

# Schenley Farms: Historic place?

By Alvin Rosenzweig

Post-Gazette Staff Writer

A section of Oakland known as the Schenley Farms Historic District is being considered for the National Register of Historic Places.

The designation will be proposed before the state Historical and Museum Commission at a hearing in Harrisburg on Jan. 11. The State Review Committee will determine whether the district will be nominated for national recognition.

The proposal has nothing to do with the historic district designation bestowed last spring on a smaller portion of Schenley Farms.

The area under consideration in Harrisburg was proposed for historic designation by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, which established its boundaries.

They are Centre Avenue, Bryn Mawr Road, Andover Terrace, Bigelow Boulevard, North Bellefield Avenue, Fifth Avenue, North Craig Street, South Dithridge Street, Mahanney Street, Panther Hollow, Forbes Avenue, Thackeray Street,

O'Hara Street and Parkman Avenue.

"It was proposed as a historic district because it is a marvelous area architecturally, both in the institutional buildings and residences," said Arthur P. Ziegler Jr., president of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

"Most of the buildings were put up between 1890 and 1929, and there are examples of most every kind of architecture."

Designation to the National Register will provide safeguards and prevent the destruction of historic sites in the area, Ziegler said yesterday.

The proposal is part of a four-year survey of Allegheny County to obtain National Register approval for any area that deserves national registration, he added.

The listing is honorary, according to Caroline Boyce of the staff of the city Historic Review Commission.

By contrast, City Council has designated as historic an area bounded on the south by Bigelow Boulevard, on the north by Schenley Farms

Terrace, on the west by Parkman Avenue and on the east by homes on Bigelow Boulevard.

The city historic district includes only three institutions — the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, the Twentieth Century Club and the Jehovah's Witnesses Freedom Hall. The area submitted for the National Register contains a number of civic and institutional buildings as well as private residences.

When the plan for city designation first was sought by the Schenley Farms Civic Association in 1979, a larger area was sought, bounded by Bigelow Boulevard, Bellefield Avenue, University Place and Fifth Avenue.

In the area finally approved by Council, the city's Historic Review Commission must review the plans before a property owner can change the exterior of a structure.

No such review is required for the National Register, which provides restrictions only if federal funds are spent on a property for alterations.

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