

ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, BUILDING TYPE 4

HABS No. PA-6165-D

Bounded by Abbottsford Avenue, Henry Avenue

Robert Avenue, and Fox Street

Philadelphia

Philadelphia County

Pennsylvania

HABS
PA
91-PHILA,
732D-

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

ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, BUILDING TYPE 4

HABS No. PA - 6165 - D

HABS
PA
51-PHILA,
732D-

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

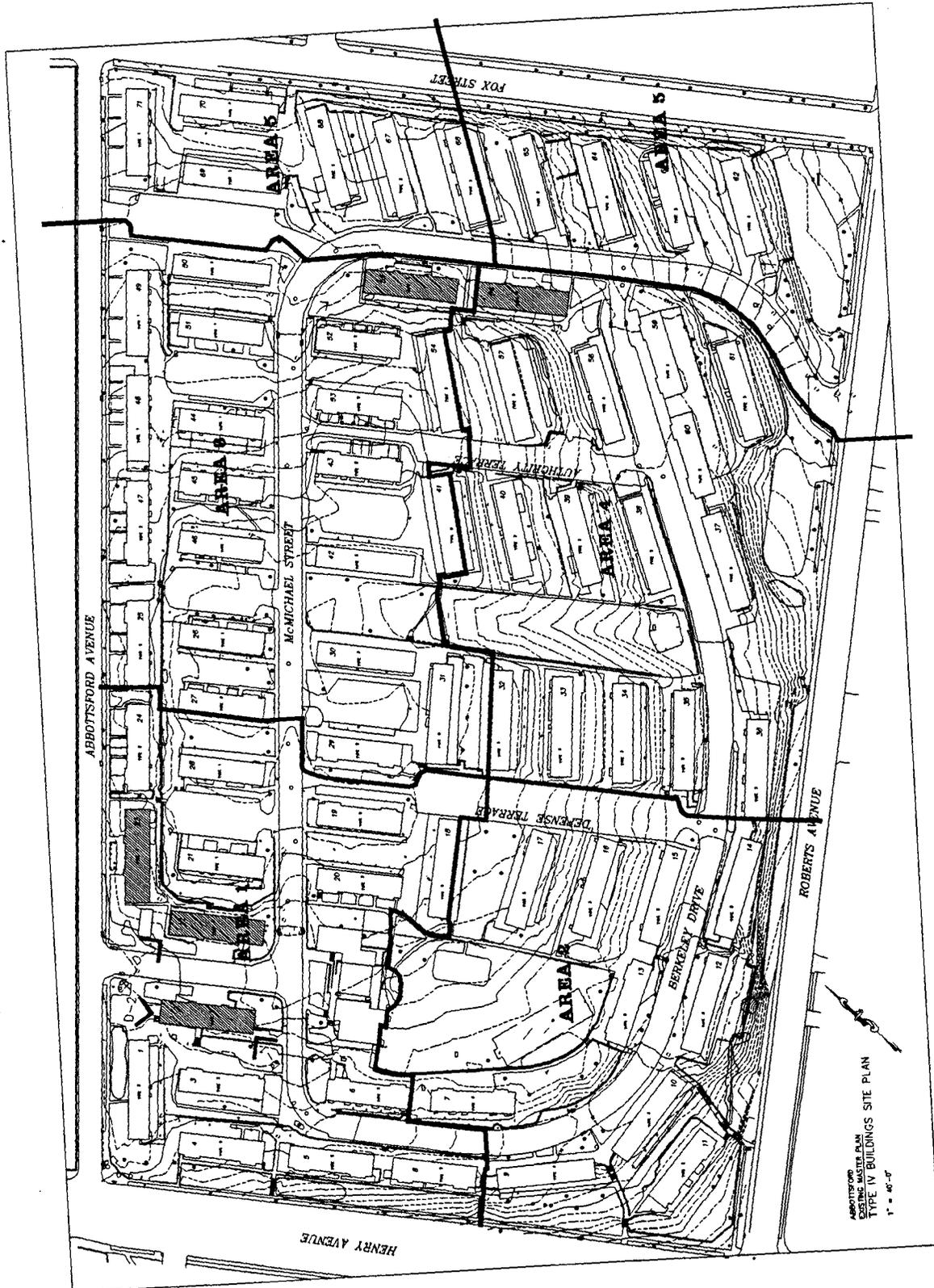
Significance: Built in 1942-43, the Abbottsford Homes Defense Housing Project exemplifies World War II urban workers' housing. The 700-unit development was largely constructed for workers in nearby defense industries and their families. Not surprisingly, Type 4, a single-bedroom unit, occupied the fewest number of buildings on the site.

Description: Type 4 is characterized by single-bedroom units, each a single level, entered from an interior stair hall. There are six units per floor in each three-story building; five buildings at Abbottsford Homes are Type 4 structures. Two internal stair towers each provide access to three apartments on each floor. The stair towers are marked with windows set between the heights of the floors, and an entry door at the base, beneath a flat-roofed canopy. Within the buildings, the entrance to individual units lead directly into the living room from the shared stair landing. A kitchen area opens directly onto the living room. The Type 4 unit is notable for the large walk-in closets found in each apartment.

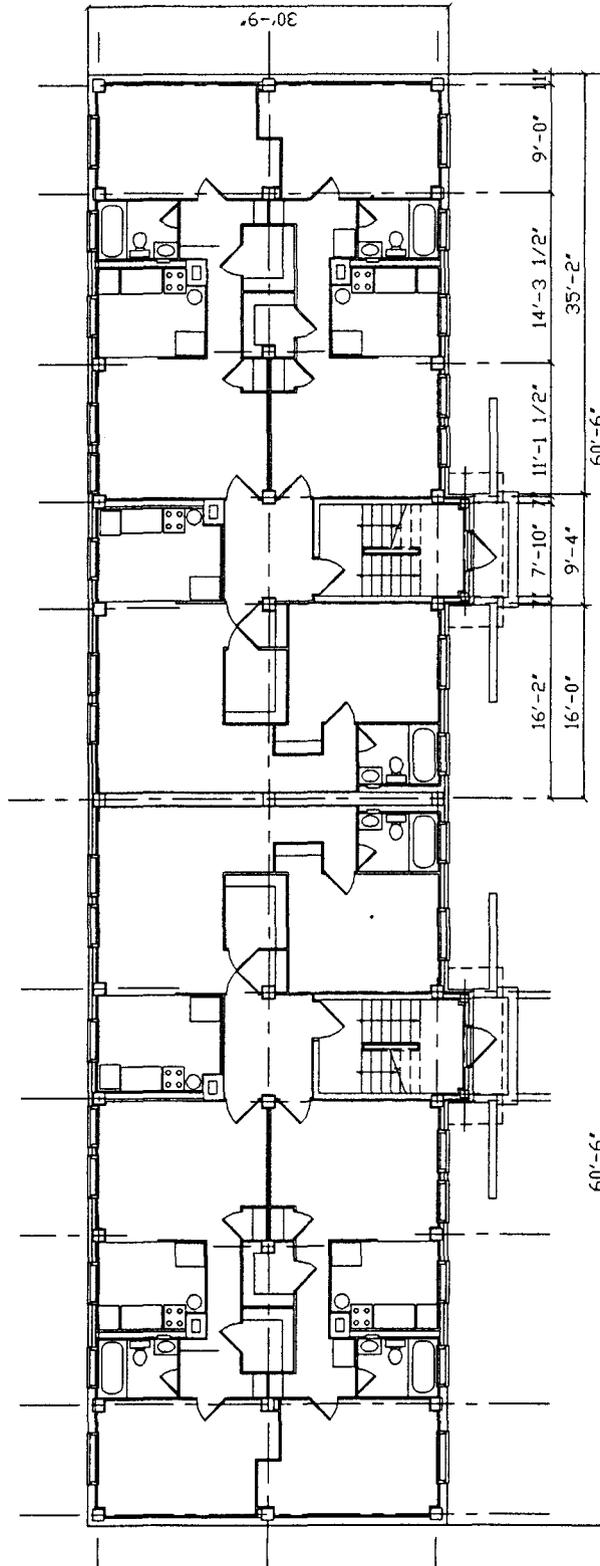
History: Abbottsford Homes was constructed for World War II workers and their families, after the increase in manpower in industry brought about tremendous shortages of appropriate, affordable housing in the area. After World War II, Abbottsford Homes was turned over to the Philadelphia Housing Authority 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. New entrance canopies were installed on some of the Type 1 Buildings in 1988. 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.

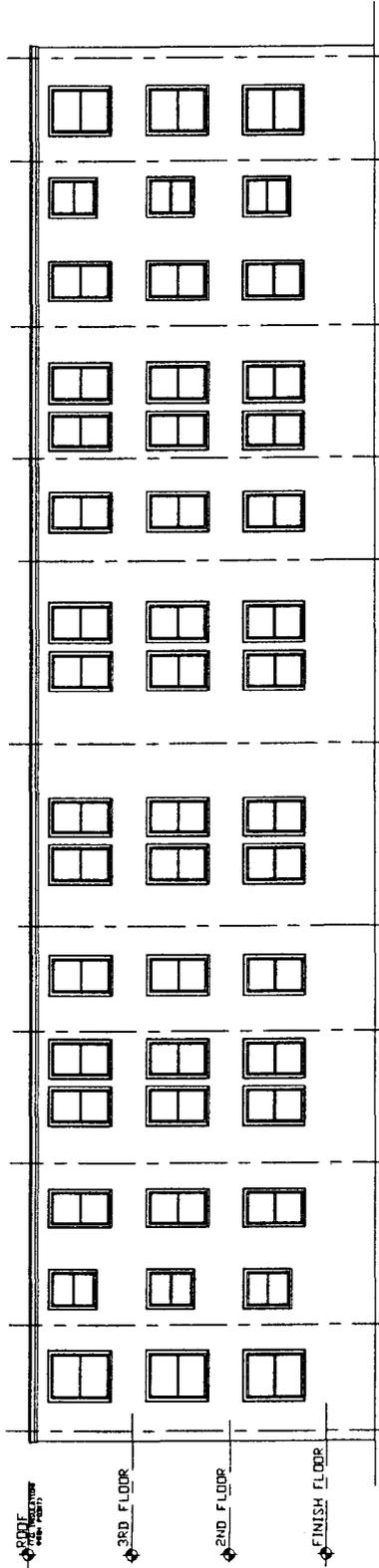
Historian: Janet W. Foster, Acroterion Historic Preservation Consultants
June 30, 1995, revised November 1995.



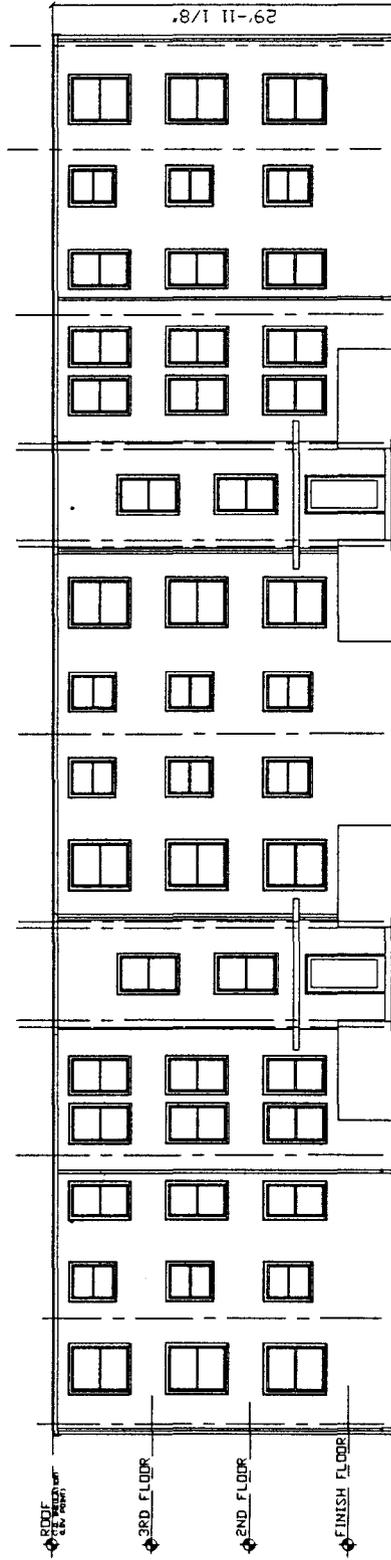
ABBOTSFORD
EXISTING MASTER PLAN
TYPE IV BUILDINGS SITE PLAN
1" = 40'-0"



1 EXISTING 1ST FLOOR PLAN
 BUILDING TYPE 4 (1 BEDROOM UNITS)
 2ND & 3RD FLOORS SIMILAR



1 EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION
BUILDING TYPE 4 (1 BEDROOM UNITS)



2 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION
BUILDING TYPE 4 (1 BEDROOM UNITS)

