

ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, COMMUNITY CENTER  
3226 McMichael Terrace  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6165-E

HABS  
PA  
SI-PHILA  
732E-

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, COMMUNITY CENTER

HABS No. PA - 6165 - E

HABS  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
732E-

Location: 3226 McMichael Terrace, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County,  
Pennsylvania, USGS: Germantown, PA  
UTM Coordinates (Easting, Northing): 18.484740.4429140, 18.484920.4428880,  
18.484570.4428620, 18.484410.4428840

Significance: The Community Center was designed as the centerpiece of Abbottsford Homes 700-unit development, Typical of public housing projects in the 1930s and '40's, Abbottsford Homes was designed as a distinctive neighborhood, with through streets closed off, and a community building and recreational fields constructed for the exclusive use of residents. Through the war years, Abbottsford Homes thrived as a neighborhood, and the community center was home to hobby clubs, boy scouts, and meetings. The community center still functions, now as home to a day-care center and offices for the active Abbottsford Homes Tenant Management Corporation.

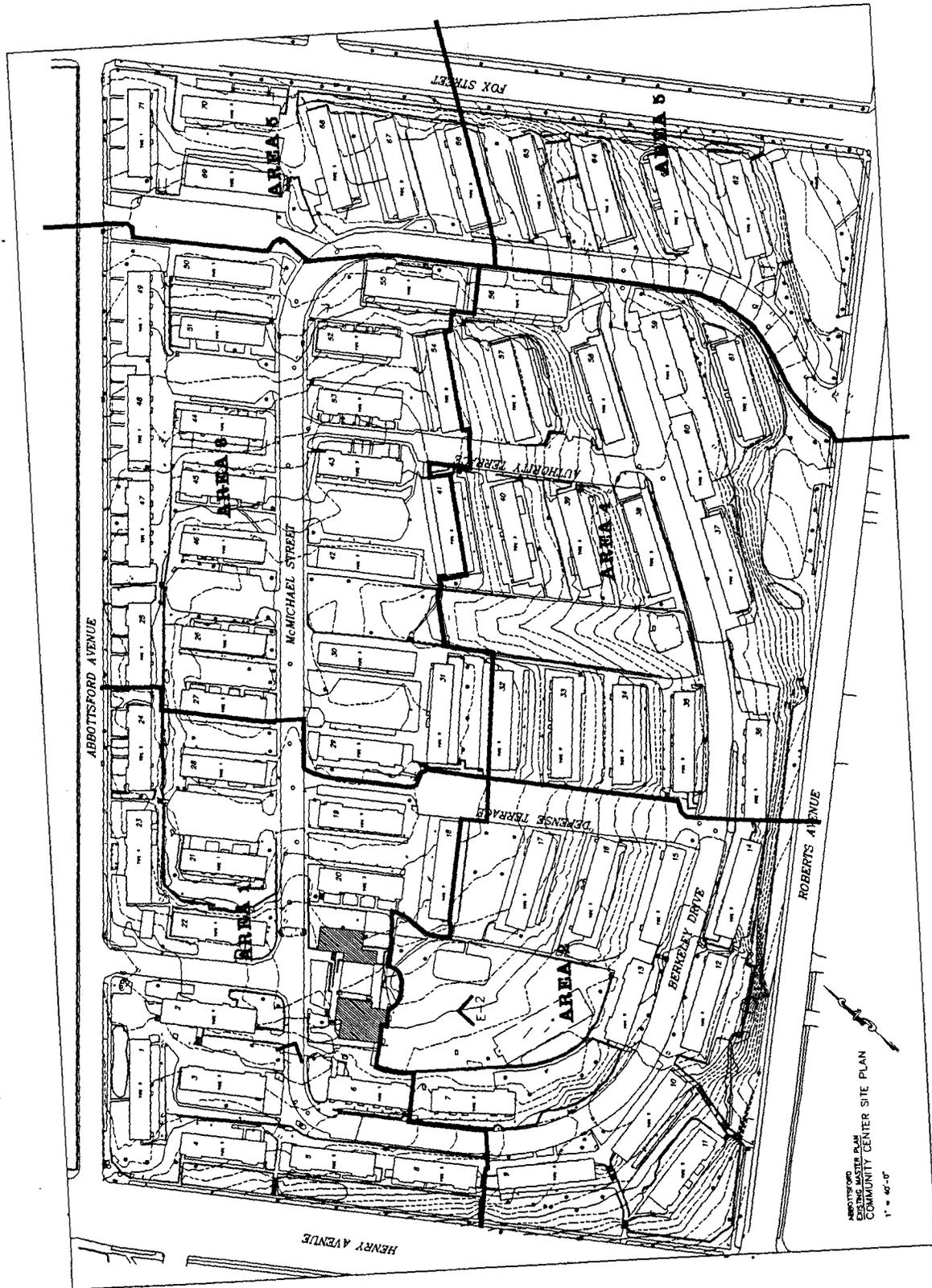
Description: The Community Center currently stands as two separate buildings. The center auditorium which originally linked these two "wings" was destroyed by fire in approximately 1965. The remaining sections are the single-story rubblestone office, with flat roof and simply framed 1/1 sash; and the larger day care center, which incorporates the rubblestone foundation of the original community center, but is otherwise a new building (1987). The day-care wing uses a pre-fabricated metal sheet-like building, fronted by a two-story gable-roofed structure with brick veneer on the first floor level. The office wing retains original fabric in its walls, windows, and in some interior spaces, wooden doors, plaster walls, and ceiling also appear to be original. The concrete patio between the two buildings, is the only original remnant of the auditorium floor.

History: The Community Center continued to be used for its original function after the Abbottsford Homes Housing Project was turned over to the Philadelphia Housing Authority. It was in used as a community center when a fire destroyed the original auditorium. There are plans by the current Tenant Association to rebuild an auditorium on the "footprint" of the original. No exterior drawings or photographs of the original building have been identified so historic reconstruction of the building is not possible.

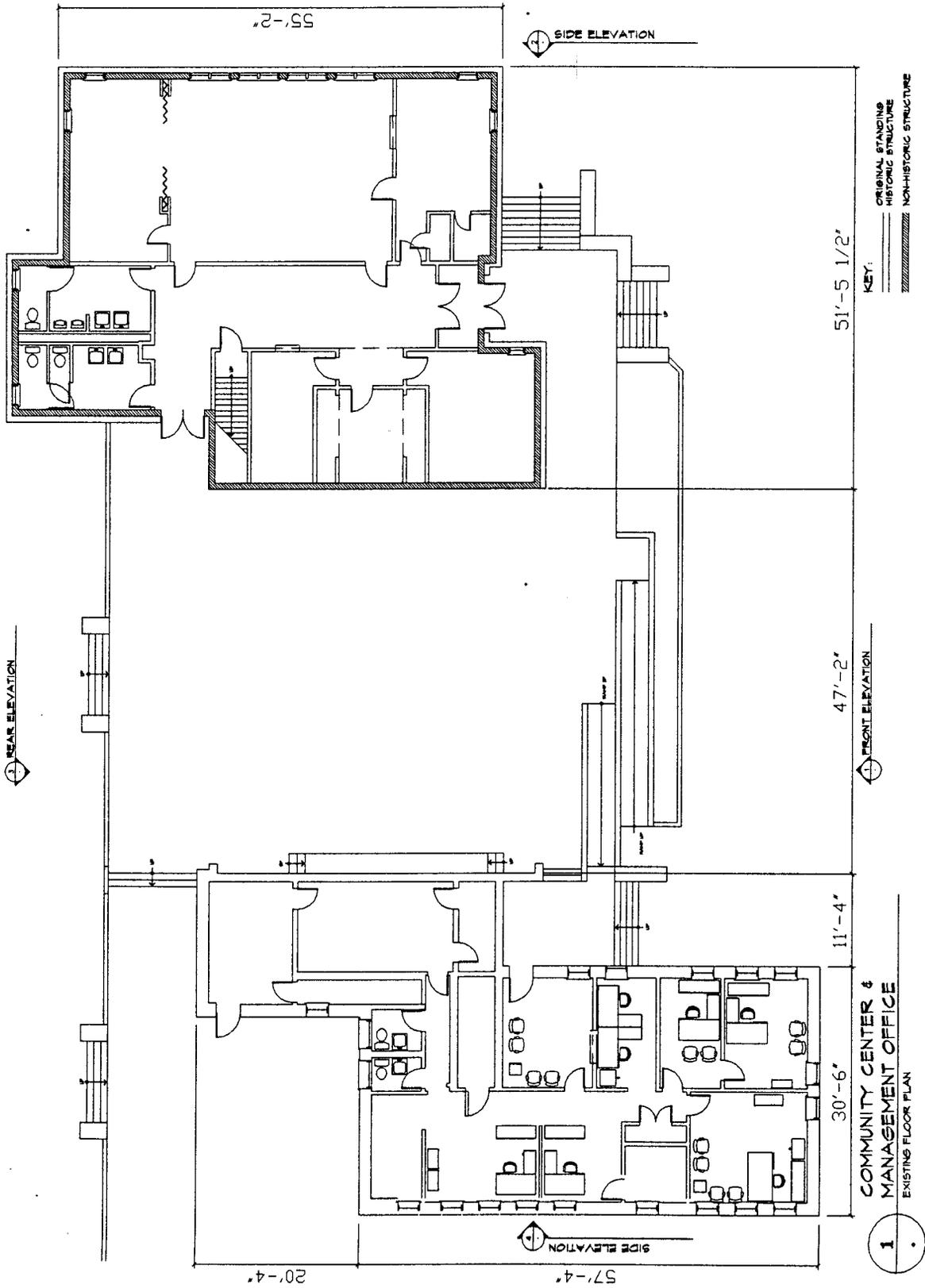
Source: Abbottsford Homes National Register Nomination, March 1995  
Part of the "Public Housing in Philadelphia" Multiple Property Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places.

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

ABBOTSFORD HOMES, Community Center  
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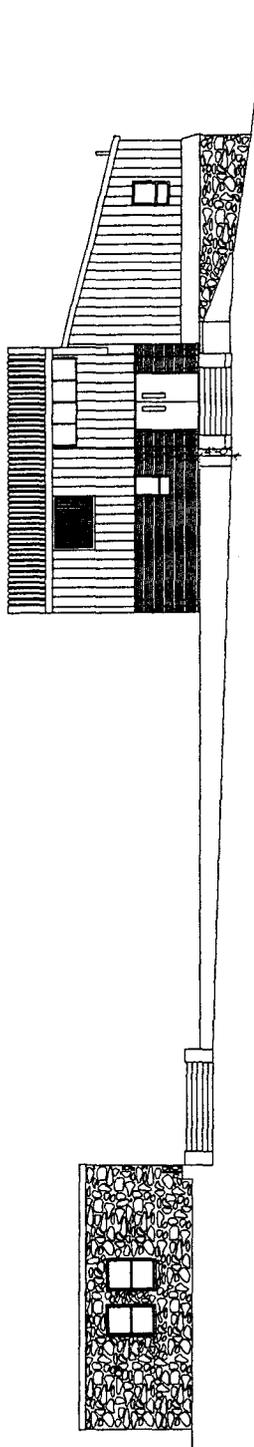


ABBOTSFORD  
EXISTING MASTER PLAN  
COMMUNITY CENTER SITE PLAN  
1" = 40'-0"

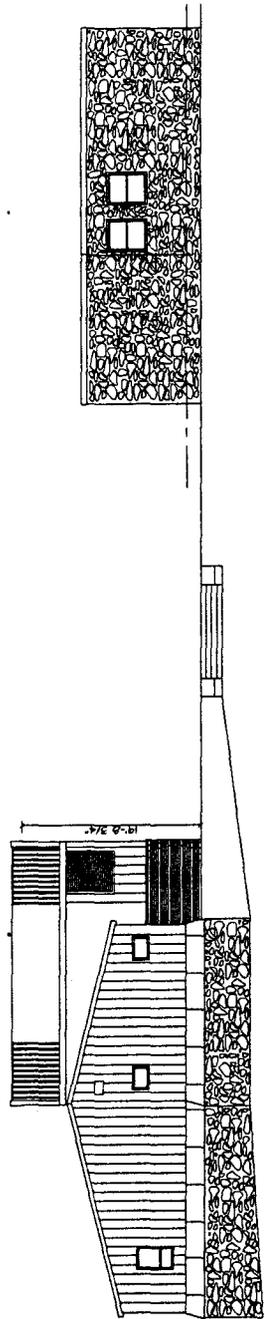


KEY:  
—— ORIGINAL STANDING HISTORIC STRUCTURE  
▨ NON-HISTORIC STRUCTURE

1  
COMMUNITY CENTER &  
MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
EXISTING FLOOR PLAN

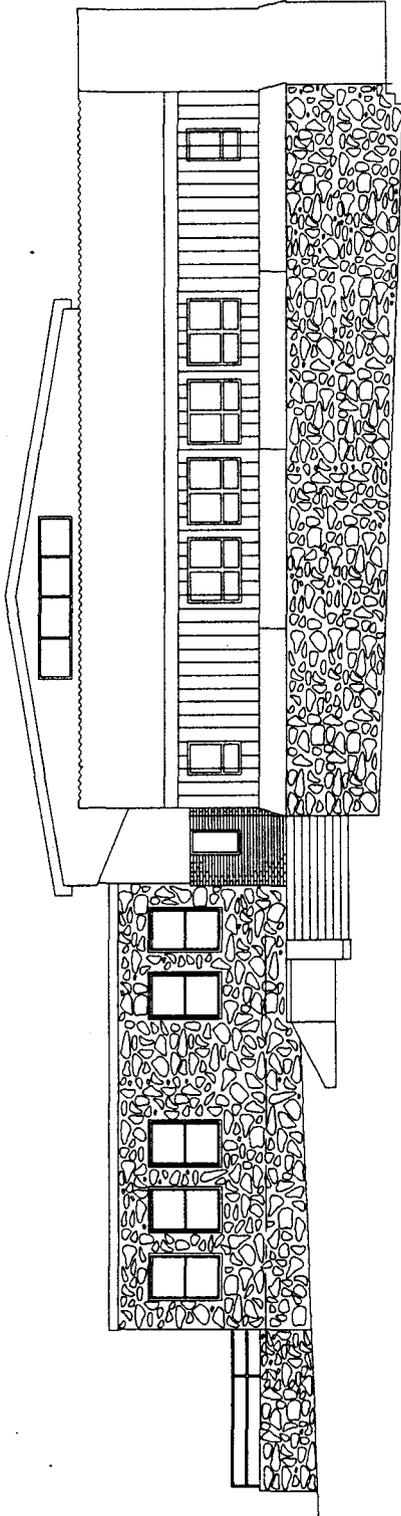


1 EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION

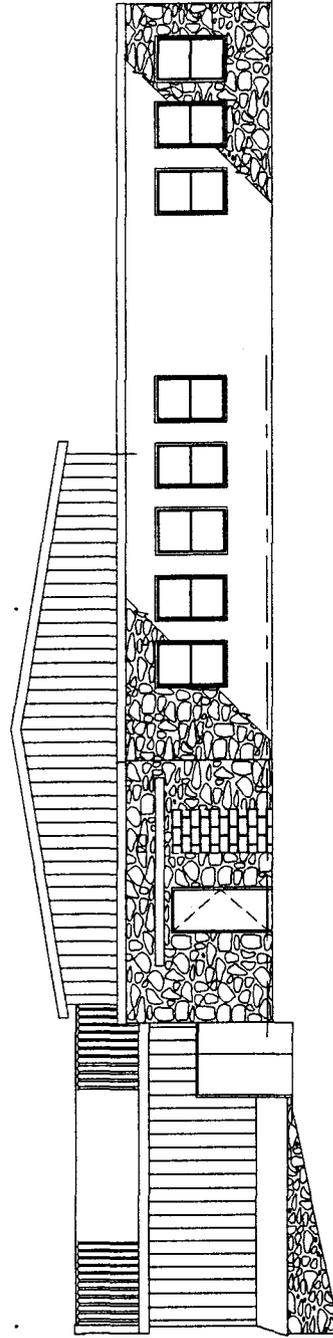


2 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION





2 EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION



4 EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION