

1200 REDDOUR STREET (House)

HABS No. PA-6191

Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS
PA
2-PITBU,
91-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

1200 REDDOUR STREET (HOUSE)

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Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh West Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.584130.4478820

Significance: 1200 Reddour Street is representative of the larger-scale multi-unit residential structures that were constructed in this section of Allegheny after the turn of the century.

Description: Sited directly on the sidewalk on a corner lot, 1200 Reddour Street is a three story, yellow brick apartment building on a raised stone basement, measuring 66'-6" by 19'-10-1/2" overall. Its flat roof is concealed by a corbeled brick parapet. The windows, which are double hung sash arranged singly and in pairs, have stone sills. A central doorway on the Reddour Street side provides access to a central stair hall.

It would appear that each floor was originally a separate unit consisting of a large room at either end, two secondary rooms, and a bath. They have since been subdivided into two units per floor. Surviving interior architectural detailing is limited to one wood mantel with a mirrored overmantel, simple door and window casings, transomed interior doors with five horizontal panels, and a banister with square balusters and a square newel post.

History: 1200 Reddour Street is believed, based on stylistic analysis, to have been built ca. 1905-1925. Reddour Street, originally called Middle Alley and later Race Street, has existed since property in this area of Pittsburgh was first divided into lots. It is known to date to at least 1830. The attached Day & Cramer map of 1851, however, suggests that little actual construction had taken place in the Federal-Eloise-Reddour-Pernod Street block at this date. Most of the initial building in the block apparently occurred between 1850 and 1872, a period in Pittsburgh that is poorly represented by detailed historical mapping. By the latter year, a number of substantial brick buildings are shown on the lots fronting directly on the north side of Eloise Street east of Reddour Street. Although the building address is 1200 Reddour Street, the orientation of the lot always has been to Eloise Street. By 1872, a brick building, possibly a store or residence, had been built at the corner of Reddour and Eloise. As with most of the first buildings in this block, this building was probably destroyed in the devastating fire of July 4, 1874 that consumed some 199 buildings between Sampsonia Street and Eloise and from Federal Street on the east to Arch Street on the west. The southwest corner of the block, including the 1200 Reddour Street address, had been substantially rebuilt by 1884, however, as shown by the Sanborn Insurance company map of that year, when the block included a mix of both residential and commercial buildings with at least four grocery stores and a cigar factory (at the corner of Federal and Eloise) along Federal Street. Most buildings in this block were of brick construction and either two or three stories in height. The building at 1200 Reddour Street seems to have been the largest of the new buildings in this portion of the block. It was apparently either replaced or extensively remodeled sometime after the turn of the century.

The 1890-1891 G.M. Hopkins Atlas shows D. Munn as the owner. By 1925, J.H. Blair is shown as the owner of 1200 Reddour Street. In more recent years, this property was sold by the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office to the Northside Bank in 1995. It was acquired by the Urban Redevelopment Authority in 1996.

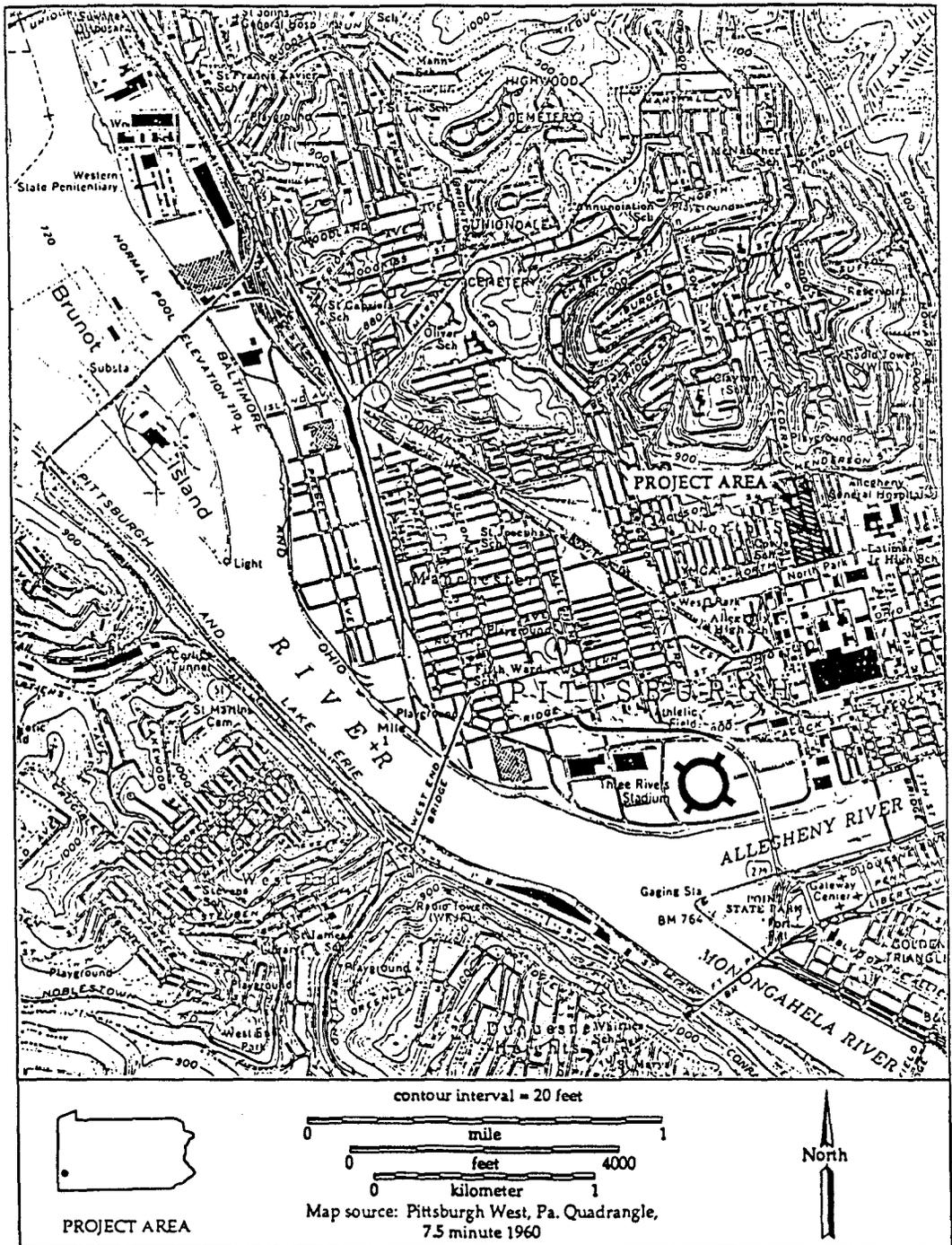
The three-block Federal North Redevelopment Area in the Central Northside Historic District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was certified in 1989. In 1995, Pittsburgh adopted a redevelopment plan for this neighborhood. In consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer (PASHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), it was determined that proposed redevelopment in the Federal North neighborhood would affect National Register of Historic Places-eligible historic properties. One condition of the project's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) provided for Historic American Building Survey (HABS) recording of 14 buildings in a portion of the redevelopment project called "Block #2." Block #2 includes the area bounded by Federal Street on the east, Eloise Street on the south, Reddour Street on the west, and Pernod Street on the north. The building at 1200 Reddour Street is located in Block # 2.

Sources:

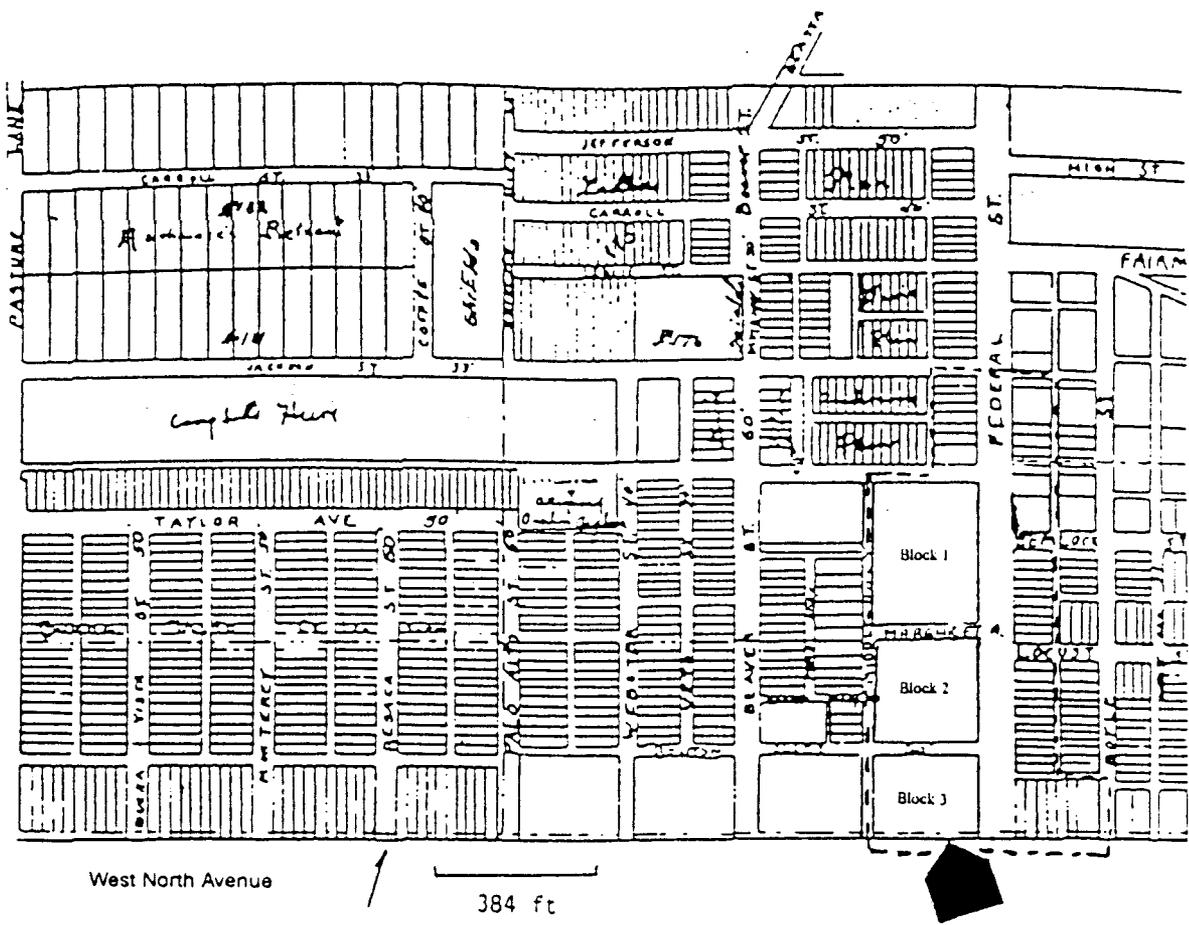
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Historians:

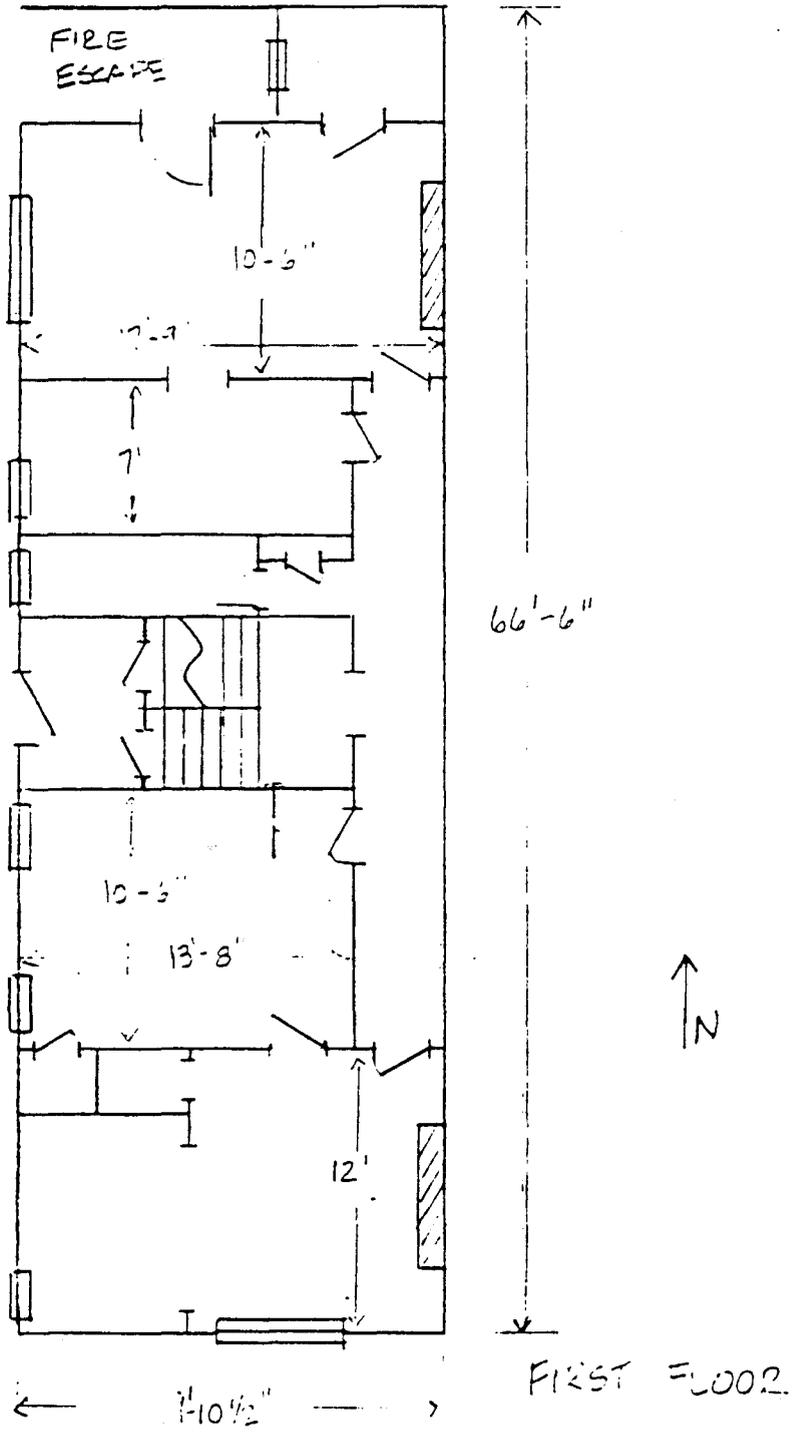
Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D. and Eliza Smith Brown
Brown Carlisle & Associates, Inc.
November 1996

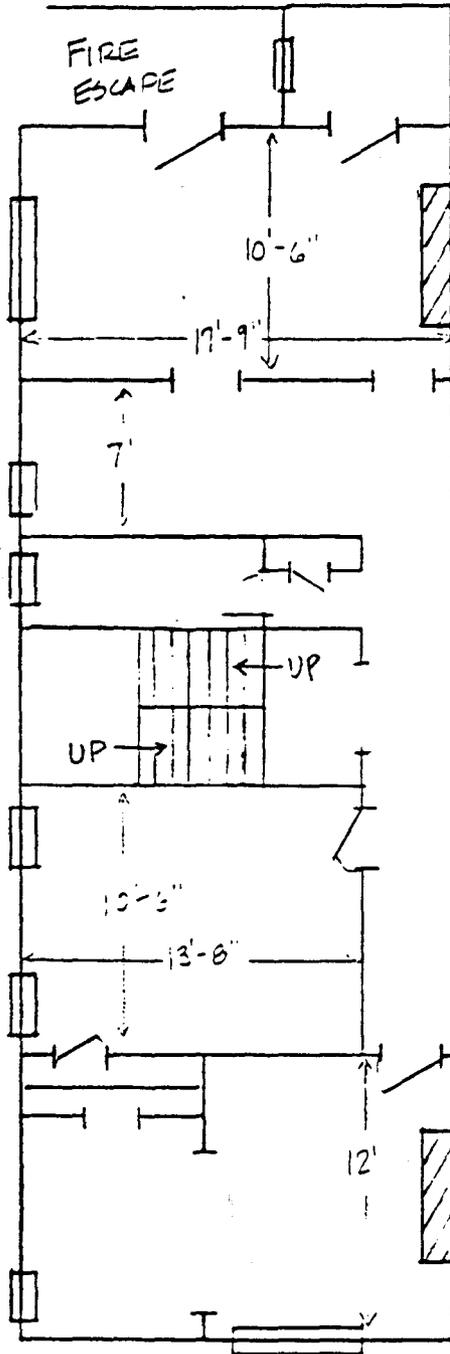


Location of the Federal North Redevelopment Area in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Source: USGS Pittsburgh, West 7.5 minute quadrangle map. After Millis (1995: 2, Figure 1).



The Day & Cramer 1851 map of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (today, the Northside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) showing lot divisions in and near the Federal North Redevelopment Area (arrow). Dashes outline the project area. The subject building is located in Block 2. Benton Alley is today's Eloise Street. Margaret Alley is today's Pernod Street. Middle Alley is today's Reddour Street. Federal Street has retained its name to the present.





SECOND AND THIRD FLOORS