

1214 REDDOUR STREET (House)
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6193

HABS
PA
2-PITBY,
93-

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

1214 REDDOUR STREET (HOUSE)

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Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh West Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.584130.4478860

Significance: 1214 Reddour Street is representative of the larger scale brick houses that were built after a devastating fire leveled the surrounding four-acre section of Allegheny. It is notable for the quality of its interior woodwork.

Description: This detached brick row house, set directly on the sidewalk, consists of a main block of two principal rooms and a rear wing of one room, with overall dimensions of 17'-8" in width and 50'-2" in depth. Its gable roof is pierced by an oversized gable dormer with a pair of arched double hung sash windows; the cornice rests on brackets. The windows, originally double hung sash, have peaked stone lintels and stone sills. The entry door features a similar shaped lintel with a transom below.

On the interior, a side stair hall provides access to the principal rooms. Notable interior features include heavy door and window casings, panels below the windows of the main block, turned balusters on the stair railing, and remnants of original mantelpieces. At some point prior to acquisition by the Urban Redevelopment Authority, restoration work was begun on the house, most notably the stripping of all of the interior woodwork. Accumulated debris renders interior photography extremely difficult.

History: Based on map research confirmed by stylistic analysis, 1214 Reddour Street is believed to have been built ca. 1874-1884. 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 1872, however, the lot at 1214 Reddour Street had one rectangular building erected on it that fronted directly on the street. 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 block had been substantially rebuilt by 1884, however, as shown by the Sanborn Insurance company map of that year, when a larger rectangular building with a rear addition stood on the 1214 Reddour Street lot. The 1890-1891 G.M. Hopkins Atlas shows F. C. Windhorst as the owner. By 1884, 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. After that time, few additional changes were made to many of the buildings in the block.

By 1925, "F.C. Windkert" is shown as the owner of 1214 Reddour Street (but perhaps this is a mistaken spelling of F. C. Windhorst). In more recent years, this property was sold by Katherine Kratch to Delphine D. Graham in 1983. In 1991 it was conveyed by a city treasurer's deed to Kenneth Plass. It was acquired from Mr. Plass by the Urban Redevelopment Authority in 1996.

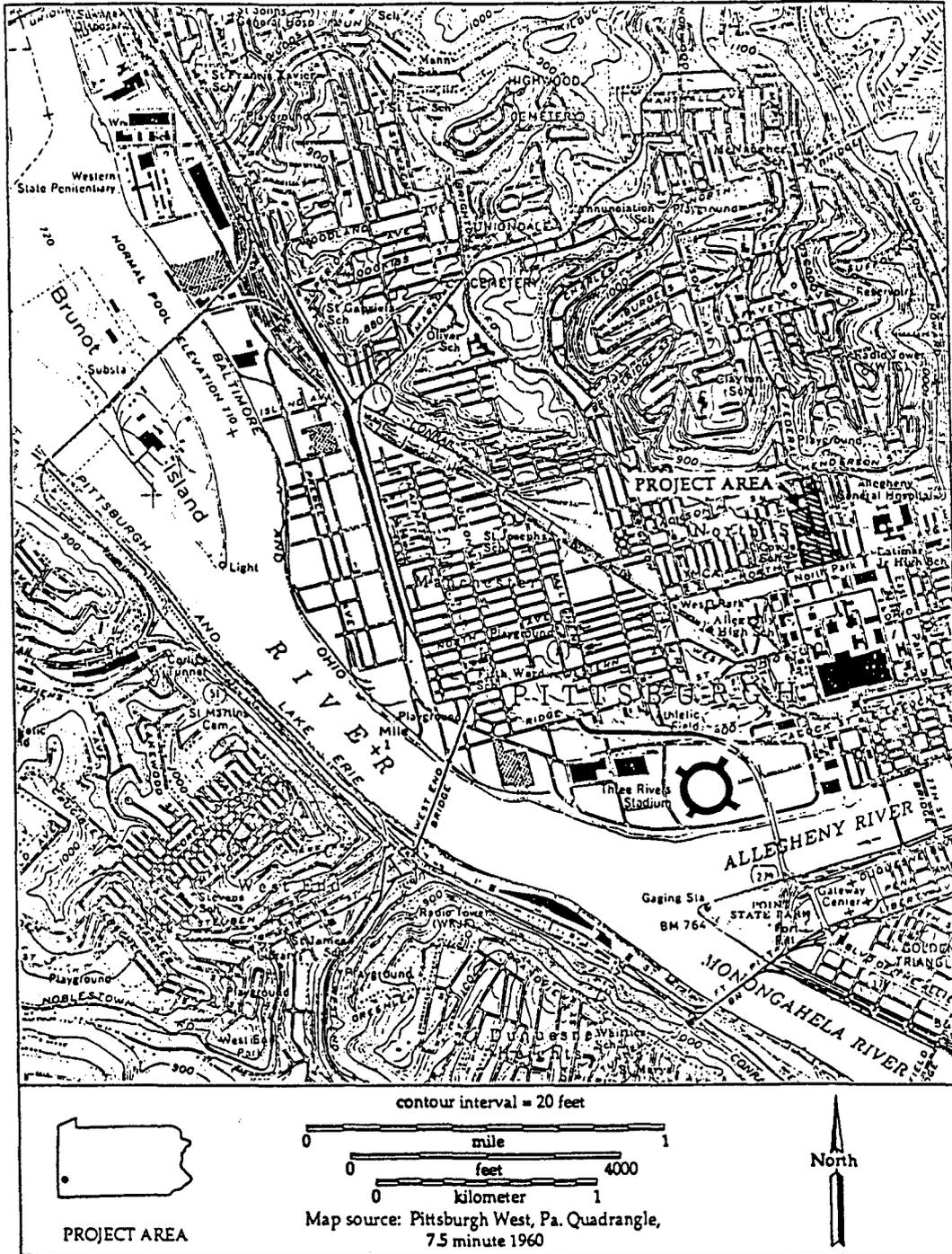
The three-block Federal North Redevelopment Area in the Central Northside Historic District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was certified in 1989. In 1995, Pittsburgh adopted a redevelopment plan for this neighborhood. In consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer (PASHPO) and 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 1214 Reddour Street is located in Block # 2.

Sources:

- Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Recorder of Deed's Office
Deed Book 6621, page 575, March 11, 1983.
- Day & Cramer. Plan of Allegheny City Surveyed in 1850 and 1851. Pittsburgh: Day & Cramer, 1851.
- Hopkins, G.M. & Company. *Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, and the Adjoining Boroughs*. Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins & Company, 1872.
- Hopkins, G.M. & Company. *Atlas of the City of Allegheny from Official Records, Private Plans, and Actual Surveys*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company, 1890-1891.
- Hopkins, G.M. & Company. *Atlas of the City of Pittsburgh*. Vol. 5. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company, 1925.
- Sanborn Insurance Company. Sanborn Insurance Company Map of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. New York: Sanborn Insurance Company, 1884.
- Sanborn Insurance Company. Sanborn Insurance Company Map of Pittsburgh. New York: Sanborn Insurance Company, 1926 (updated to 1940).
- Sanborn Insurance Company. Sanborn Insurance Company Map of Pittsburgh. New York: Sanborn Insurance Company, 1926 (updated to 1979).
- Carlisle, Ronald C., and Arthur B. Fox. "Visual Inspection and Land-Use History in the Federal Street/North Avenue Redevelopment Area Northside, Pittsburgh." A report prepared by the Cultural Resource Management Program, University of Pittsburgh, for the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh under the supervision of Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D., principal investigator, 1990.
- Millis, Heather. "An Archaeological Survey and Land-Use History for the Proposed Federal North Redevelopment Project, City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania." A report prepared for the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh by Garrow & Associates, Inc., Thomas R. Baker, Ph.D., principal investigator, 1995.

Historians:

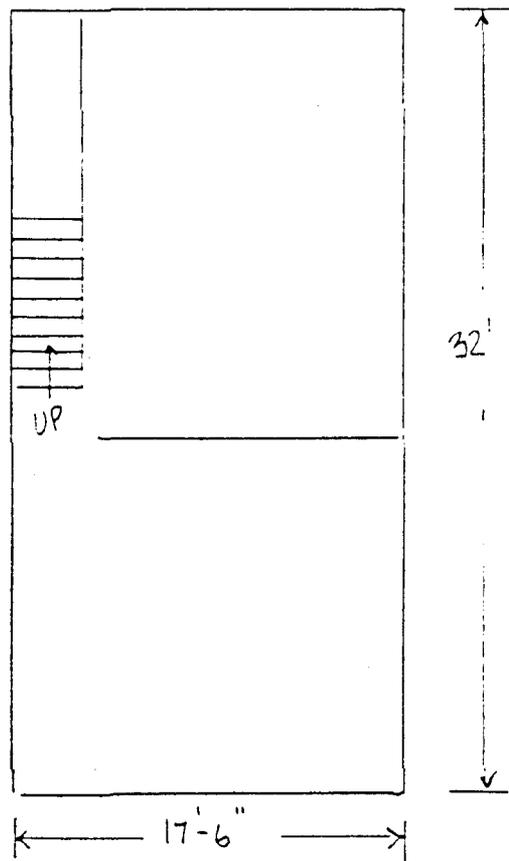
Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D. and Eliza Smith Brown
Brown Carlisle & Associates, Inc.
November 1996



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).

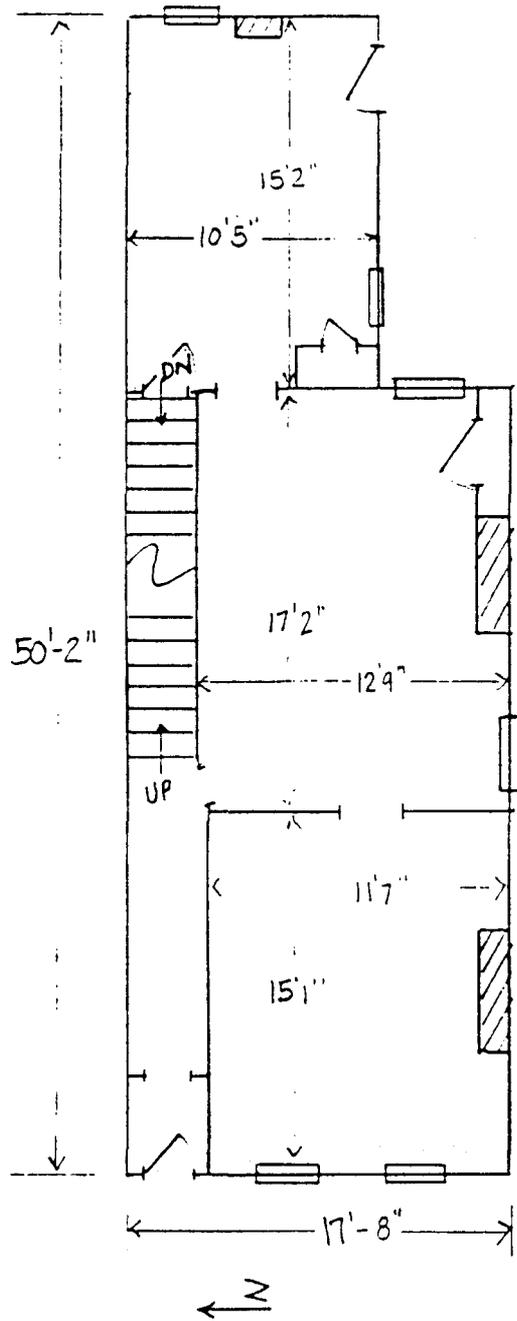


The Day & Cramer 1851 map of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (today, the Northside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) showing lot divisions in and near the Federal North Redevelopment Area (arrow). Dashes outline the project area. The subject building is located in Block 2. Benton Alley is today's Eloise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

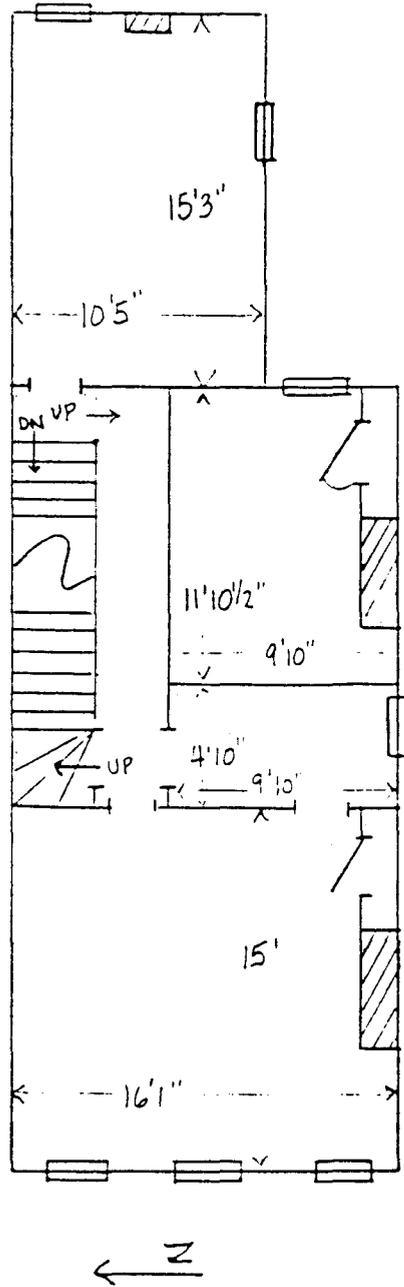


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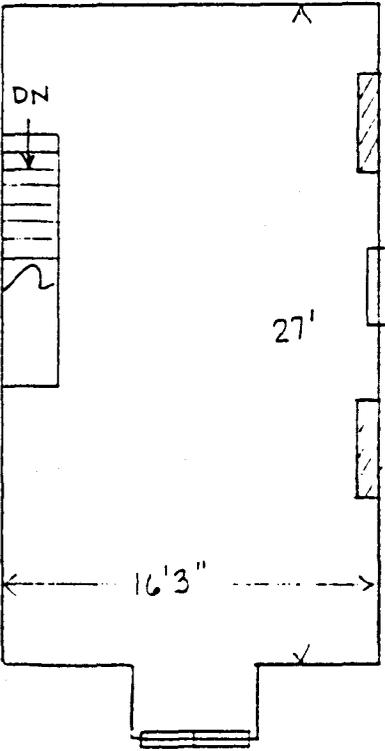
1214 REDDOUR STREET.
BASEMENT



1214 REDDOUR STREET
FIRST FLOOR



1214 REDDOUR STREET
SECOND FLOOR



1214 REDDOUR STREET
THIRD FLOOR