



# NEWSLETTER

THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

APRIL 1975, VOL. XIX NO. 2 PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS 1700 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103 • Spiro K. Kostof, President • Editor: Thomas M. Slade, 3901 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 • Assistant Editor: Elisabeth W. Potter, 22927 Edmonds Way, Edmonds, Washington 98020

## SAH NOTICES

**1975 Annual Meeting, Boston (April 23-28).** Preregistration for the meeting closed March 31, 1975. The SAH registration area in the lobby of the Copley Plaza Hotel will open at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23. If you have not obtained tickets for the SAH dinner (Copley Plaza) on Thursday evening, April 24, and wish to do so, these will only be available Wednesday afternoon. All persons who have preregistered by mail may also obtain their kits beginning Wednesday afternoon, April 23.

**1976 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (May 19-24).** Marian C. Donnelly, general chairman; Charles E. Peterson, FAIA, honorary local chairman; and R. Damon Childs, local chairman.

The program is planned as the SAH Bicentennial Annual Meeting, and will be devoted to building in America after the Revolutionary period. Sessions are being organized on the following topics: a general session, chaired by Osmund Overby of the University of Missouri (1118 W. Rollins Rd., Columbia, Mo. 65201); the preservation of American buildings since 1776, chaired by James M. Fitch of Columbia University (232 E. 5th St., New York, N.Y. 10003); the development of American industrial architecture, chaired by Theodore A. Sande of Williams College (Stetson Court, Williamstown, Mass. 01267); exposition architecture, chaired by Titus M. Karlowicz of Western Illinois University (815 W. Chase St., Macomb, Ill. 61455); *Major Developments in American Architecture in 1876*, chaired by Marion D. Ross (Chairman, Dept. of Art History, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403); *Architecture in America: 1976*, chaired by Stanford Anderson (Dept. of Architecture, Rm. 4-209, MIT, Cambridge, Mass. 02139); *Frontier and Vernacular Architecture*, chaired by Henry H. Glassie III of Indiana University (748 S. Morton St., Bloomington, Ind. 47401); *Urban Planning in America Since 1776*, chaired by Edmund N. Bacon of the University of Pennsylvania (2117 Locust St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103); and a session on Philadelphia architecture, chaired by Margaret B. Tinkcom (Alden Park Manor, 702B, Philadelphia, Pa. 19144). Those wishing to participate in the program should submit abstracts of no more than 250 words to the chairman of the appropriate session or to the general chairman of the meeting (Marian C. Donnelly, 2175 Olive St., Eugene, Oregon 97405) before September 1, 1975. (The special chapters of the Society, Decorative Arts and Landscape Architecture and the

Allied Arts, will each meet for the presentation of papers on Saturday morning, May 22, 1976.)

**1977 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles (with College Art Association) - February 2-7.** Adolf K. Placzek, Columbia University, is general chairman of the meeting. David S. Gebhard, University of California, Santa Barbara, will act as local chairman. No general theme is planned for this meeting, but there will be an emphasis on West Coast and Middlewestern architecture, and a session on preservation is projected. Persons interested in submitting papers or in chairing sessions on proposed overall topics should write Adolf K. Placzek, Avery Library, Avery Hall, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027.

**1975 Annual Tour - Annapolis and Southern Maryland (October 1-5).** Jesse Nalle, of Annapolis, is tour chairman. The announcements will reach the SAH membership immediately after May 1, 1975.

**1976 Foreign Tour - Malta (June 1-17).** Richard England will act as chairman of the tour. Announcements will reach the SAH membership immediately after September 1, 1975.

**SAH Placement Service Bulletin (No. 2, April 1975)** is enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*. The next *Bulletin* will appear with the August 1975 issue of the *Newsletter*; position-available listings and member-applicant listings for the *Bulletin* should reach the SAH central office no later than July 15, 1975.

**Decorative Arts Chapter, SAH.** A meeting of the Chapter will be held on April 23 at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, at 2:30 p.m. A short business meeting will be held first, followed by a program organized by Jonathan L. Fairbanks, Curator of American Decorative Arts, Ann Farnham and Wendy Cooper. The program will include a viewing of a short film recording the restoration of a damaged piece of 18th-century furniture, followed by a discussion of the problems of furniture conservation. The program will conclude with a special tour of the Museum's major Bicentennial exhibition, "Paul Revere's Boston," organized by Ms. Cooper. (This second meeting of the Chapter is open to members of the Chapter and to those registered for the Annual Meeting.) For information on membership in the Chapter, write David A. Hanks, Curator, Department of American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The Parkway at 26th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101.



## ORGANIZATIONS

**The Dunlap Society.** Named after William Dunlap, the first historian to take pride in and pay serious attention to American art, the Society was recently formed out of concern for the neglect of studies in American art and the lack of research and visual materials in the field. Bates Lowry, SAH, is president of the Society, Joshua C. Taylor, vice president and chairman of an initial Advisory Council, Alan M. Fein, treasurer, and Elisabeth B. MacDougall, SAH, secretary. Among SAH members on the Advisory Council are Abbott L. Cummings, Antoinette F. Downing, William H. Jordy and Charles van Ravenswaay. The Society's first project, funded by a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, is entitled "Visual Documentation of American Art: The Nation's Capital." It will develop a complete visual record of a select number of major buildings. Other goals of the Society include encouraging the introduction of American art into the high school curriculum. Inquiries concerning the Nation's Capital project and other programs of The Dunlap Society may be addressed to Bates Lowry, Department of Visual Arts, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Mass. 02125.

## NEWS OF MEMBERS

MARCIA ALLENTUCK will give a series of lectures at the Tate Gallery, London, in connection with the Fuseli exhibition. The lectures will deal with Fuseli as artist and as an art critic . . . ELIZABETH R. AMADON has been appointed Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the State Historic Preservation Officer. She is also a participant in the lecture series "New Life for Old Buildings" sponsored by the Continuing Education Program of the Harvard Graduate School of Design from February 4 to May 20, 1975 . . . JAMES BIDDLE and J. CARTER BROWN have been elected honorary members of the American Institute of Architects . . . CHRISTINE BOULDING is Assistant Survey Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission . . . GEORGE R. COLLINS was elected corresponding member of the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Jorge of Barcelona in Spain. He is the founder and Director of the Archive of Catalan Art and Architecture . . . DAVID R. DIBNER was a speaker at the recent conference sponsored by the AIA and the National Organization of Minority Architects . . . MICHAEL W. GOLD has been named Managing Director of the Historic Richmond Foundation in Virginia . . . HANKA GÓRSKA, as a grantee of the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Advisory Council in Museum Programs, will conduct a two-year study of Poland's advanced conservation and restoration methods . . . FREDERICK GUTHEIM has been awarded the Tapiola medallion by the Housing Foundation of Finland. The citation noted that he "has fought hard for the idea that communities should be planned with the basic needs of the human being as the prime objective" . . . JOHN F. HARTRAY, JR. was elected a trustee of the AIA Foundation . . . THOMAS HEINZ has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation . . . EDMUND H. KELLOGG has been appointed a commissioner of the Massachusetts Historical Commission . . . ANATOLE SENKEVITCH, JR. recently lectured on

"Historic Preservation in the Soviet Union" at a meeting sponsored by the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation . . . ANN WEBSTER SMITH was a participant at the fifth annual preservation seminar sponsored by the San Antonio Conservation Society, San Antonio Development Agency and the National Trust for Historic Preservation . . . WILLIAM P. THOMPSON has been appointed a member of ICOMOS/Canada and to the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada. The SSAC was recently founded to promote the study of architecture in Canada. For information write to SSAC, Box 2935, Station D, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5W9.

## OBITUARIES

We regret to note the passing of MRS. HAROLD A. BERGEN, KARL E. HUMPHREY, JR., CHARLES' LAURISTON LIVINGSTON, JR., JULIAN V. THOMPSON, and WILLIAM HEYL THOMPSON.

## SUMMER COURSES

**Preservation Institute: Nantucket.** Professional workshop, July 6-18, 1975. Co-sponsored by the Nantucket Historical Society, University of Florida, National Park Service, National Trust for Historic Preservation and Colonial Williamsburg, this workshop is designed for professionals in any discipline employed by federal, state, or local programs responsible for preservation activities. Tuition is \$300. For information contact F. Blair Reeves, Department of Architecture, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32601. Telephone 904-392-0390.

**Victorian Society Summer School.** The Victorian Societies of Great Britain and America will inaugurate a summer school at Bedford College, London (July 13-August 3) in 1975. The course of lectures, discussions, and tours to historically significant buildings is under the direction of a London committee, J. Mordaunt Crook, Jane Fawcett, and Nikolaus Pevsner, in consultation with Henry-Russell Hitchcock. The cost will be \$585; a few scholarships will be offered. For information, write to VSA, South 6th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

## GRANTS

**National Endowment for the Humanities.** June 2, 1975 is the deadline for Fellowships for Independent Study and Research, 1976-77. Fellowships are intended for scholars, teachers, writers and others, who have completed their formal academic training. The purpose is to provide time for uninterrupted study and research. The tenure is for six or twelve months, with a maximum stipend of \$20,000. For information, write to Division of Fellowships, NEH, 806 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506.



## CHAPTERS

**Chicago.** Members met at the Harrington Institute of Design on January 30 where James Allen Scott presented an illustrated lecture titled "Present at the Birth: Adler and Sullivan's Auditorium." On March 4 the Chapter held a reception and dinner at the Germania Club, which was followed by a lecture on "German Post-War Rebuilding," given by Robert W. Shoemaker. This lecture was based on research conducted while he was guest professor at the University of Cologne last year.

**Latrobe Chapter of Washington.** "Rise of Cast Iron in Philadelphia" was the subject explored by Antoinette Lee in a lecture before the Chapter on February 18. A spring tour to Jefferson County, West Virginia, hosted by W. Howard Adams, is planned.

**New England.** On February 3 the Chapter elected Margaret Henderson Floyd president; Amy E. Cohn, vice president; William L. McQueen, secretary; Richard H. Willis, treasurer; and Abbott Lowell Cummings, Rockwell K. DuMoulin and Naomi Miller, directors.

**New York.** Donald D. Schneider's lecture, "Hittorff's Designs for the Champs-Élysées and the Place de la Concorde," on February 18 emphasized the urbanistic and technological aspects of Hittorff's work in relation to the other major figures of his day. In cooperation with the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, Henry-Russell Hitchcock led a joint trip to Albany, New York on February 22 to attend the exhibition of H. H. Richardson drawings and tour the Capitol building, the Albany City Hall and the Richardson room in the Court of Appeals building. On March 13 William L. MacDonald lectured on "Housing in the Roman Empire."

**Philadelphia.** As of December third Hugh J. McCauley was appointed Preservation Chairman of the Chapter. This meeting, which was held at the Graff Mansion, included a tour of the Aquarium and Waterworks. Henry Magaziner lectured on "Recycling Old Buildings." On February 21 Furness' Fine Arts Building was the appropriate meeting site for Michael J. Brooks' lecture, "Ruskin and the Stones of England."

**Texas.** The annual mid-winter business meeting of the Chapter was held on February 22 in Austin. Held at Gethsemane Church, the highlight of the meeting was a slide show of the Chapter's Roma-Laredo trip, in addition to Roxanne Williamson's slide "tour" of Venezuela.

**Western New York.** On November 26, following the business meeting, the members attended a lecture on "The Theory of Design Beyond the First Machine Age" by Reyner Banham at the School of Architecture and Environmental Design, SUNY at Buffalo.

**Western Reserve.** In November members met at the Metropolitan Campus of Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, which was designed by Outcalt, Guenther and Partners in 1964. Nicholas Langhart, Chapter president, showed some of

the video-tapes on residential styles, skyscrapers, parks and restoration which he had prepared for WKYC-TV as part of its "Knowledge" series. The January meeting, under the joint sponsorship of the Western Reserve Historical Society, featured Akron architect Henry Chambers who described his work with photo-documentation of buildings in the Western Reserve. In March, Gabriel Weisberg, former Cincinnati and now Curator of Art History and Education at the Cleveland Museum of Art, spoke of his efforts to save the Cincinnati Union Terminal.

## QUERIES

**Albany Architects.** Information is sought on the architectural firm of Nichols and Brown, Albany, New York. Active about 1850-1870, churches designed by this firm are dated 1858 and 1868. Contact: Betty M. Morrison, Box 1516, Connecticut College, New London, Conn. 06320.

**Unbuilt America.** On Site Inc. is seeking suggestions or documentation of historical projects which may be entirely theoretical, fantasy, futuristic, or not completed due to lack of funds, committee decision or lost competitions. *Unbuilt America*, an official NEA Bicentennial publication, will present approximately 300 conceptually significant unrealized projects in the combined fields of the environmental arts and architecture proposed in the United States during the past 200 years. Contact Alison Sky, Editor, On Site, Inc., 60 Greene Street, New York, N.Y. 10012.

**Guidebooks.** A catalog of guidebooks and guide materials dealing with the man-made environment pertaining to areas in the United States is a project of John Fondersmith, SAH. Information is sought on guidebooks which cover a specific geographic area, as well as those featuring building types or subjects. Review copies are desired, or send bibliographic information (title, author, publisher, publication city, date of publication, pages, size, price and address where the book may be obtained) and a brief description to John Fondersmith, AIP, P.O. Box 186, Washington, D.C. 20044.

**Frank Lloyd Wright.** The recently established Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation is seeking information on all those people who worked at the Studio, their descendants and relatives, as well as any original photographs of the interior and exterior of the Oak Park structure. Send information to The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, Corner of Chicago and Forest Avenues, Oak Park, Illinois 60302.

## EXHIBITS

**Pilgrim Hall Museum.** "The Architecture of Alexander Parris," honoring the 150th anniversary of the construction of Pilgrim Hall designed and built by Parris in 1824, will be on view through the summer of 1975. Using elevations from his sketchbooks and views of his public buildings, the Pilgrim Society has assembled an exhibit which offers an insight into



the work of one of New England's architects of the early 19th century. Pilgrim Hall Museum, 75 Court Street, Plymouth, Mass. Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday - Saturday.

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Wesleyan Landmarks Board Sets Standard for Regulation of Historic Campus Buildings.** Last year the president of Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut appointed a permanent, 22-member Landmarks Advisory Board to identify campus buildings and sites of historical and architectural importance and to advise the University on ways to preserve them. In appointing faculty, alumni, local citizens and qualified professionals to the board, President Colin Campbell noted: "It is unfortunate that universities, which are the embodiment of scholarship and tradition, are frequently heedless of the historical sites they control. We expect that Wesleyan will be more attentive to its obligations with the help of the Advisory Board, which consists of individuals who have distinguished backgrounds and an abiding interest in historic preservation." The concept is an outgrowth of recommendations made by an earlier *ad hoc* committee. The Advisory Board has begun its survey and has encouraged student research on buildings inventoried thus far. It has also advised on furnishing of the Greek Revival Nathaniel Russell House (1828-1830) designed by Town and Davis. Included on the board are SAH members Henry-Russell Hitchcock, William Jordy, Morrison H. Heckscher, George L. Wrenn III, and Mrs. David B. Findlay, Jr.

Similar steps are being taken on college campuses elsewhere in the nation. Last year in Oregon the State Board of Higher Education reconvened an *ad hoc* advisory committee on historic buildings and called for updated recommendations on

structures which ought to be considered for preservation and restoration in immediate and long range development plans affecting each of the state-supported schools. Deady Hall (1876) and Villard Hall (1885) on the University of Oregon campus, examples of the Second Empire Baroque style by noted pioneer architects, are scheduled for restoration with matching funds under the National Historic Preservation Act.

On the DePauw University campus in Greencastle, Indiana, the East College building (ca. 1877), one of the Midwest's oldest educational structures, is to be restored for continued office, classroom and auditorium use at a cost of more than \$1 million. University President William E. Kerstetter announced plans concerning the three-story French Second Empire building after a vote by DePauw's Board of Trustees. The decision followed nearly three years of study by a campus committee, the director of the physical plant, and an architectural consultant.

Restoration of Crouse College (1888-1889) on the Syracuse University campus in Syracuse, New York was recently completed. Designed by local architect Archimedes Russell in the Romanesque Revival style, the building is the first of seven renovation projects planned by University officials, alumni and friends as a result of an on-going capital fund-raising campaign.

**Bill Offers Bold Approach to Historic Preservation Funding.** If passed, S. 327, a bill introduced to Congress by Senators Henry M. Jackson (Washington) and J. Bennett Johnston (Louisiana), would substantially increase potential for federal funding of historic preservation. Title II of the bill would give the Secretary of the Interior authority to raise the percentage of federal assistance from 50% to 70% of costs of various approved projects. Projects eligible for the 70% grants would be 1) statewide historic preservation plans and surveys, 2) projects to preserve historic properties of national significance, 3) projects to demonstrate methods and techniques of historic



Crouse College (1889), Syracuse University, New York, by Syracuse architect Archimedes Russell. One of a growing number of buildings on the nation's campuses which are being preserved and adapted for today's educational requirements.

Photo: Alina Robaczynska, Syracuse University Photographic Center



preservation, and 4) projects to restore certain historic properties with a view to designating and preserving them for use as meetinghouses in connection with the nation's Bicentennial. The bill also would establish a "National Historic Preservation Fund" and would authorize the fund to be subsidized at a level of \$150 million annually from revenues derived under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act for the fiscal years 1975 through 1979. Monies covered into the fund would be available only upon appropriation but, when appropriated, would remain available without fiscal year limitation. Title I of the bill would amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide funding for acquisition and development of historic properties for recreational use. Containing substantially the same provisions as S. 3839, a bill passed by the Senate in the last session of Congress but not acted upon by the House by the date of adjournment, S. 327 is expected to be passed speedily by the Senate. Awaiting action is a House version of the Senate bill. The House version (H.R. 2763), however, omits the provision for increasing the federal share of project costs above the 50% limitation set by existing law. Preservationists are asked to contact their congressmen to urge passage of the groundbreaking legislation.

**State Preservation Programs to Meet Staffing Requirements.** The National Park Service Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation has warned state governments that unless historic preservation programs comply with new guidelines set by the National Park Service by June 30, 1975, they will no longer be eligible for funding under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. A majority of states risk losing federal aid unless they are able to support a full-time staff of qualified professionals in fields of history, archeology and architecture. Many state historic preservation offices are awaiting legislative action on budget proposals which reflect the new standards on staffing.

**Community Development Block Grants.** The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, which became effective the first of the year, has touched off a campaign by preservation agencies to alert prospective grantees to their responsibility to foster programs aimed at preserving historically and architecturally significant buildings and districts. By consolidating various former HUD grant programs, the Act authorizes eligible local governments to allocate block grants at their own discretion for a broad range of community development activities which may include the acquisition, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic properties. \$8.4 billion is authorized through fiscal year 1977. While the Act provides incentives to historic preservation, preservationists now will have to compete with other community activities for funds made available under the new law rather than apply for monies specifically earmarked by HUD for preservation. Moreover, proposed regulations stipulate that local officials who administer HCDA funds are responsible for complying with the National Environmental Act of 1969, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, and Executive Order 11593 when it appears that historic properties may be affected by a HCDA funded project. HUD officials have been urged to revise environmental regulations so that it is possible to detect and comment upon encroachments at an earlier stage. Copies of the Act and a summary prepared by HUD may be ordered

from the HUD General Information Office, 451 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20410, or from HUD regional offices.

**Training Institute for Historic Property Maintenance.** "Historic Preservation Maintenance for Decision Makers" is the title of a workshop to be held May 4-10, 1975 at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia under joint sponsorship of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service Training Institute. The innovative, one-week course, the first to be offered in maintenance planning, is designed to assist property managers, administrators and others responsible for the ongoing preservation of historic structures. Henry Chambers, AIA, prominent restoration architect, is helping to plan the content of the classes to be conducted at the Stephen Mather Training Center. Tuition of \$160 will cover all course costs and class materials. Thirty scholarships are available, and an additional twenty students not requiring tuition assistance will be accepted. Contact: Brad Chapman, Assistant Director, Training Institute, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425. Telephone: 304-535-6371, Ext. 226.

**National Trust Acquires Drayton Hall Plantation.** Title to Drayton Hall (1738-1742), a Georgian mansion built for John Drayton on the Ashley River near Charleston, South Carolina, was acquired by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from descendants of the builder late last year. The transaction followed a successful fund-raising drive by the Trust and the Historic Charleston Foundation, which jointly held a lease-option on the house and surrounding 632 acres. Widely considered "the finest example of Georgian Palladian architecture in the country," the house is little changed since its construction and is unusual in that plumbing, heating and electric lighting fixtures were never installed in it. The possibility of transferring a majority of the plantation to the state for compatible state park use is being explored. The Trust would continue ownership of the preserved mansion.

**Saved.** The Romanesque Revival Wichita, Kansas City Hall (1889-1892), designed by the Philadelphia firm of Proudfoot and Bird, is to be vacated by the city government and will pass to the Wichita Historical Society for use as a museum. The city has allocated a half-million dollars of capital improvement funds for restoration. It is hoped that the city and county will share in future maintenance costs.

The Greek Revival Berrien County Courthouse (ca. 1840) in Berrien Springs, Michigan was recently restored as a museum by the Berrien County Historical Association. A new state law will enable it to serve also for ceremonial court functions. The temple-like structure was designed by Gilbert Burton Avery.

"The Grange," a mansion built in Haverford Township, Pennsylvania in 1750 for American Revolutionary figure John Ross, and later remodeled in the English Gothic style, has been saved from the auctioneer's block by the concerted efforts of the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners and citizens' groups who raised funds toward the purchase price. Forested areas in the ten-acre tract surrounding the landmark are considered equally valuable. The Citizens Committee to Save The Grange is continuing fund raising activities and advising the township commissioners on appropriate uses for the property.



**Destroyed.** Fire destroyed the Church of the Redeemer for Seamen of the Port of Philadelphia, built at Front and Queen Streets in 1878. The one-and-a-half story brownstone and brick building was designed by Frank Furness. Arson was suspected as the cause of the blaze. The owner had been developing plans to renovate the building for restaurant use.

**Briefs and Follow-up.** Following a recommendation from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation that it not be demolished, the Old Post Office at 12th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington was the subject of a renovation feasibility study released in September 1974 by the National Endowment for the Arts with the cooperation of the General Services Administration. The study proposes a mixture of uses for the Romanesque landmark, including Federal and District governmental offices, meeting space, shops and restaurants, arts and crafts exhibits and public events related to culture and art.

The Willard Hotel (1901-1904) on Pennsylvania Avenue at 14th Street in Washington was similarly the subject of a recent feasibility study responding to official proposals for demolition. The study was sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and published last October. The Oliver T. Carr Company, the development firm which examined seven alternatives for use of the building, has recommended that the eleven-story Beaux Arts landmark designed by Henry T. Hardenburgh, one of the capital's first skyscrapers, be restored for continued hotel use. The recommendation is considered economically feasible in light of the fact that additional downtown hotel space is needed. Although no major structural changes are required, restoration of the now-vacant hotel to its early 1900s decor and installation of new facilities are expected to cost about \$20 million.

Plans to demolish the Fox Theater in Atlanta, Georgia have been suspended by prospective buyers, the Southern Bell Telephone Company, until May 1, 1975 to allow for an acceptable new buyer to take over the contractual purchase agreement and develop a means of preserving the block-square theater. Built in 1929 and designed by the local firm of Marye, Alger and Vinour, the expansive, pseudo-Islamic landmark has a lavish and appropriately eclectic decorative scheme.

Ocean Parkway in Brooklyn was designated a Scenic Landmark by the City of New York Landmarks Preservation Commission early this year. The drive which connects Prospect

Park and Coney Island was designed in 1868 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. In the development of American road design, it is regarded an innovative use of tree-planted malls with walks and bridle paths to separate traffic into carriage ways and access roads.

**International Briefs.** The Venice Committee of the International Fund for Monuments, Inc. reports that under provisions of the Special Law for Venice, the Italian Ministry of Public Works has invested several million dollars in the preparation of detailed engineering plans for defense against further inundation of the city. The measures suggested, which include installing inflatable dams at the inlets to the Lagoon, are currently being studied and debated. It is also reported that a newly created Ministry of Cultural Works will assume from the Ministry of Education the direction of and responsibility for museums, monuments, galleries and works of art and will be in charge of its own budget. Persons interested in membership in the IFM and receiving its illustrated newsletter, which reports on the progress of restorations in Venice, should be in touch with James A. Gray, Executive Director, Venice Committee, International Fund for Monuments, Inc., 15 Gramercy Park, New York, N.Y. 10003.

The oldest synagogue in the western hemisphere, that of the Congregation Mikve Israel on the Dutch island of Curaçao in the Caribbean, is under threat from termites and tropical dampness. Recent examination showed that wooden balcony supports and the tripartite barrel-vaulted roof of the 1732 structure will require restoration expenditures estimated at \$150,000. Contributions will be welcomed by Congregation Mikve Israel, P.O. Box 322, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles.

In urgent need of repair and restoration work to insure its survival is the English Reformed Church (ca. 1400) in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Approximately one-third of the \$115,000 required had been raised by the end of last year. The small stone church with its barrel-vaulted roof and steeple is surrounded by a secluded courtyard and 17th-century houses. The Protestant history of the Church dates from 1578 when the doctrines of the Reformation were accepted in Amsterdam. Regular Presbyterian services are still offered to a small congregation and American tourists. Interested persons may contact J.K.O. Heyligers, Chairman of the Restoration Committee, English Reformed Church, Begijnhof 48, Amsterdam C., Netherlands.

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