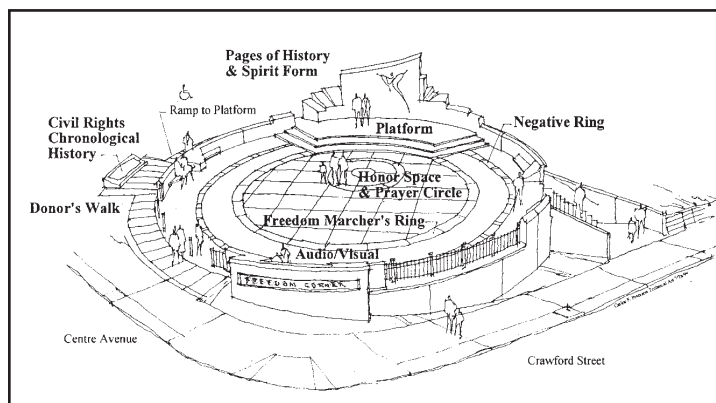




Spiritual Form — Carlos F. Peterson

A Visit to Freedom Corner

Freedom Corner is a starting place, a beginning of our past, and a living landmark for those who were in pursuit of justice yesterday and all who seek justice today and tomorrow. It establishes African Americans as a visible part of the landscape, with a sense of place and identity that reaches beyond the Hill into the social fabric of Pittsburgh and beyond. This monument represents all of us and prevents future generations from being cut off from their roots.



Drawing of Monument, showing various elements.

The monument consists of four concentric rings, which combine hostilities of the past with a sense of purpose for the future.

- ★ **The Negative Ring** portrays slavery and scenes of brutality from the civil rights era.
- ★ **The Freedom Marchers' Ring** portrays four figures reflecting nonviolent tactics of protest, linked together to symbolize the unity of the movement. Inscribed here are the names of 70 individuals who contributed significantly to the civil rights movement locally.
- ★ **The Prayer Circle**, cast in bronze, represents strength in faith and unity. It surrounds the Circle of Honor.
- ★ **The Circle of Honor** comprises 25 "fallen heroes" of the movement. At the center is a polished granite "stone of origin" from Zimbabwe, symbolizing the origin and power of the African American heritage.

Towering over the rings is the **Spiritual Form**, cast in bronze, which commemorates the courage of those who applied the principles of nonviolence in the pursuit of human rights. Reflecting optimism and hope, it stands against the **Pages of History** wall, which moves skyward, signifying progress, knowledge, and growth.

The Artist:



Carlos F. Peterson is a graphics artist and designer who grew up on Crawford Street and witnessed the destruction of his neighborhood, first by urban renewal and then

by the riots of 1968. His design for the monument grew out of earlier drawings for two art exhibits that reflected the emotional distress associated with the demise of the neighborhood as he had known it.

The Architect:



Howard K. Graves, President of Graves Architects, Inc., is also a native of the Hill District. Working in close collaboration with the artist, he was responsible for

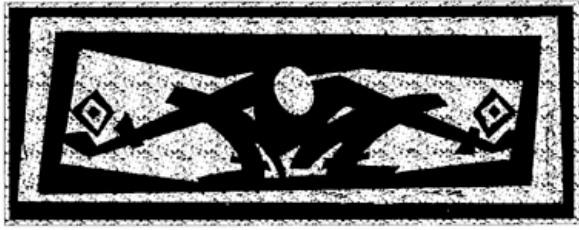
making the design a reality through the engineering, fabrication, and construction of the site.

Both men see the Freedom Corner monument as a way of preserving African American heritage and history as well as reinforcing the community values of freedom and unity.



Can you find these graphic forms on the Freedom Corner monument?

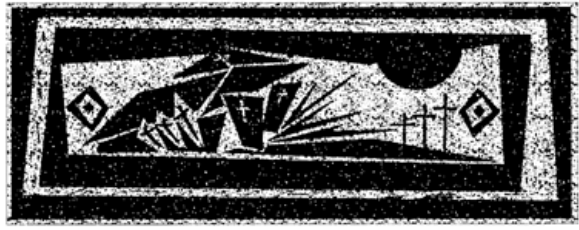
Negative Ring:



Male (left) and Female (right) Slave Forms: Angular design near the wrists represents the shackles of slavery; viewed collectively as a ring, these pavers create a chain and bondage motif.



Scene from the civil rights movement (left), with open hands signifying the strength of nonviolence. **Brutality (right)** of the response to civil rights demonstrations uses images of the whip and inverted cross to suggest the aggression that demonstrators faced, with the flashlight and sun as symbols of enlightenment.



Birmingham 1963 (left) recalls the explosion that killed four young girls in a church. Such attacks strengthened the will of Freedom Marchers everywhere. **Aggression/warfare (right)** shows the pain that violence inflicts on the aggressor and the futility of combat. Overlapping feet symbolize equality.



Freedom Marcher's Ring: Passive forms of protesters combine to become one continuous ring, suggesting the energy of united effort.

Prayer Circle:

Male and female forms are joined by hands and arms crossed in prayer, symbolizing faith, unity, new life, and hope.

