

ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, BUILDING TYPE 3  
Bounded by Abbottsford Avenue, Henry Avenue,  
Robert Avenue, and Fox Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6165-C

HABS  
PA  
51-PHILA  
732C-

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

HABS  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
732C-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, BUILDING TYPE 3

HABS No. PA - 6165 - C

Location: Bounded by Abbottsford Avenue, Henry Avenue, Robert Avenue, and Fox Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania  
USGS: Germantown, Pa.  
UTM Coordinates (Easting, Northing): 18.484740.4429140, 18.484920.4428880, 18.484570.4428620, 18.484410.4428840

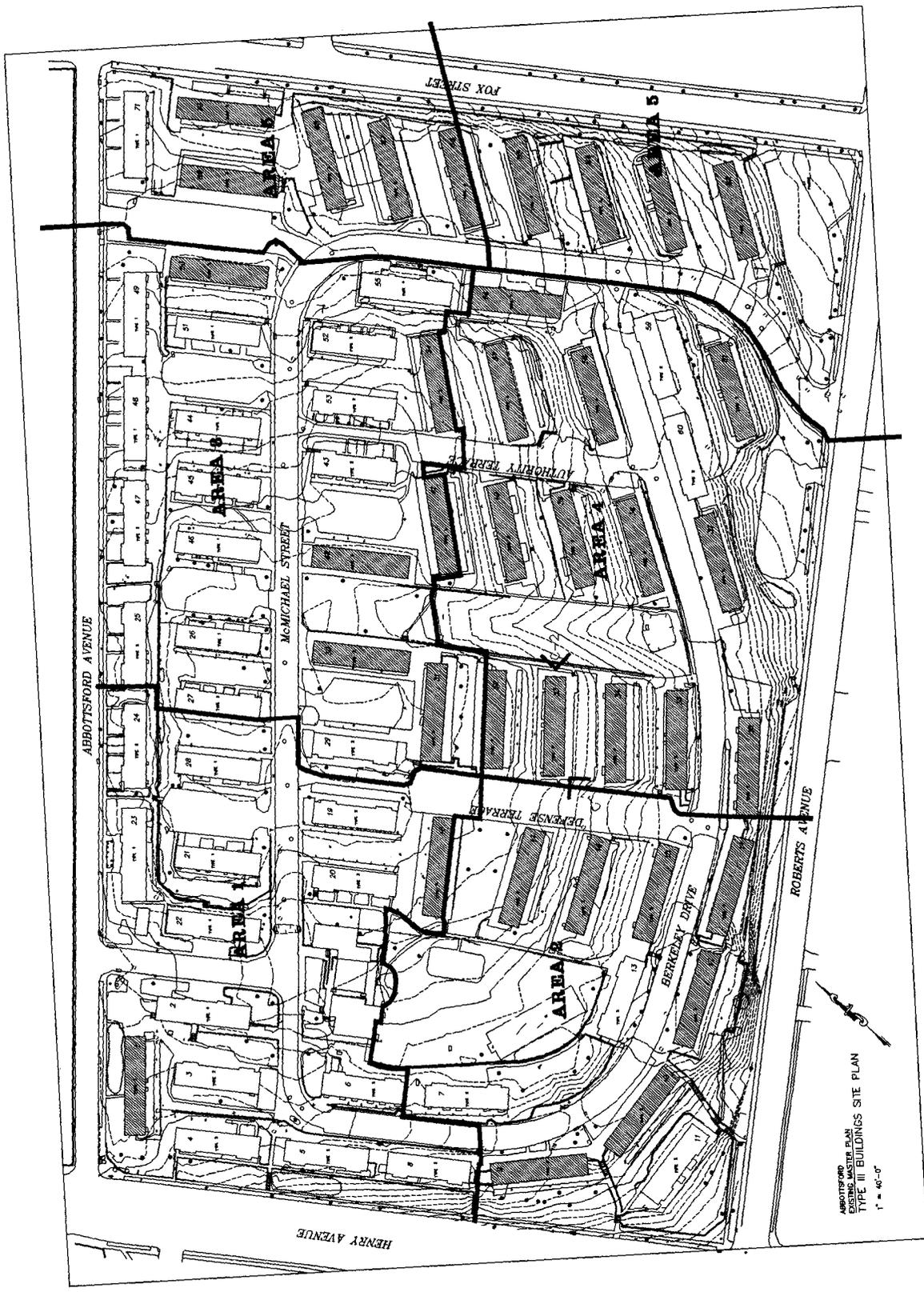
Significance: Built in 1942-43, the Abbottsford Homes Defense Housing Project exemplifies World War II urban workers' housing. The 700-unit development contained four different housing types; Type 3 was the most common in the development.

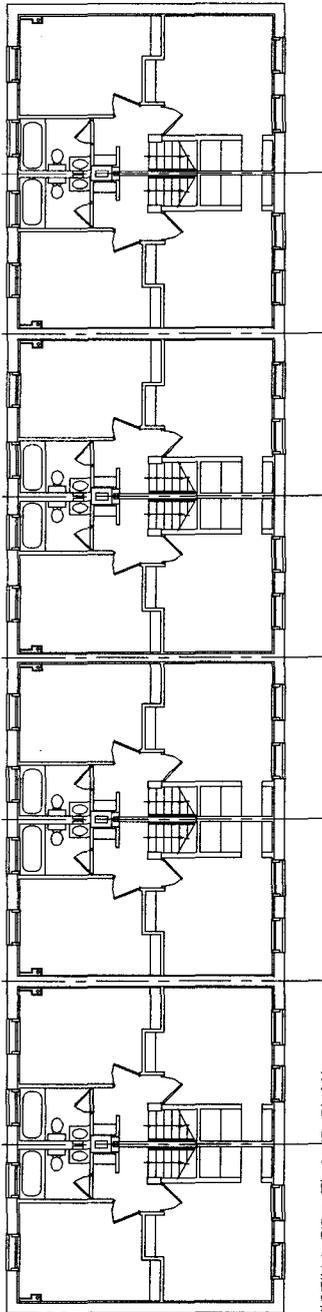
Description: There are 432 Type 3 units in Abbottsford Homes, divided between 36 buildings. Type 3 is a two-bedroom apartment, arranged with a single level unit on the first floor, entered directly from the outside; and a two-story duplex unit on the second and third floors, entered through a private interior staircase. The Type 3 buildings are flat-roofed brick structures with paired windows on the front and rear of each unit's upper floors. On the first floor, paired windows mark the living room of the lower level units, while a single window marks the front bedroom. These apartments (one first floor and two duplexes) form a single unit. These units are arranged as mirror images of each other, with the three front doors grouped together on a shared, low concrete stoop. There are typically twelve units, (four groups of apartments) in each building.

History: Abbottsford Homes was constructed for World War II workers and their families, after the increase in manpower in industry brought about tremendous shortages of appropriate, affordable housing in the area. After World War II, Abbottsford Homes was turned over to the Philadelphia Housing Authority and operated as public housing. Original wood double-hung windows have been replaced with aluminum double-hung windows and storms, creating a 2/2 pattern. The slate sills were also wrapped with aluminum. In 1987, front entrance doors were replaced with metal doors with three small panels, one of which is a window. Renovations for the buildings are now being planned which will add a pitched roof above the building, replace windows and doors, and redesign the entry canopy to a traditional porch.

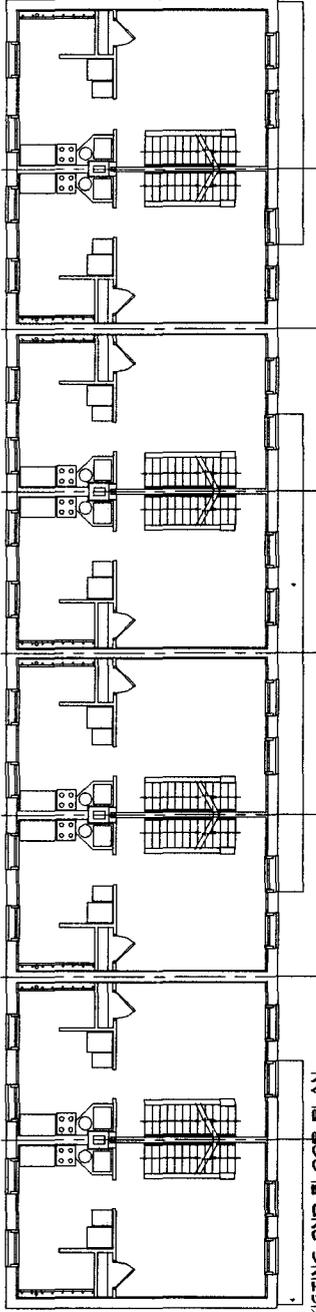
Source: Abbottsford Homes National Register Nomination, March 1995  
Part of the "Public Housing in Philadelphia" Multiple Property Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places.

Historian: Janet W. Foster, Acroterion Historic Preservation Consultants  
June 30, 1995, Revised November 1995.

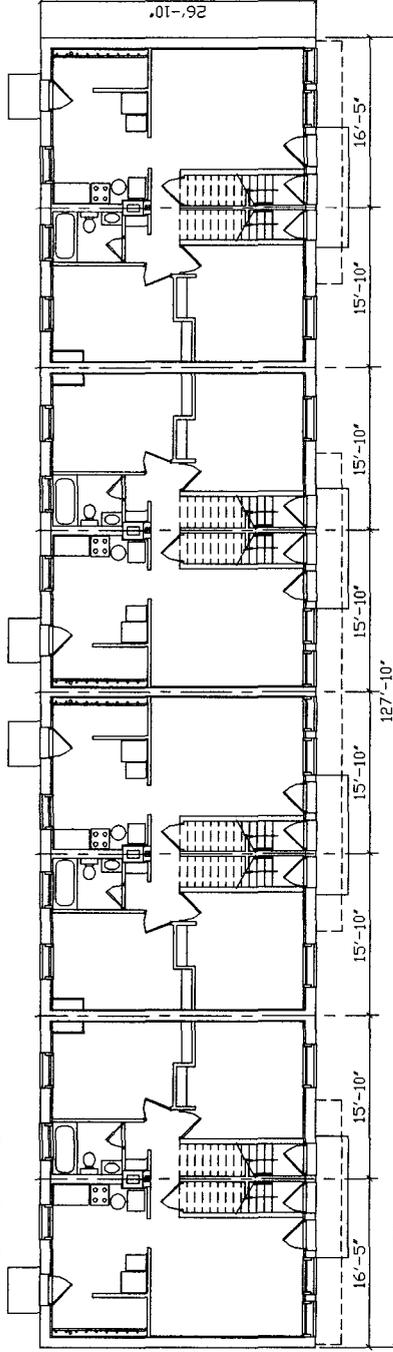




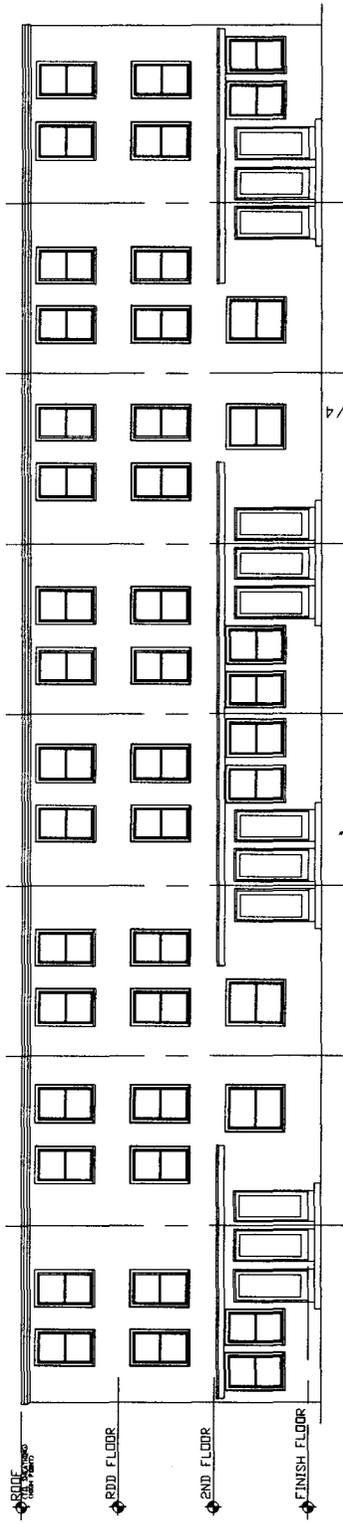
1 EXISTING 3RD FLOOR PLAN  
 BUILDING TYPE 3 (2 BEDROOM UNITS)



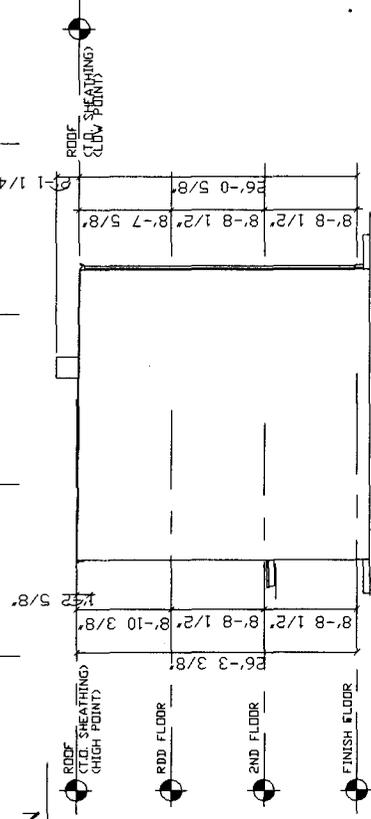
2 EXISTING 2ND FLOOR PLAN  
 BUILDING TYPE 3 (2 BEDROOM UNITS)



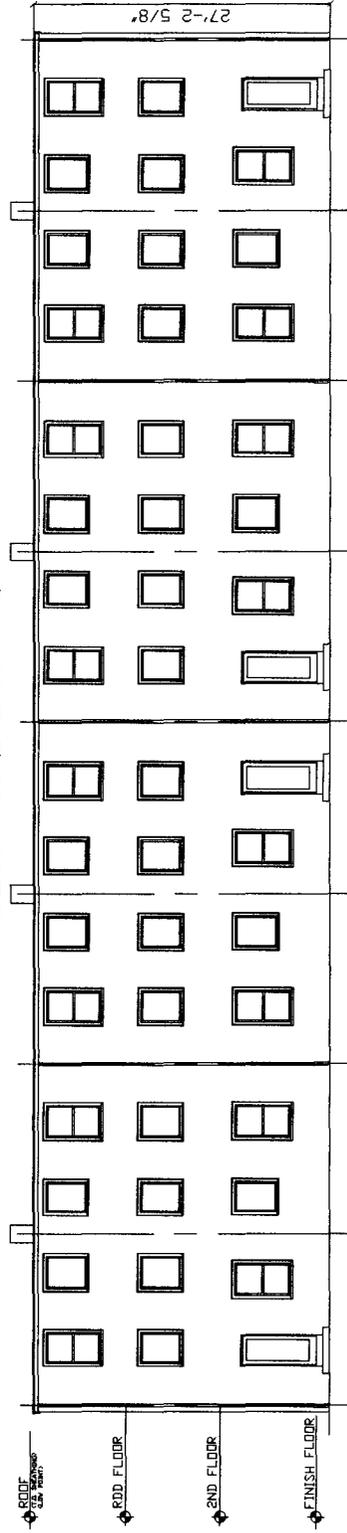
3 EXISTING 1ST FLOOR PLAN  
 BUILDING TYPE 3 (2 BEDROOM UNITS)



1 EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION  
 BUILDING TYPE 3 (2 BEDROOM UNITS)



2 EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION  
 BUILDING TYPE 3 (2 BEDROOM UNITS)



3 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION  
 BUILDING TYPE 3 (2 BEDROOM UNITS)