SAH NOTICES

1975 Annual Meeting
Boston — April 23-28

SAH Annual Dinner, Copley Plaza, Thursday evening, April 24. Resplendent in full costume, the Collegium Musicum and the Collegium Terpsichore of the New England Conservatory of Music will present a program (with commentary) of dances of the entire Colonial period (16th through 18th century). Persons planning to attend must obtain tickets for the dinner before 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 23d. Therefore, members and their guests are urged to arrange for tickets ($12.50 per person) through the SAH central office when preregistering for the annual meeting, or to write for them if already preregistered.

Additional Exhibition Listings. Boston Public Library: “Bulfinch: New Information, a New Perspective”; and “Ralph Adams Cram and Other Boston Architects.” In connection with the Bulfinch exhibition, a forty-minute slide lecture, followed by refreshments, will be held at the Library on Wednesday evening, April 23, at 8 p.m.

Tours. The Cambridge tour on Saturday afternoon (April 26) will have a second bus (39 persons), led by Arthur Krim (tours 19th-century Dana Hill and Paddy’s Hollow). Robert Neiley will lead a tour of mid-twentieth-century Cambridge.

SAH Reception — Ames Webster House, Saturday, April 26. All guided walking or bus tours on that Saturday afternoon include the reception. The $2.50 reception fee is only for annual meeting participants not signed up for a Saturday guided walking or bus tour.

Marian C. Donnelly, University of Oregon, is general chairman of the Boston meeting; Kenneth J. Conant, Harvard University, emeritus, is honorary local chairman and Abbott L. Cummings, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, is local chairman. The preliminary program, notice of the annual business meeting, preregistration form, and hotel reservation cards were sent to the membership at the end of November 1974. Members (and their guests) are urged to preregister by mail if they plan to attend the annual meeting. Everyone is reminded that reservations must be received by the hotel by April 1, 1975.


1976 Foreign Tour — Denmark (May 26–June 10). Steffen Fisker, Royal Danish Academy of Arts, Copenhagen, is tour chairman.

1975 Annual Tour — Annapolis and Southern Maryland (October 1-5). Jesse Nalle, of Annapolis, will serve as tour chairman. Announcements of the tour will reach the membership immediately after May 1, 1975.

SAH Placement Service Bulletin (No. 1, February 1975) is enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. The next Bulletin will appear with the April 1975 issue of the Newsletter; position-available listings and member-applicant listings for the Bulletin should reach the SAH central office no later than March 15, 1975.
Decorative Arts Chapter, SAH—Organizational Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Yale University Art Gallery on Friday, February 14, 1975 at 3 p.m. Charles F. Montgomery, Curator of the Garvan and Related Collections of American Art, will speak on "The Use and Display of Objects in Museums and Historic Houses." His talk will be followed by discussion and a business meeting, at which time officers of the Chapter will be elected. The steering committee for the newly-recognized Chapter consists of Jonathan L. Fairbanks, David S. Gebhard, David A. Hanks, Henry H. Hawley, Morrison H. Heckscher, Charles F. Montgomery, and Lynn E. Springer.


NEWS OF MEMBERS

STANLEY Abercrombie was named to the Loeb Fellowship program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design... HENRY N. COBB has been appointed Davenport Professor of Architecture for spring term 1975 at Yale University School of Architecture... BRENDAN GILL, Chairman of the Board of the Municipal Art Society and the New York Landmarks Conservancy, presented the first lecture in a series examining the growth of modern design in the United States sponsored by The Architectural League of New York... ROY GRAHAM, Colonial Williamsburg, has been appointed to the AIA Committee on Historic Resources... DELBERT HIGHLANDS has been appointed by Pennsylvania Governor Shapp to a five-man Selection Committee of Architects-Engineers for the General State Authority board... PHILIP JOHNSON is vice-chairman of the Harvard Graduate School of Design Visiting Committee... ROY F. KNIGHT has joined the staff of the Architecture and Environmental Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts... WILLIAM B. O'NEAL, FAIA, has been appointed by the Governor to the Arts Commission of Virginia for a four-year term... Heritage/St. Louis has announced the selection of OSMUND OVERBY as editor of its forthcoming book, Heritage/St. Louis, A Survey of Its Architecture. In addition, James Biddle, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation, has appointed Prof. Overby to its Board of Advisors... JOHN PEARCE has been appointed Historic Sites Survey Administrator, Maryland Historical Trust, and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, State of Maryland... PAUL RUDOLPH received an award from the American Institute of Steel Construction for his design of the First and Second Church, Boston... ARTHUR SCULLY, JR.'s book, James Dakin, Architect, published by Louisiana State University Press, has won awards for design and layout from the American Association of University Presses and the Southern Books Competition... MEREDITH SYKES has been elected president and RUSSELL KEUNE has been elected vice president of the Association for Preservation Technology. SAH members elected to the Board of Directors include ROY GRAHAM, HUGH C. MILLER, THEODORE PRUDON, and JACK WAITE.

CONFERENCES

Concrete Preservation. A symposium on the Restoration of Historic Concrete Structures is scheduled for April 9 and 10, 1975, in Boston, Massachusetts. This symposium is being held as part of the Annual Meeting of the American Concrete Insti-

Tute (ACI), with additional sponsorship by the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), the National Park Service, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The general purpose of the meeting will be to develop an understanding of the problems shared by professionals from the disciplines of architectural preservation and concrete technology. There will be papers on the early development and use of concrete in the United States, and evaluations of the materials and properties of concrete as they relate to restoration. Anyone interested in presenting a study at this session (or anyone willing to share their slides) should contact Lee H. Nelson, AIA, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Critticism and Architecture Conference. May 1-3, 1975, the School of Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Extension will sponsor a conference focusing on a variety of critical modes and methods, including impressionistic criticism (through which the "critic" uses buildings as a basis for constructing his own work of art), interpretive criticism (through which critics provide new points of view), technical criticism (through which building "performance" is measured), and criticism as a method for teaching architecture. In addition to presentations by invited performers and speakers, there will be opportunities for individuals to offer papers, demonstrations, etc. Address proposals and inquiries to: Wayne Attoe, Extension Programs, School of Architecture, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

International Conference on Historic Gardens and Landscapes. A series of workshop sessions on restoration of historic landscapes and gardens is being planned for scholars from Europe and North America, April 16-19, 1975 in Washington, D.C. To be covered during the conference are: "recording and surveying techniques, legal considerations, archeology, visitor use, restoration principles and techniques, case studies, plant materials, and training of professionals." Among the sponsoring institutions are Dumbarton Oaks, the National Trust, the American Horticultural Society, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, the International Fellowship of Landscape Architects, and the American Society of Landscape Architects. For further information, contact: Garden Library, Dumbarton Oaks, 1703 32nd Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

ters." For further information and a brochure, write to William Rasmussen, Department of Art History, 342 Smith Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware 19711.

Universities' Art Association of Canada. The annual meeting will be held this year in Toronto, Ontario, from Wednesday, February 26 to Saturday, March 1, 1975. Requests for information on the program should be addressed to: Eric Cameron, Secretary/Treasurer, U.A.A.C., c/o Department of Fine Art, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1.

MALTA IN 1976 (JUNE 1-17)

Under the chairmanship of Richard England, Malta architect, designer, and author, participants on the 1976 foreign tour will visit sites ranging in time from 3,000 B.C. to the present. These will include Megalithic sites (Hagar-Qim/Mnajdra complex, a Hypogeum, and the Tarxien Temples), Mediaeval and early chapels, the City of Valletta and its fortifications, Mdina, as well as examples of baroque, vernacular and contemporary architecture in the Maltese islands. Several lectures will be given in connection with the tours.

Following their stay in Malta, the tour participants will go to Rome for three days of sightseeing on their own. As has been the practice, a group flight will be arranged for participants from the United States and Canada. Announcements of the tour will reach the SAH membership immediately after September 1, 1975.

COURSES

Old Sturbridge Village. Beginning September 1, 1975, one-year museum internships will be offered by Old Sturbridge Village, an outdoor history museum of rural New England during the fifty years after the American Revolution. Each intern will be awarded a museum training stipend of $583 each month for twelve months, plus a $500 travel and expense allowance. In addition to sharing in the ongoing work of the professional staff and collaborating in the planning of the internship year,
each intern will design and complete an individual project. The deadline for applications, transcripts and letters of recommendation is February 15. Contact Barnes Riznik, Coordinator, Museum Internships, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts 01566. Tel. 617-347-3362.

Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum. The Summer Institute of the Museum and the University of Delaware will be held from July 27 to August 15, 1975. Entitled “Introduction to the Decorative Arts in America,” this three-week course offered for graduate credit is intended for museum professionals, historical society curators, college and university professors teaching American culture, arts and history, and advanced graduate students in those fields. Approximately fifteen openings are available. A limited number of scholarships may be awarded upon demonstration of need. For application forms and further information write: Winterthur Summer Institute, Education Division, Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, Delaware 19735. Applications are due April 1; acceptances will be announced by April 15, 1975.

Editing Historical Documents. The National Historical Publications Commission and the Center for Textual and Editorial Studies in Humanistic Sources, University of Virginia, will sponsor the fourth Institute for the Editing of Historical Documents to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia for two weeks in June 1975. The deadline for applications is February 15, 1975, with fellowships to be announced no later than March 15, 1975. For further information and application forms, write the Executive Director, National Historical Publications Commission, National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. 20408.

GRANTS

Dissertation Grants from HUD. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced an experimental program offering grants to support dissertation research on specialized housing and urban problems. Individual grants of up to $10,000—for tuition payments, research costs, stipends, and dependent allowances—will be made to universities in the names of the doctoral candidates. The grantee university will be required to share costs. The closing date for submitting proposals during the coming academic year is March 1, 1975. For further information write: Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Room 410, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. 20410.

Pre-Dissertation Fellowship Program. The Council for European Studies sponsors a Pre-Dissertation Fellowship Program. Its purpose is to enable graduates to spend a period in Europe prior to making final plans for their dissertations, in order to explore the feasibility of dissertation topics and to sharpen research skills. The program places special emphasis on the development of research projects dealing with contemporary Western European topics.

Graduate students, intending to pursue the doctorate, who have completed at least one year of graduate study at an American or Canadian university by June 1975 are eligible. Students with approved dissertation proposals are specifically excluded from this program. The average award is $11,000, and the deadline for application is February 1, 1975. To request application forms write the Council for European Studies, 156 Mervis Hall, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15260.

BOOKS


4


**REPRINTS AND NEW EDITIONS**


**ARTICLES**


CHAPTERS

Chicago. On October 7 the Chapter met at the Fortnightly Club, originally the Lathrop House, designed by McKim, Mead & White, 1892. After a lecture by Don Eckendahl on the history of the Club, Jane Fawcett, MBE, executive secretary of the Victorian Society of England, presented an illustrated talk titled "Queen Victoria’s Tastes." Meeting at the Metropolitan Club on November 26, Bruce Graham, partner of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, spoke on the Sears Tower. Mr. Graham was the partner in charge of the building’s design. The annual “Show and Tell” of members' slides was the theme of the December 12 meeting at Glessner House.

Latrobe Chapter of Washington. “Historic Preservation in the U.S.S.R.” was the theme of the December 4 meeting at Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Institution. Illustrated lectures were presented by members of the joint U.S./U.S.S.R. Working Group on the Enhancement of the Urban Environment. Presentations were made by Russell Mortenson, Ernest A. Connally, F. Ross Holland, William J. Murtagh, Kenneth C. Tapman, Lee H. Nelson, Henry A. Judd, Anatole Senkevitch, Jr., and Russell V. Keune.

Missouri Valley. At the directors' meeting on September 29, vice president Jacqueline Rose Seligson was appointed Chapter preservation officer. A Preservation Correspondents Committee of W. Philip Cotton, Jr., Patricia Holmes, Bernd Foerster and Curtis Besinger was created to assist the preservation officer. The fall meeting of the Chapter was at the campus was the spring and fall weekend retreat of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly and her family. The grounds, which originally contained 2,100 acres, by Frederick Law Olmsted.

New Jersey. “The Architecture of McKim, Mead and White: The Short Hills Casino and ‘Florham’” was the subject of the December 8 meeting. Beginning with a tour of the Short Hills Casino, 1882-83, (now the Racquets Club of Short Hills), the members proceeded to the campus of Fairleigh-Dickinson. Formerly called "Florham," the campus was the spring and fall weekend retreat of Florence Vanderbilt Twombly and her husband, Hamilton McKown Twombly. Built between 1894 and 1897, the building was designed by Stanford White and the grounds, which originally contained 2,100 acres, by Frederick Law Olmsted.

New York. On October 30 Carol Krinsky presented an illustrated lecture on Radio City Music Hall to the Chapter meeting held at The Institute of Fine Arts.

Northern Pacific Coast. The fall meeting of the Chapter was held in Victoria, B.C., October 12. Architect Peter Cotton, coordinator of local arrangements, hosted early arrivals at his 1900 home on Friday evening. On Saturday Earl D. Layman, Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, reported on the 1973 SAH tour of England; David Hanse, Washington State Office of Historic Preservation, spoke on the architectural qualities of the Barbette Battery at Fort Worden, Washington; G. Ellis Burcaw, director of the University of Idaho Museum, discussed the Saxon house as a cultural index of European ethnography; C. Gilman Davis reviewed the history of the Lewis Anderson ranch as an example of Swedish vernacular in Wasco County, Oregon.

During a catered lunch at the Provincial Museum, Martin Segger, University of Victoria, presented the architecture of Victoria as seen by visitors through its history. After lunch, George Radford of the Hallmark Society provided the commentary on a bus tour of Victoria, with particular emphasis on the houses by Samuel McClure. Several brief stops were arranged at historic homes, among them, Craigdarroch Castle, the 1880's home of Robert Dunsmuir. A cocktail hour and dinner at Little Denmark in restored Bastion Square completed the day.

RESEARCH

Delaware. The State of Delaware is restoring its Old State House, built in Dover in 1787 and “Victorianized” in 1873. The architect in charge of the extensive renovation of the building during the Victorian period was James Windrim of Philadelphia. Any of his plans, sketches or drawings for the building would prove most helpful. Information should be forwarded to Joan M. Norton, Historic Site Surveyor, Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware, 19901.

Grain Elevators. James Hamburg is seeking information on the history of construction of grain elevators. Please contact James F. Hamburg, Assistant Professor, Moorhead State College, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.


Wall Coverings. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is currently in the process of updating its booklet, Documented Reproduction Fabrics and Wallpapers. They are interested in knowing about any historic houses or museums in the United States which have bought fabric for restoration purposes within the last decade, and would like to know the names of fabrics used, whether they were special-ordered or bought on the market and from whom. Please direct all replies to Ellen Landau, Assistant Curator, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

Irish Architects. The Irish Georgian Society is compiling a dictionary of Irish architects. Designed to cover architects of Irish birth or who practiced predominantly in Ireland from the 16th century to 1914, the proposed treatment of the entries is based on Colvin’s Biographical Dictionary of English Architects. The most important architects will have entries about...
four pages long, while the least important may have a couple of lines each. Consideration will be given to an appendix giving names and dates only of those not included in the body of the work. The Society needs facts on Irish architects and sources. Contact: Jeanne Sheehy, Coordinator, Stilebaun, Enniskerry, County Wicklow. U.S. financial contributions should be sent to the Irish Georgian Society, Inc., c/o Joseph D. Ryle, 455 East 51st Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

**Dutch Architecture.** The Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, the Gemeente Museum, The Hague, and the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Oerol will present a series of exhibitions, summer 1975, with one common theme, but with each museum treating a specific aspect. The Hague will concentrate on the architecture of H. P. Berlage and Amsterdam will devote itself to the Amsterdam School of Architecture. The Museum Kröller-Müller will focus on the relations that existed between Dutch architecture (Berlage, Amsterdam School, etc.) and American architecture. Information is needed to compile a list of American buildings that bear influences from Dutch architecture (Berlage, Amsterdam School, etc.). Individuals interested in this project should contact Tom van Leeuwen, Stichting, Architectuurmuseum, Droogdak 1a, Amsterdam, Holland.

**EXHIBITS**

**Architectural Photographs.** The Architectural Photographers Association is making available a traveling exhibit of architectural photography consisting of 49 color and black-and-white prints, mounted on 24-inch-square boards. The exhibit is made available on request from the Association at 435 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1717, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

**The Octagon.** "Folk Baroque in Mexico: Mestizo Architecture Through the Centuries" illustrates the transformation of the cosmopolitan style of European Baroque by native craftsmen into a uniquely Mexican tradition. The 106 photographs by Judith Hancock de Sandoval will be on display at The Octagon January 7 through February 23, 1975. Sponsored by the Lilly Foundation and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, the photographs were selected from those made in a survey for the Organization of American States. Judith de Sandoval’s archive of 22,000 photographs, now in the collections of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and the Fogg Museum at Harvard, covers 1500 structures. The Octagon, 1799 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Hours: Closed Mondays; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday; 1-4 p.m., Sunday.

**TOURS**

**Tour of Victorian Architecture in Ireland and Wales.** September 3-20, 1975, from New York back to New York, sponsored by the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society, Inc., which has extended its interests to King George IV’s niece, Queen Victoria! Cost is $1,570, of which $100 is a tax-deductible gift to the Irish Georgian Society, Inc. An extra supplement may be charged if air fares are increased before departure date. Brendan Gill, SAH, and others concerned with Victorian architecture will accompany the group, which will visit Cardiff, Portmeiron, Dublin, and tour Irish 19th-century country houses and castles through arrangements by Desmond Guinness, SAH. Contact Marc Savigny, 49 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708, Telephone: 212-793-4400. Registration limited to 35 people.

**Victorian Society Anglo-American Study Tour.** “The Vernacular Revival and the English Country House, 1820-1920” is the subject of the Tenth Annual Tour from July 18 to July 27, 1975. Beginning with Philip Webb’s Red House and ending with a visit to Harold Falkner’s other worldly estate of Dippenhall near Farnham (begun 1921), the tour will be an intensive study of the development of the vernacular tradition in English architecture during the Victorian and Edwardian periods, and its effects upon the design of the smaller country house. The tour will be based in the Kent, Sussex and Surrey counties. Lecturers, hopefully, will include Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, John Brandon-Jones, William H. Jordy, SAH, Andrew Saint, and Stefan Mathesius, SAH. The basic charge for the tour will be $280, excluding travel costs. Preliminary inquiries should be addressed to: The Executive Secretary, The Victorian Society in America, The Athenaeum, East Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**Preservation Committee.** The SAH Committee on Architectural Preservation met to conduct business in October in Portland, Oregon during the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The membership structure agreed upon earlier was further detailed, and six geographic regions of the United States to be represented on the Committee were delineated. Beginning with the next meeting at the time of the SAH annual meeting in Boston in April, the Committee will be composed as follows: eight regional representatives (six from the USA, one from Canada, one from “elsewhere”); five members-at-large; one member from each of seventeen chapters of the SAH, editor of the SAH Newsletter (ex officio); representatives, one each, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service and the American Institute of Architects; and secretary. Nominations for regional representatives and members-at-large, especially those SAH members with expertise in allied fields such as law, planning and business, are currently being received by Chairman Stephen W. Jacobs. Names of those elected or appointed to represent SAH chapters should be reported as soon as possible. All interested members of SAH are welcome to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Committee at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston on April 24, 1975, 4:30-6 p.m.

**Advisory Council Sets New Directions.** Last August, Clement M. Silvestro, well known throughout the country in affairs of state and local history, assumed the duties of chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In his role as head of the independent unit of the Executive Branch of the federal government which advises the President and Congress in historic preservation matters, Dr. Silvestro has placed new emphasis on education and training at every level and early review of federal planning activities. In line with the chairman’s recommendations, staff work has been divided among the Office of Intergovernmental Programs and Planning, directed by Ann Webster Smith, SAH; the Office of Review and Compliance, headed by Jack McDermott; and Legal Counsel Ken Tapman.
Further details on organization and staff assignments may be obtained from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1522 K Street N.W., Suite 430, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Federal Grants-in-Aid Announced. Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has announced historic preservation matching grants totaling nearly $20.3 million to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the current fiscal year. Administered by the National Park Service Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act, the grants are for survey and planning functions as well as bricks and mortar.

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities Nancy Hanks has announced allocation of 148 “City Options” grants totaling $3 million. The groundbreaking City Options program was designed to treat preservation, urban design and over-all community priorities in an integrated fashion. It was noted by the Endowment’s Assistant Director of Architecture and Environmental Arts, Robert McNulty, that the range of successful applications from 43 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico indicate a growing concern for upgrading urban and urbanizing areas in addition to the large metropolitan centers. Grants were awarded on the basis of judging at regional and national levels by panels of professional architects, urban planners, preservationists, conservationists, lawyers, and landscape architects.

Federal Legislation to Aid Historic Railroad Stations. Since July, when the National Endowment for the Arts, Educational Facilities Laboratories of New York, and associate sponsors held a Workshop on Reusing Railroad Stations in Indianapolis, congressional action has culminated in passage of amendments to the Amtrak Improvement Act of 1974. H.R. 15427 is expected to be signed into law by the President in the near future. The measure would authorize $25 million on a 60-40 matching basis for demonstration projects aimed at restoration, adaptation and interim preservation of endangered railroad stations listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Briefs and Follow-up. Its option to purchase Adler and Sullivan’s Wainwright Building (1890-1892) in St. Louis has been transferred to the State of Missouri by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The winner of a design competition to renovate the building and construct additional space on the same block is Hastings and Chivetra associated with Mitchell/Giorgola Architects.

In August the House of Representatives voted down the Senate’s proposal to restore the West Front of the U.S. Capitol. The veto, which stops action for at least another year, also precludes extension of the West Front.

The Union Railroad Station in New London, Connecticut will be adapted as a restaurant and offices. The facility will continue to be used by Amtrak.

The Historic Santa Fe Foundation is raising funds necessary to complete purchase of the Pinckney R. Tully House (1851) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, held to be one of the finest examples of Territorial building in the state.

Facing an uncertain future in Seattle, Washington is the Smith Tower (1914) by Gaggin and Gaggin, a pyramid-topped 40-story office building reminiscent of Napoleon Le Brun and Sons’ Metropolitan Tower in New York City. Long the most prominent feature in the skyline of the busy West Coast port, Smith Tower was backed by Syracuse typewriter manufacturer Lyman C. Smith and his son, Burns Lyman Smith. Initially believed the tallest office building outside of New York and, subsequently, the tallest west of the Mississippi, today the 522-foot tower is overshadowed in its own setting on the border of Pioneer Square Historic District. Northwestern Financial Investors of South Carolina has foreclosed on the mortgage, and the current owner, First Properties, Inc. of Miami, has one year in which to retain title to the property by completing payment. The building was made available for purchase at a Sheriff’s auction in September, but there were no buyers. Several members of the Seattle City Council expressed interest in acquiring the property for city government headquarters and for leasing to other tenants. Unanimity on the solution of city ownership is lacking, however, owing to the difficulty of financing a $1.5 million to $2 million deal. Other means of ensuring local control of the historic skyscraper are being investigated in the meantime.

Seattle Has New Office of Urban Conservation. In a move which is believed a first of its kind in the country, the Seattle City Council recently authorized organization of a new Office of Urban Conservation in the City’s Department of Community Development. Arthur M. Skolnik, who holds the post of Manager of Pioneer Square Historic District for the City, has been named to head the office as City Conservator effective January 1. Skolnik and his staff of five will be responsible for administering and coordinating a variety of programs broadly concerned with the “built” environment, ranging from the historic preservation to conservation of buildings and sites which can be adapted for appropriate new uses. Skolnik, an architect and urban planner, indicates that his office will be looking carefully at the city’s outlying communities which have significant buildings and cohesive neighborhoods as well as the downtown core. Earl D. Layman, SAH, the City’s Historic Preservation Officer, will be in charge of historic preservation programs in the newly created office. As of the first of this month, inquiries may be directed to the Office of Urban Conservation, Seattle Department of Community Development, Arctic Building, 306 Cherry Street, Seattle, Washington 98104.

The San Antonio Conservation Society will hold its Fifth Annual Historic Preservation Seminar at the 75-year-old Missouri-Pacific Railroad Station in San Antonio, Texas, March 5-8, 1975. Based on a theme of Preserving the Past for the Future, workshops, panels and round-tables will be devoted to the economic background of preservation and restoration of historic landmarks and areas and the mechanics of fund raising for such projects. For further information, contact the San Antonio Conservation Society, Mrs. R. Jean Osborne, Seminar Chairman, 511 Paseo de la Villita, San Antonio, Texas 78205.