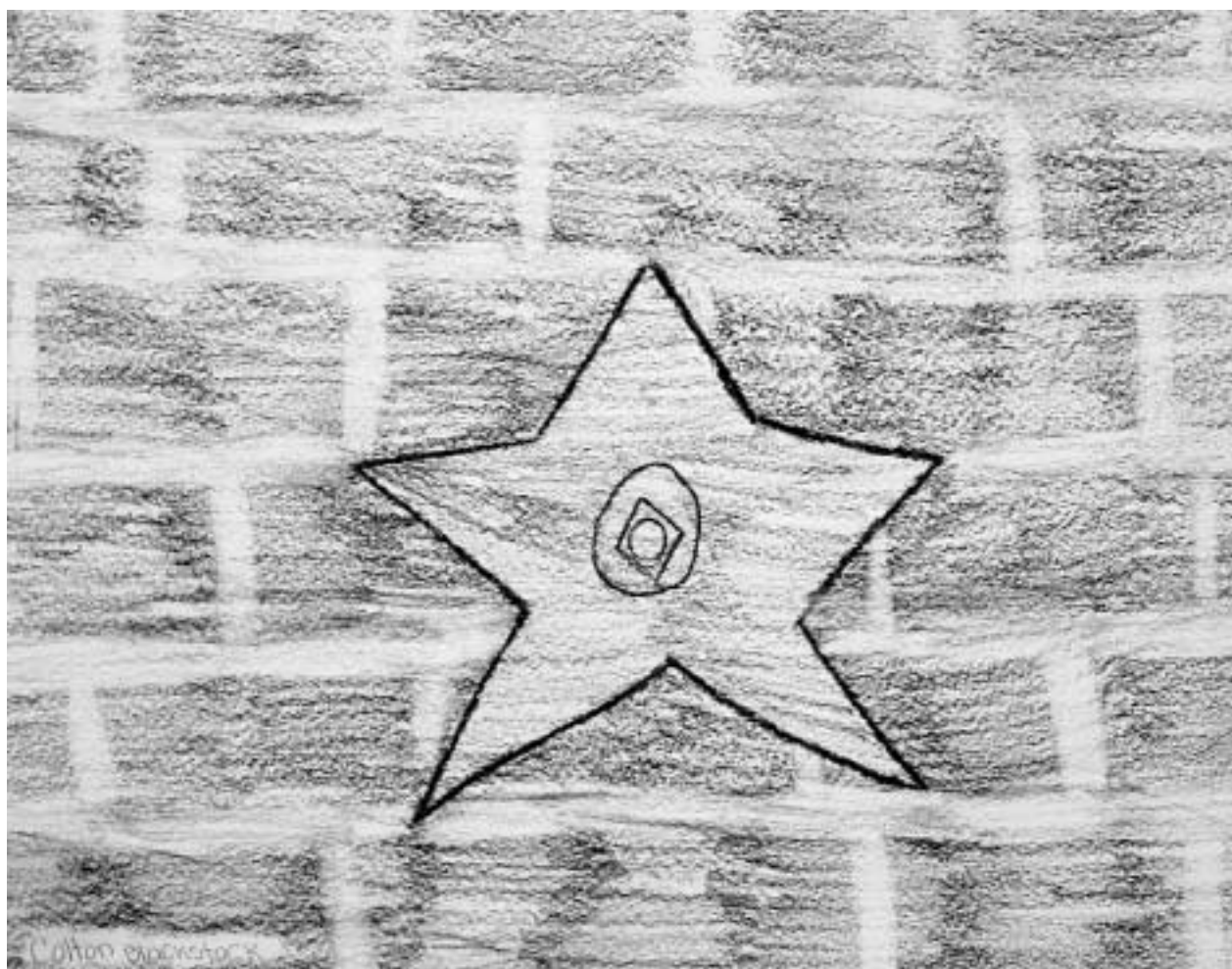
Tyler Troesch



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

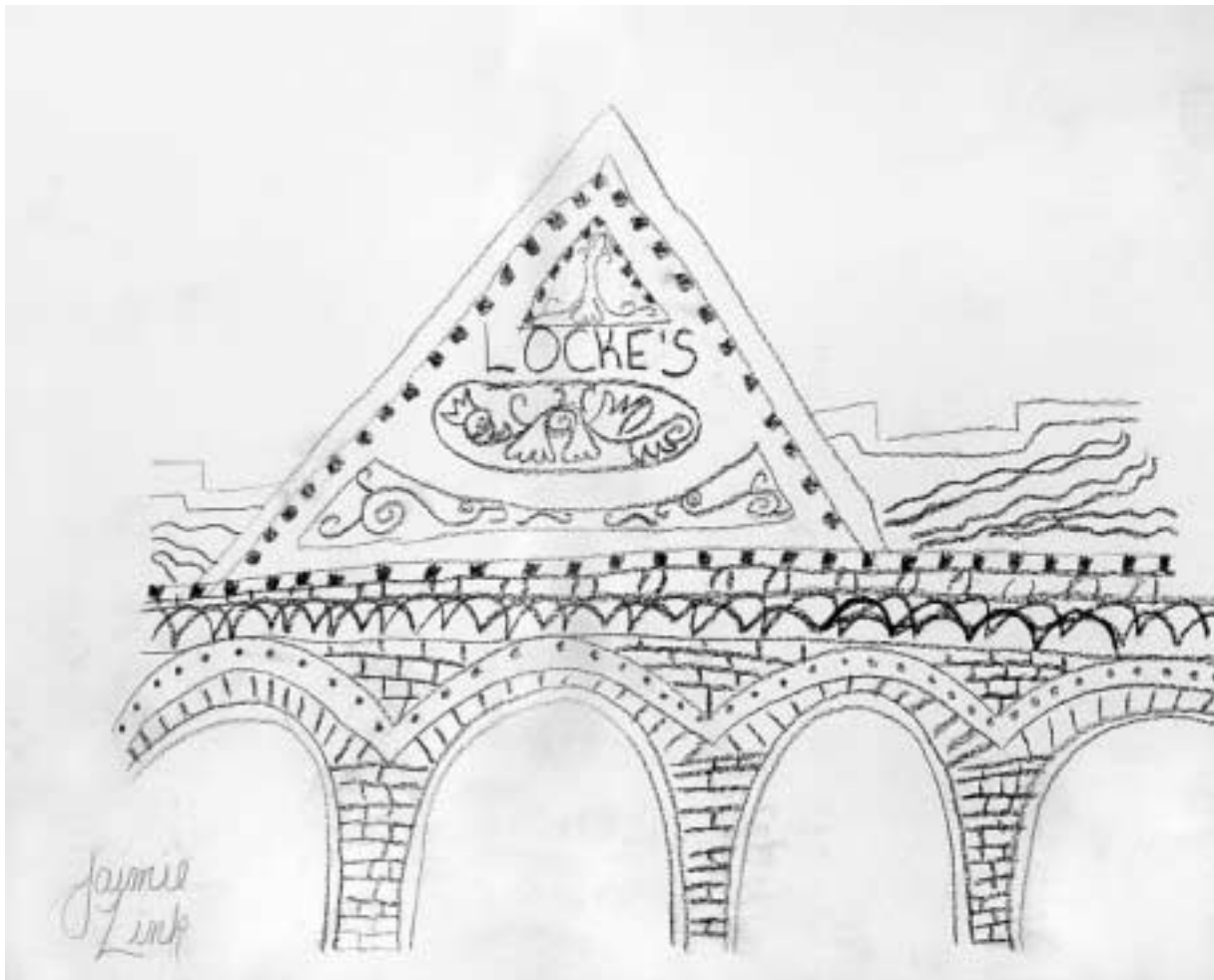
I am a steel rod that holds up a building.
So, if I were not here, the building would be a big dump.
The steel goes from left to right through the floor.
I am the shape of a star that tightens the steel rod
And grips the cement floor.

Colton Blackstock



As you fly by, look at my peaks
As I'm touching the sky.
As for my arches below,
They look like tunnels or raised eyebrows.
I live at 1119 East Carson Street.
I'm sure it's me that you want to meet.

Jaimie Link



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

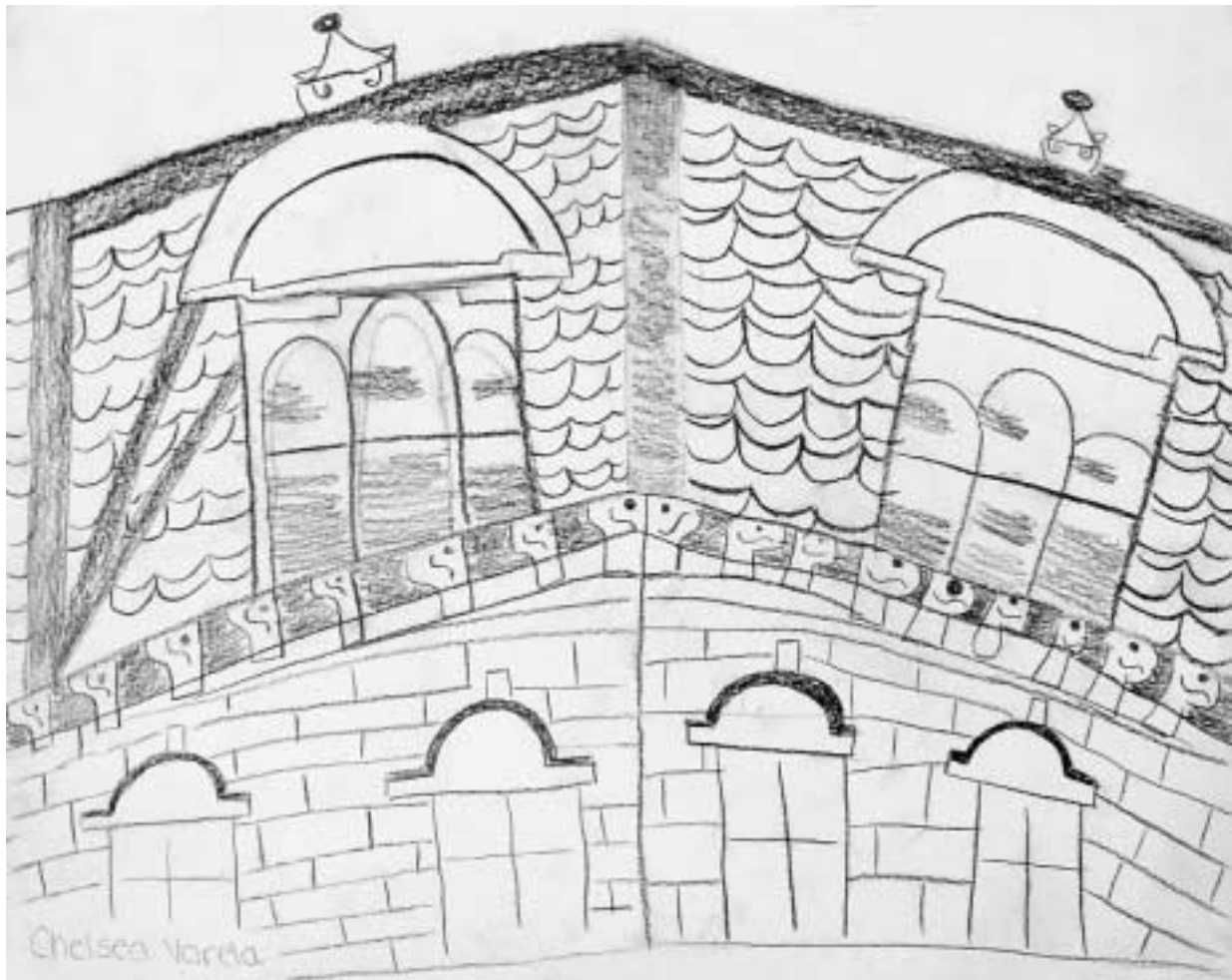
I sit and wait as the children come
To play their sports and games.
I remember when people came and shopped:
That's when I had my fame.

Danielle Greiner



I look out to the streets below,
As if I flew nice and slow.
I am colored in greens and brick.
My fancy windows are really thick.
How beautiful am I
So high in the sky!
Almost like a skyscraper, I am oh so high...
I wonder why!

Chelsea Varela



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

I am a corner building on Brownsville Road.
I have decorative brick and stone.
I have a conical roof that looks like a birthday hat.
I am painted brown and white with a little black.
I have been here for many years,
Watching the people with lots of cheer.

Chelsea Cancilla



Bishop Leonard is where I live,
Welcoming the students in.
For almost 45 years I've been here,
Watching the children play.
I am St. Joseph and this is my name,
Snow or sleet or sun or rain.

Jami Szalla



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

I am 105 years old.
I used to be a public school.
You're looking at my bell tower.
I used to have a lot of power.

Alicia Wehrle



You can read in me, live in me,
Learn in me, study in me, play in me.
And, you can go to school in me.
And, I almost forgot, you can have fun in me.
I am the place to be.

Tim Bevan



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

I am a police building made out of bricks.
I was made in 1924.
I have an emergency sign on my door.
Police have meetings here.
I am honest like a priest,
And police enforce the law in me.

Megan Wagner



I am a peach-colored store, but it doesn't mean
I can't settle the score with the other stores.
My windows are full, unlike those other fools.
I have a new sign, not a little piece of pine.

Tony Cancilla



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

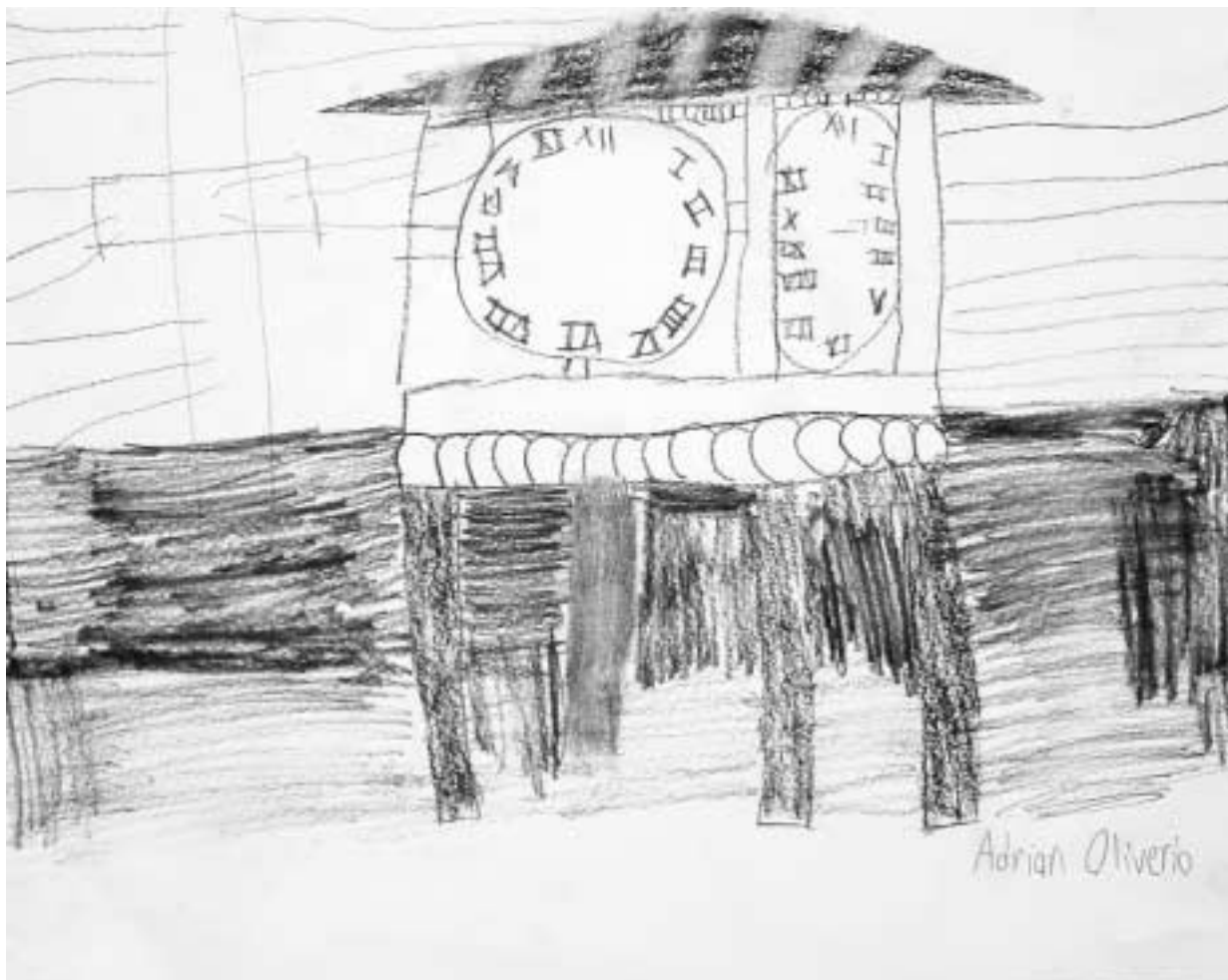
I can see the South Side for many miles.
Buildings linger below me,
And when adults and children look up...
They see me, the clock tower.
I am a giant.
I look at the people scatter all around,
And they look up at me high in the sky.

Molly Ozoskey



The big black clock is like a big black muscle car.
The glare shines off of me like a black car.
I am very old and may fall down.
I hope they do not tear me down,
For I will be as mad as a raging rhino.

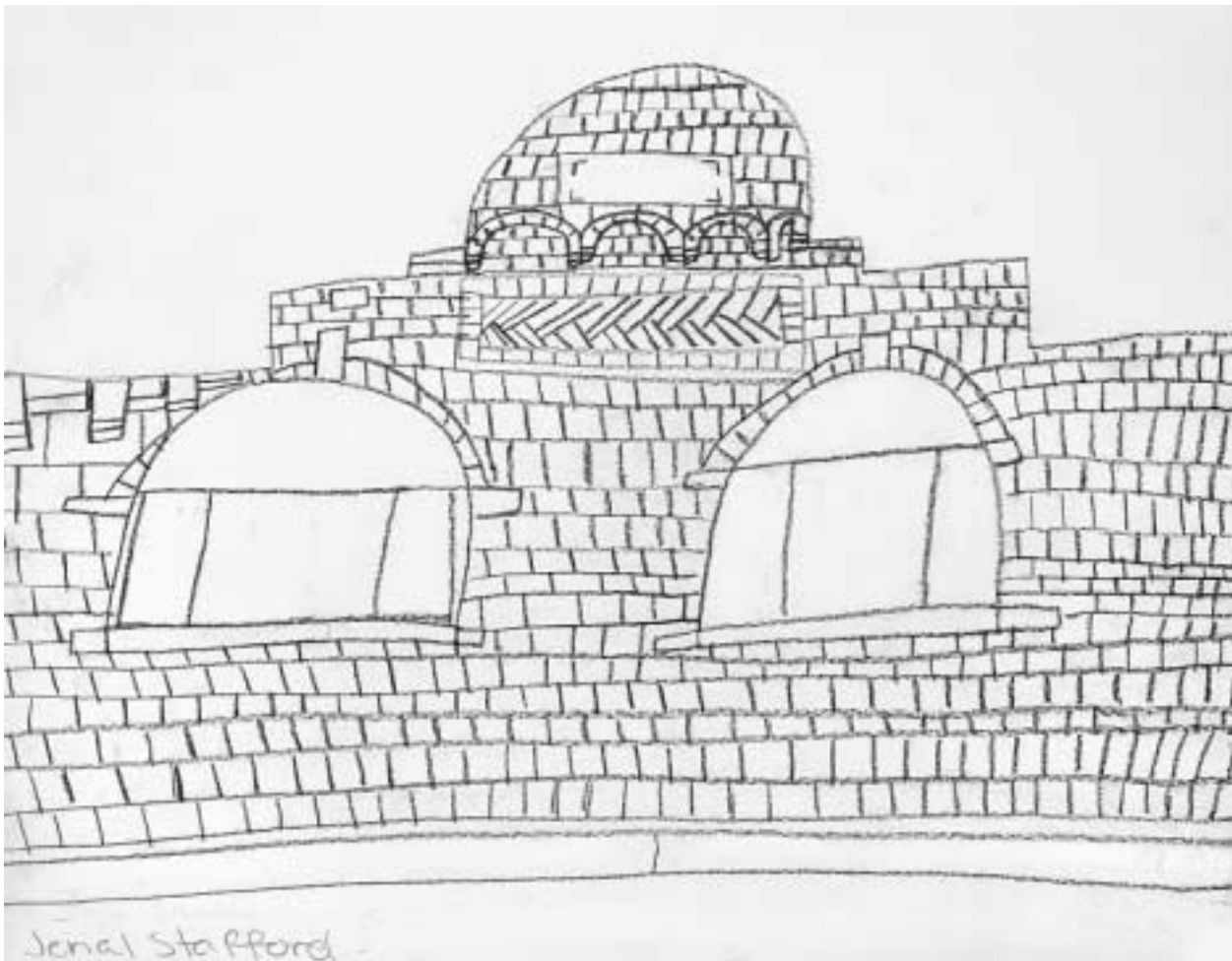
Adrian Oliverio



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

As for my windows, they are made of glass;
I can see through them as people pass.
They look up at me and see a beautiful building just glistening.
Now, as for my arches, they're in many different shapes;
They almost look like curtain drapes.
If you want to come visit me
I live on Arlington Avenue at 2313.
Just come and you'll meet me and see my great beauty.

Jenal Stafford



The sun lights on me, oh so gleam
I burned down and was rebuilt in 1915.
I used to sell goods for the people's needs
Now children run inside of me at their top speeds.

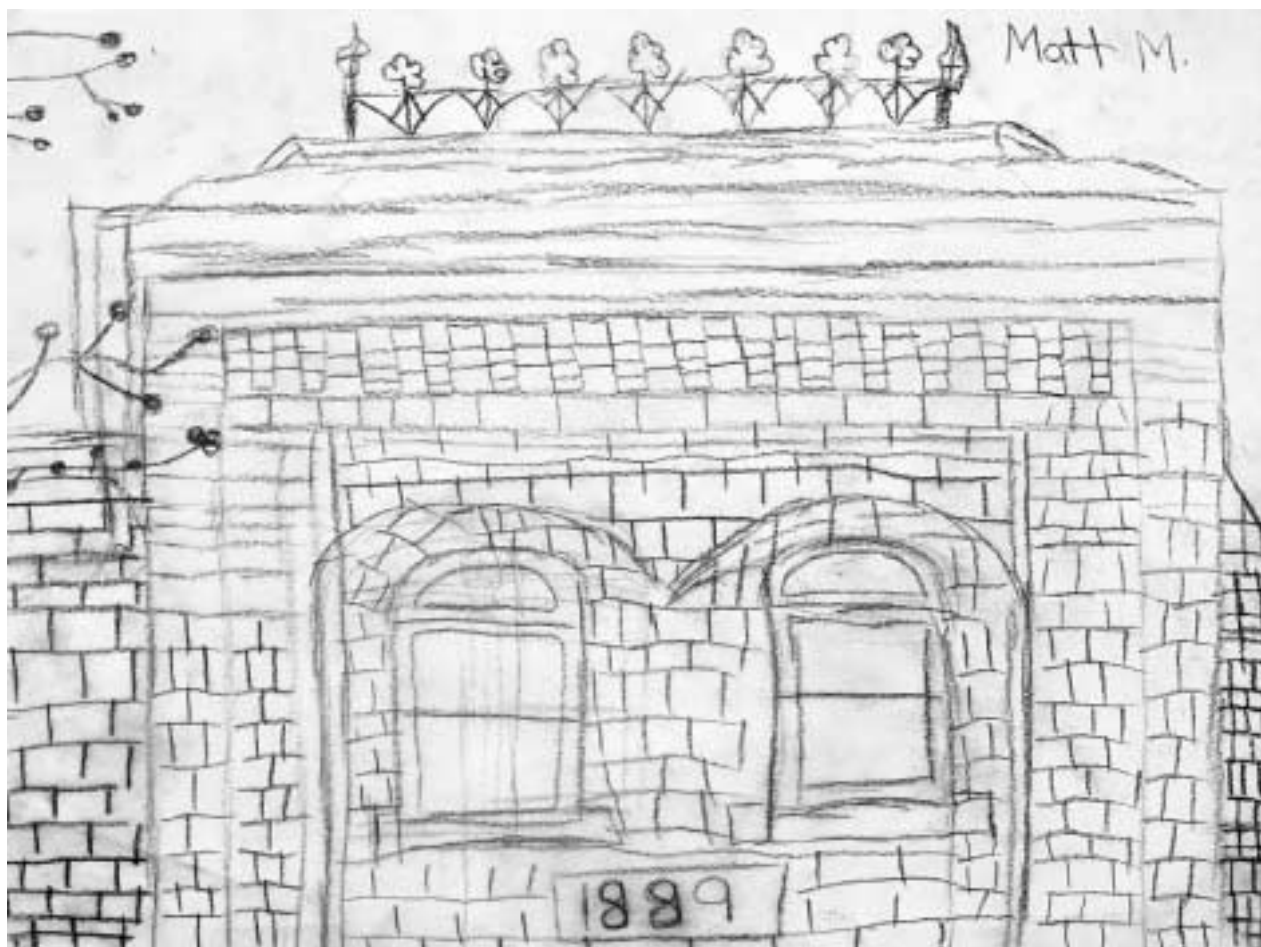
Olivia Tripoli



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

I was built in 1889.
But next to the school, there wasn't a sign.
You can look at my beautiful mansard roof.
Just go try to find it, you'll see the truth.

Matt Marinello



I'm an old arch that hovers.
I stand strong and bold through warmth, rain, snow and cold.
Ewwww!!! I'm growing moss and mold!
And, I'm part of a church that's just been sold.

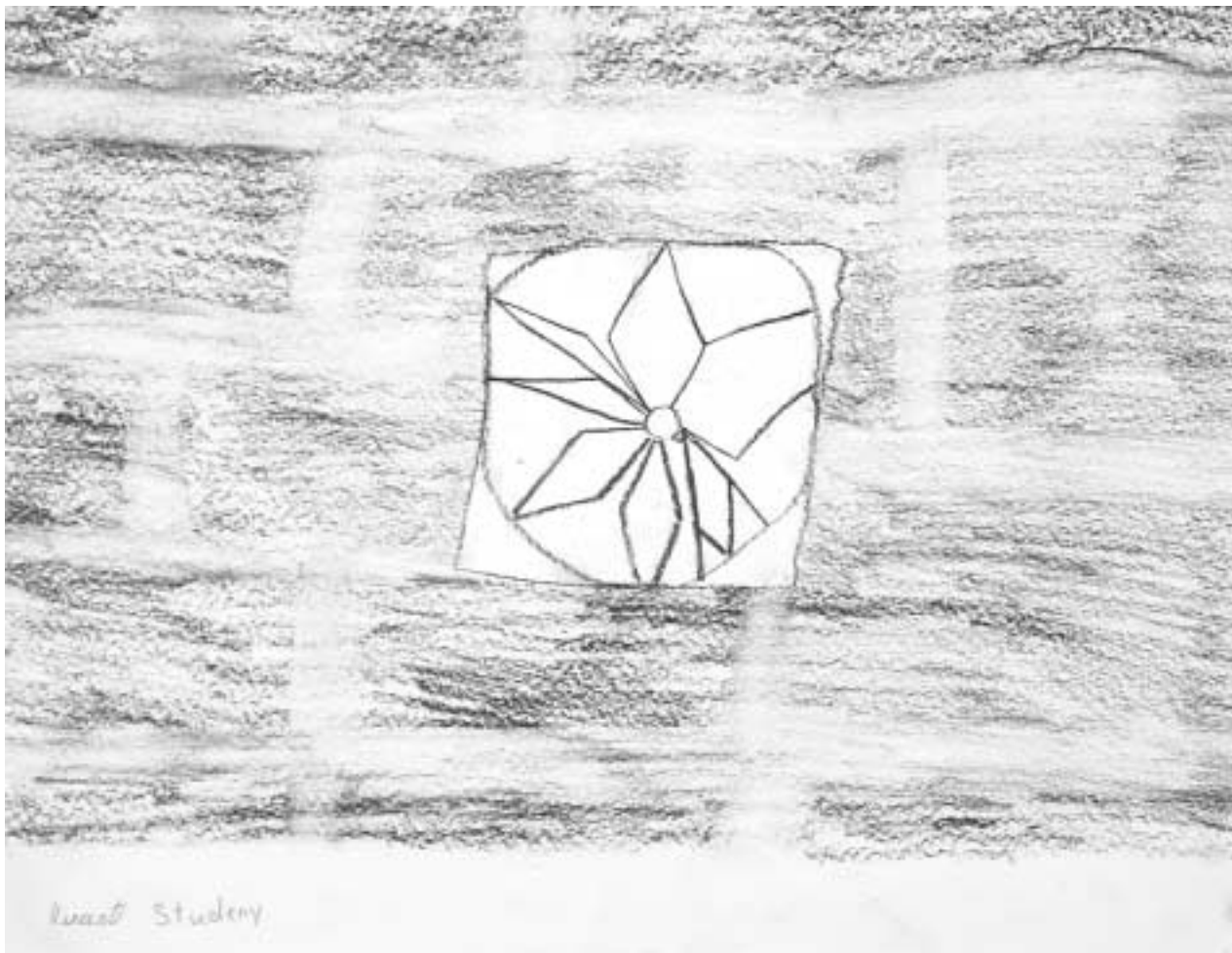
Harley Jozwiak



Mrs. Guzzo's Seventh-Grade Class

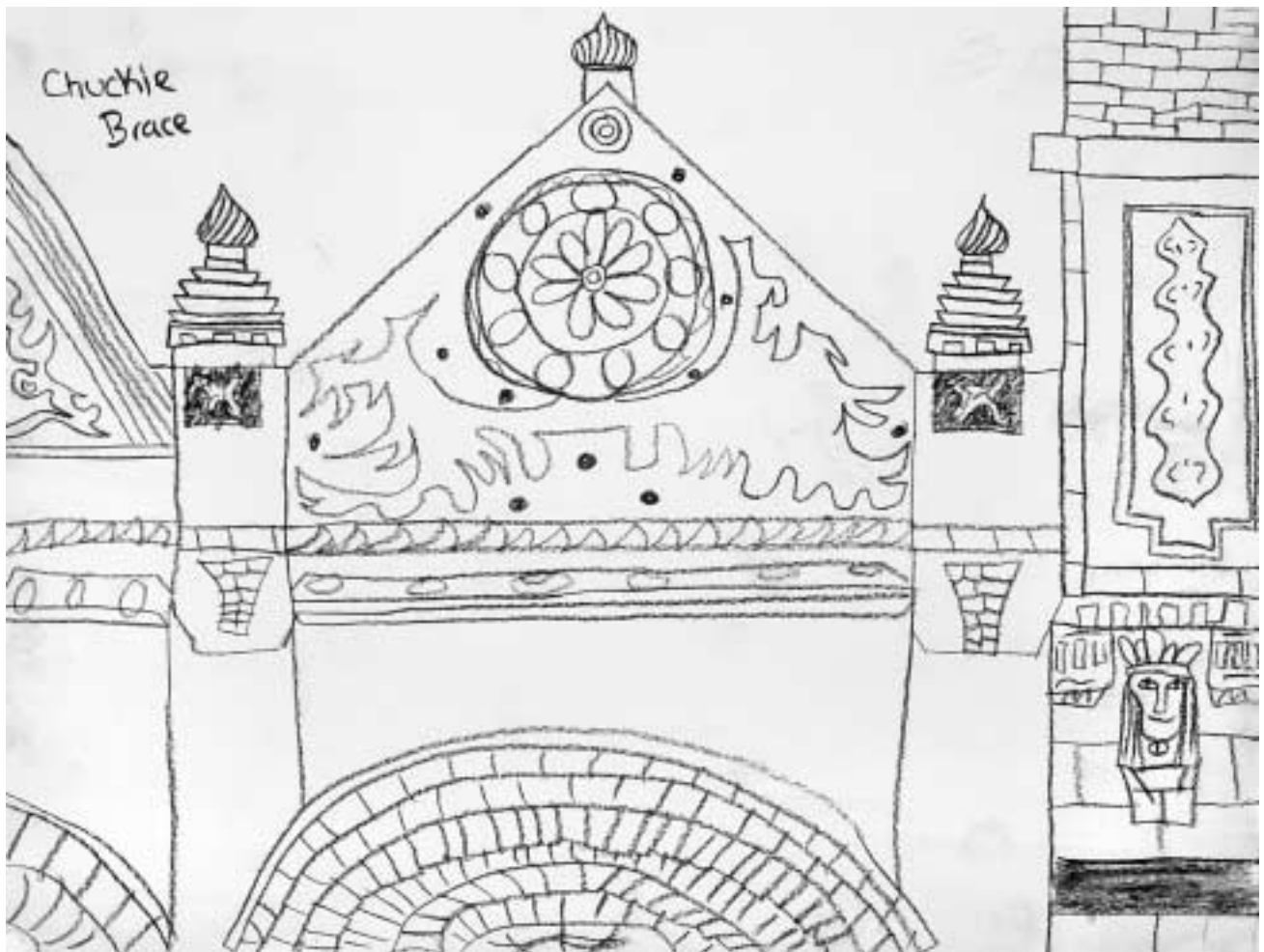
I am a building ornament holding up a wall.
I am a star and I can watch the cars go by.
I am made of clay and I can watch the children play.
At the end of the day I am like the night stars.

Vincent Studeny



People walk through my arches.
They come into me and see inside.
Everyone in South Side knows
I have a lot of pride.

Chuckie Brace



Add another sketch and poem to this book.



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*