

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALLEQUIPPA TERRACE, 258-266 BURROWS STREET

HABS No. PA-6222-C

Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh East Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: 17.058739.4477081

Significance: Constructed in 1939-41, Allequippa Terrace is among Pittsburgh's earliest low-income public housing projects. The building at 258-64 Burrows Street is typical of apartment buildings constructed throughout the complex.

Description: The building at 258-266 Burrows is a three-story, red brick apartment. It is roughly C-shaped in plan-- there is a rear ell on either end of a long rectangle. The roof is flat. The front facade contains four entrances. Each entrance is flanked by single or paired double hung sash windows. The sole decorative element on the building is the pattern of raised bricks around each entrance. The other facades are all similar with monotonous ranks of double hung sash. All the windows have vinyl or aluminum replacement sash. The flush steel entrance doors are painted brown and have rectangular window openings. Although this is not among the eight apartment buildings renovated, the common space in front has been updated with a new sidewalk, streetlights, an iron fence, and a row of trees.

The building at 258-266 Burrows Street contains twelve one-bedroom units and twenty-four two-bedroom units. Each apartment contains a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and one or two bedrooms. The outside entrance doors lead directly to a stairwell. The stairwells are double-loaded with mirror image apartments on either side. The first, second, and third floor plans are identical. Most of the original fixtures throughout the building have been retained. The kitchens have open wood shelves above the sinks. The original sinks have hot and cold spigots and integral drainboards. The bathrooms contain the original bathtubs, sinks with oval basins, and built-in medicine cabinets. The bedrooms and linen closets have no doors, but are simply inset open spaces. All rooms, ceilings and hallways are painted off white. Interior doors and trim are light brown. The floors are speckled beige and brown linoleum.

History: Allequippa Terrace was designed by Raymond Marlier, William Boyd, Edward B. Lee, and Bernard H. Prack and constructed in 1939-41 as low-income public housing. The apartments have remained essentially unchanged over the past sixty years. An early publication by the Pittsburgh Housing Association noted the minimal approach used in construction of the first public housing projects. The walls, floors and ceilings were initially concrete, either unpainted or painted with the cheapest grade of casein paint. The windows were steel sash. The windows

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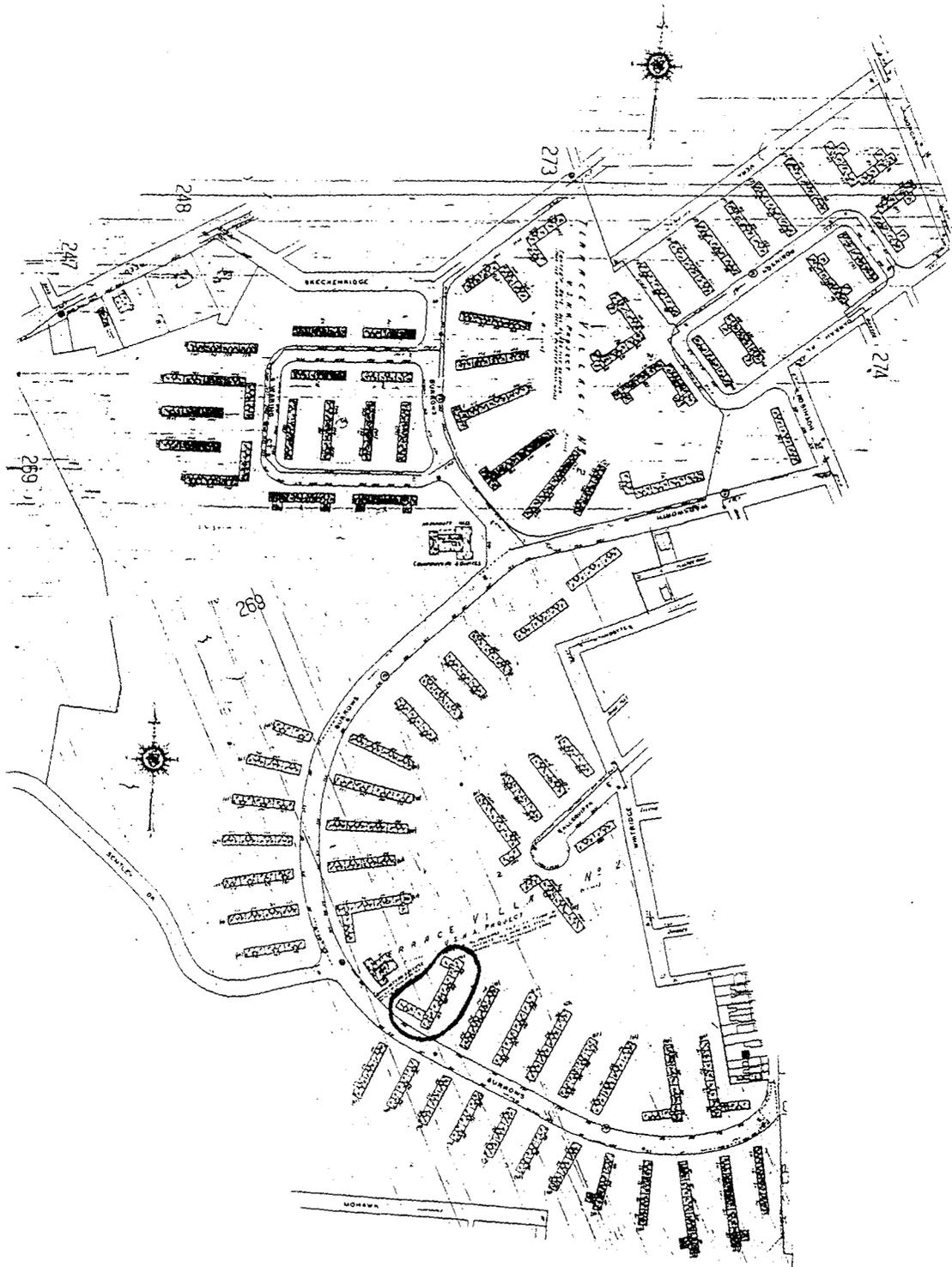
have been replaced with double hung aluminum or vinyl sash, and the concrete floors have been covered with linoleum. However, the layout of the apartments and most of the original fixtures remain intact.

Sources: “History and Significance of Housing Authority of Pittsburgh Projects: PA-1-2 and PA-1-8 (Bedford Dwellings and Bedford Dwellings Addition; PA-1-3- (Allequippa Terrace); and PA-1-6 (Broadhead Manor)” prepared by John F. Bauman for the Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, 1997.

“Allequippa Terrace Revitalization Plan Application for Implementation Grant, May 25, 1993” Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

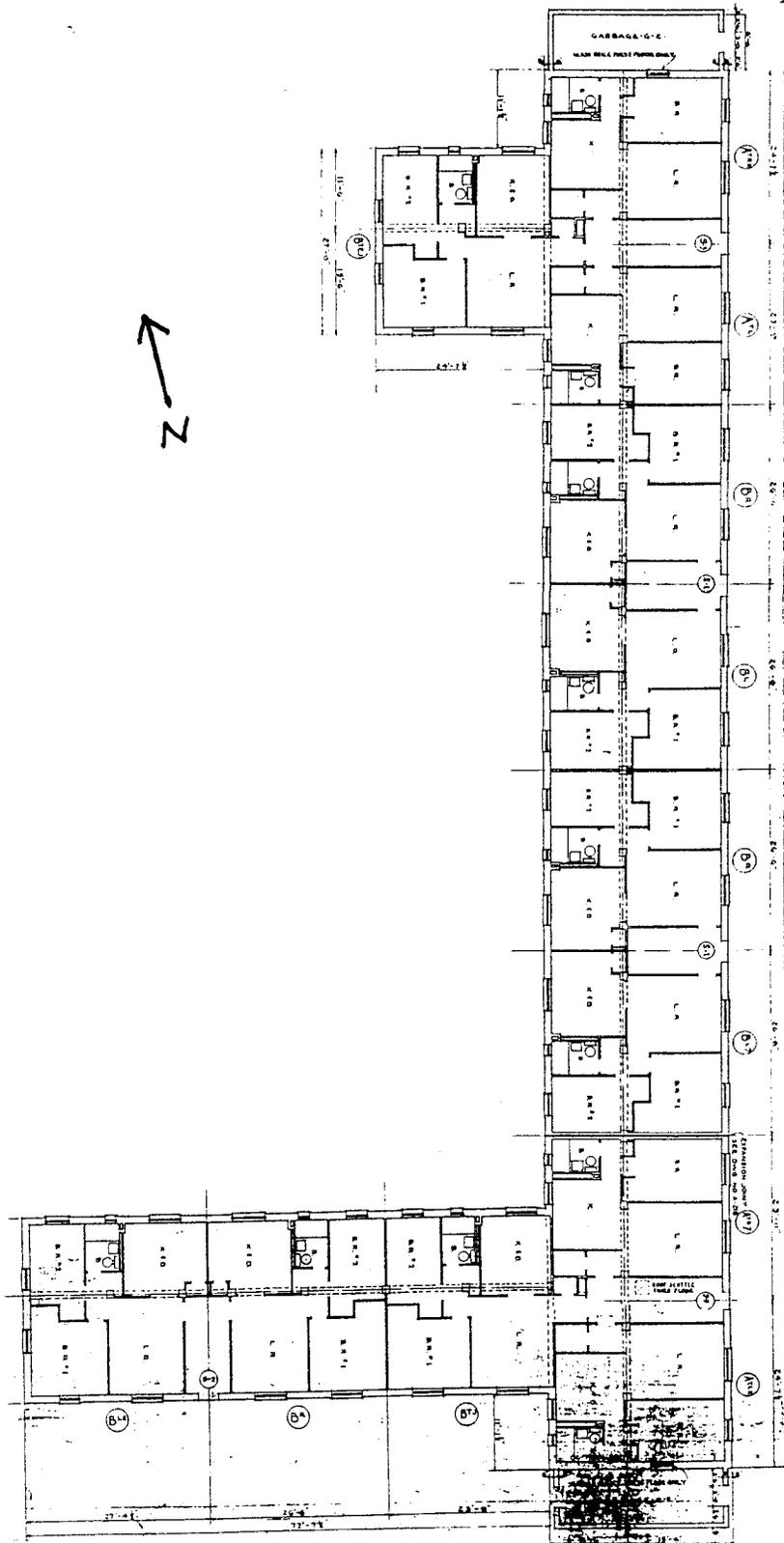
Historians: Lauren Uhl and Tracy Walter, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1997

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Location of 258-264 Burrows Street
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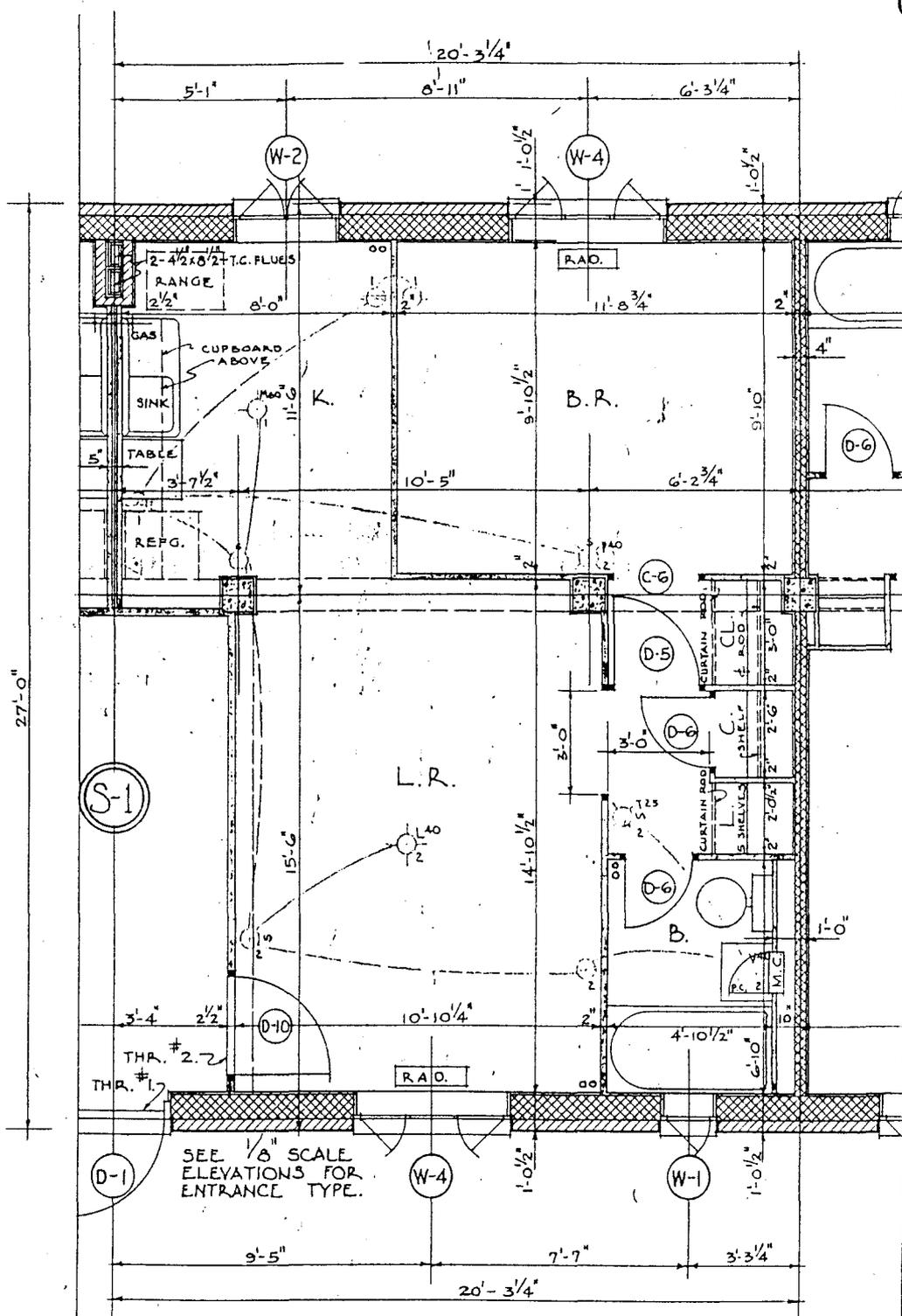
Floor Plan for First, Second and Third Floors, 258-266 Burrows Street

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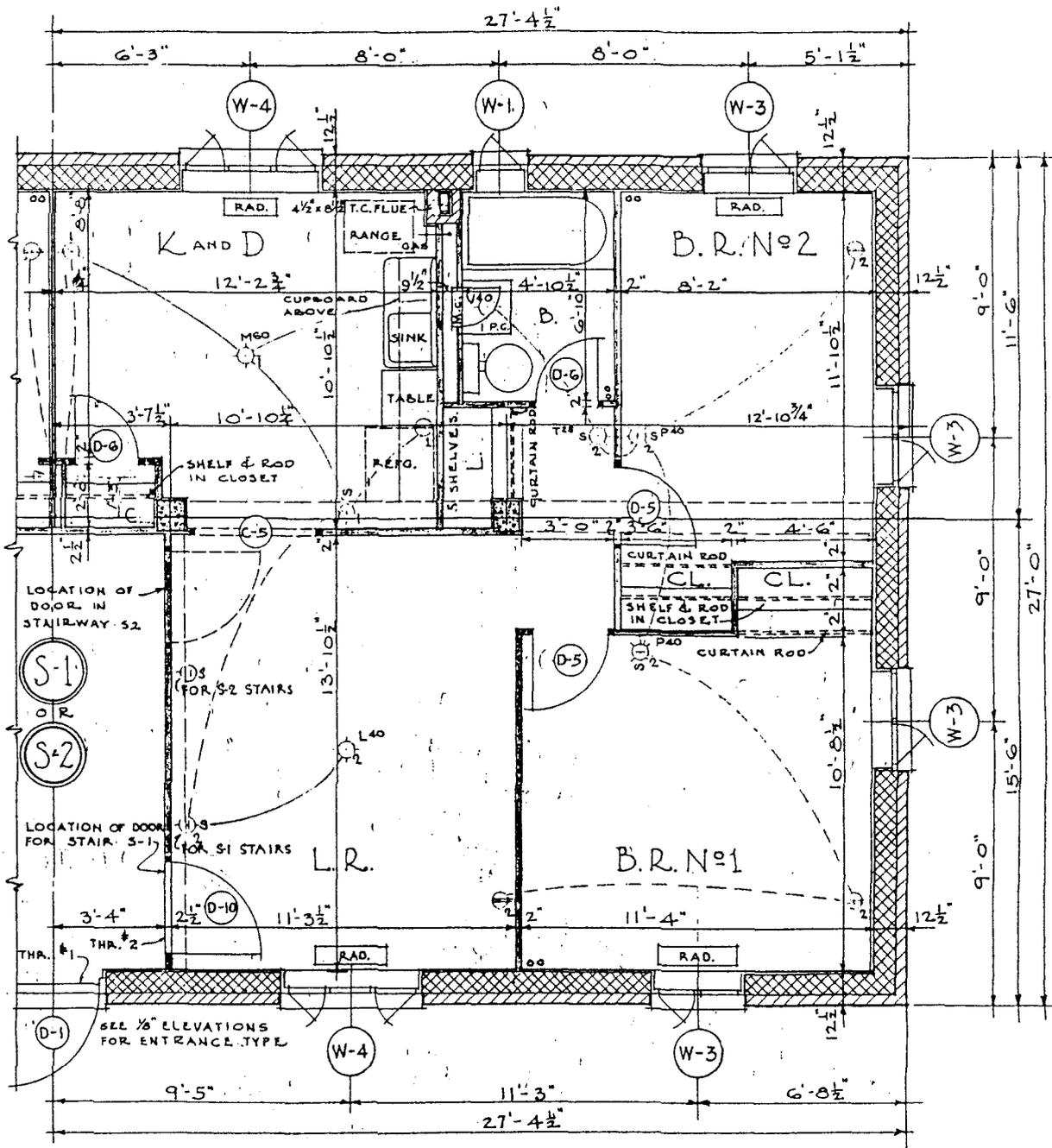
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Sample Floor Plan for One-bedroom Units
Bernard Prack, architect, October 8, 1940

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Sample Floor Plan for Two-bedroom Units
Bernard Prack, architect, October 8, 1940