

ALLEQUIPPA TERRACE, 429-433 ROBINSON COURT
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6222-D

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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, PA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALLEQUIPPA TERRACE, 429-443 ROBINSON COURT

HABS No. PA-6222-D

Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh East Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: 17.058756.4477630

Significance: Constructed in 1939-41, Allequippa Terrace is among Pittsburgh's earliest low-income public housing projects. The structure at 429-33 Robinson Court is typical of apartment buildings throughout the complex.

Description: The building at 429-433 Robinson is a three-story, red brick apartment, rectangular in plan. The ground slopes slightly to the west and the two western entrance bays are stepped down. The roof is flat. The front facade contains three entrances. Each entrance is flanked by single or paired double hung sash windows. The sole decorative element is the pattern of raised bricks around each entrance. The other three facades are similar with monotonous ranks of double hung sash. The flush steel entrance doors are painted brown and have rectangular window openings. All windows have vinyl or aluminum replacement sash.

The building at 429-433 Robinson Court contains eighteen two-bedroom apartments. Each apartment contains a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms. Each outside entrance door leads directly to a stairwell. Each stairwell is 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. All rooms, ceilings, and hallways are painted off white. Entrance 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 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.

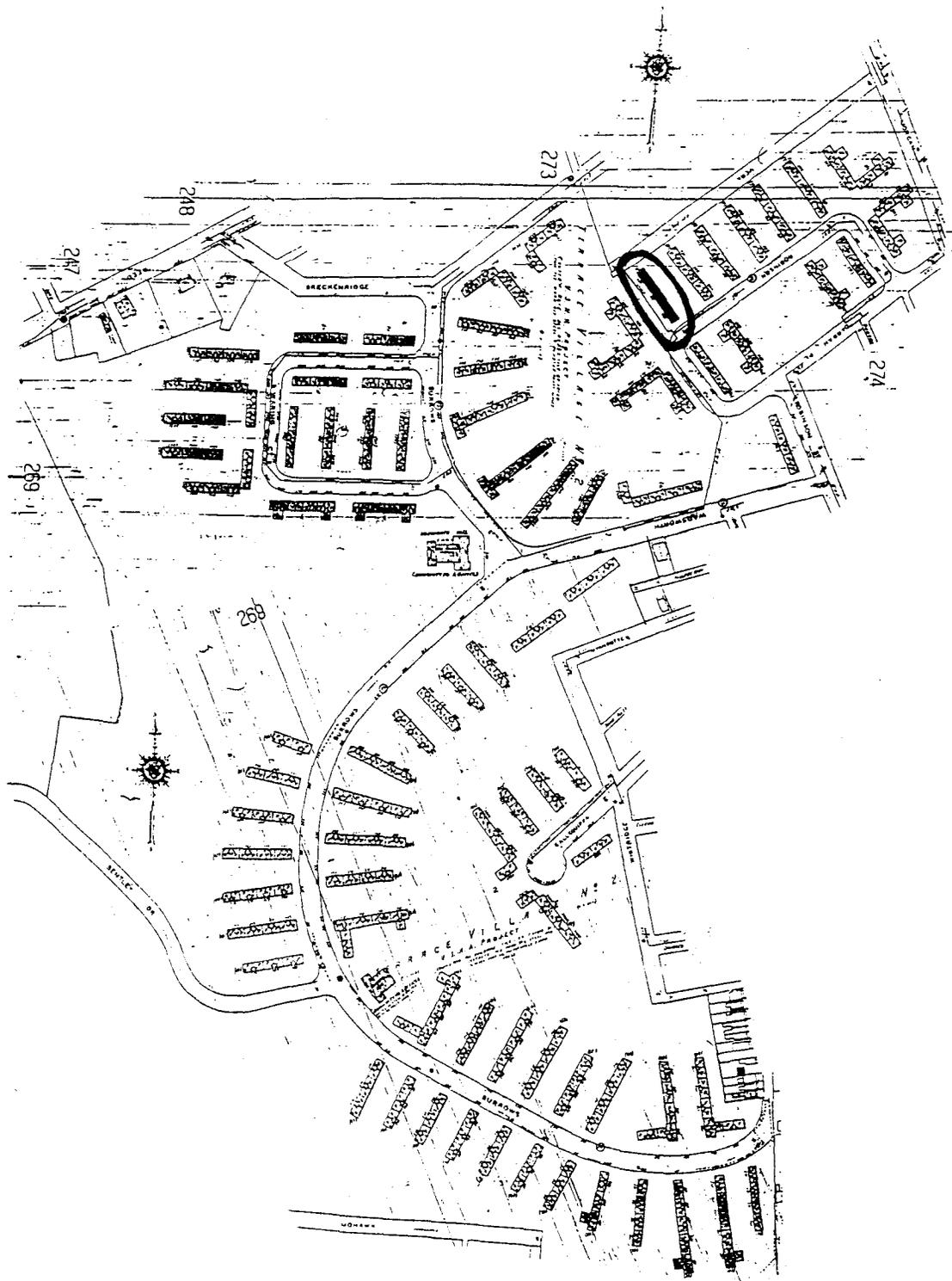
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Sources: “History and Significance of Housing Authority of Pittsburgh Projects: PA-1-2 and PA-1-8 (Bedford Dwellings and Bedford Dwellings Addition; PA-1-3- (Allequippa Terrace); and PA-1-6 (Broadhead Manor)” prepared by John F. Bauman for the Housing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

“Allequippa Terrace Revitalization Plan, Application for Implementation Grant, May 26, 1993” prepared by the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

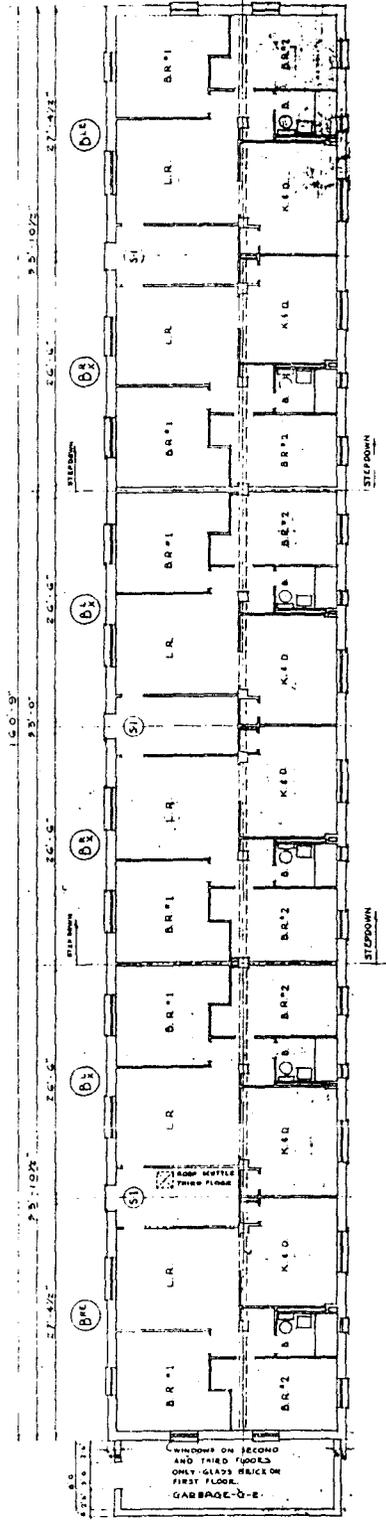
Historians: Lauren Uhl and Tracy Walter, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1997

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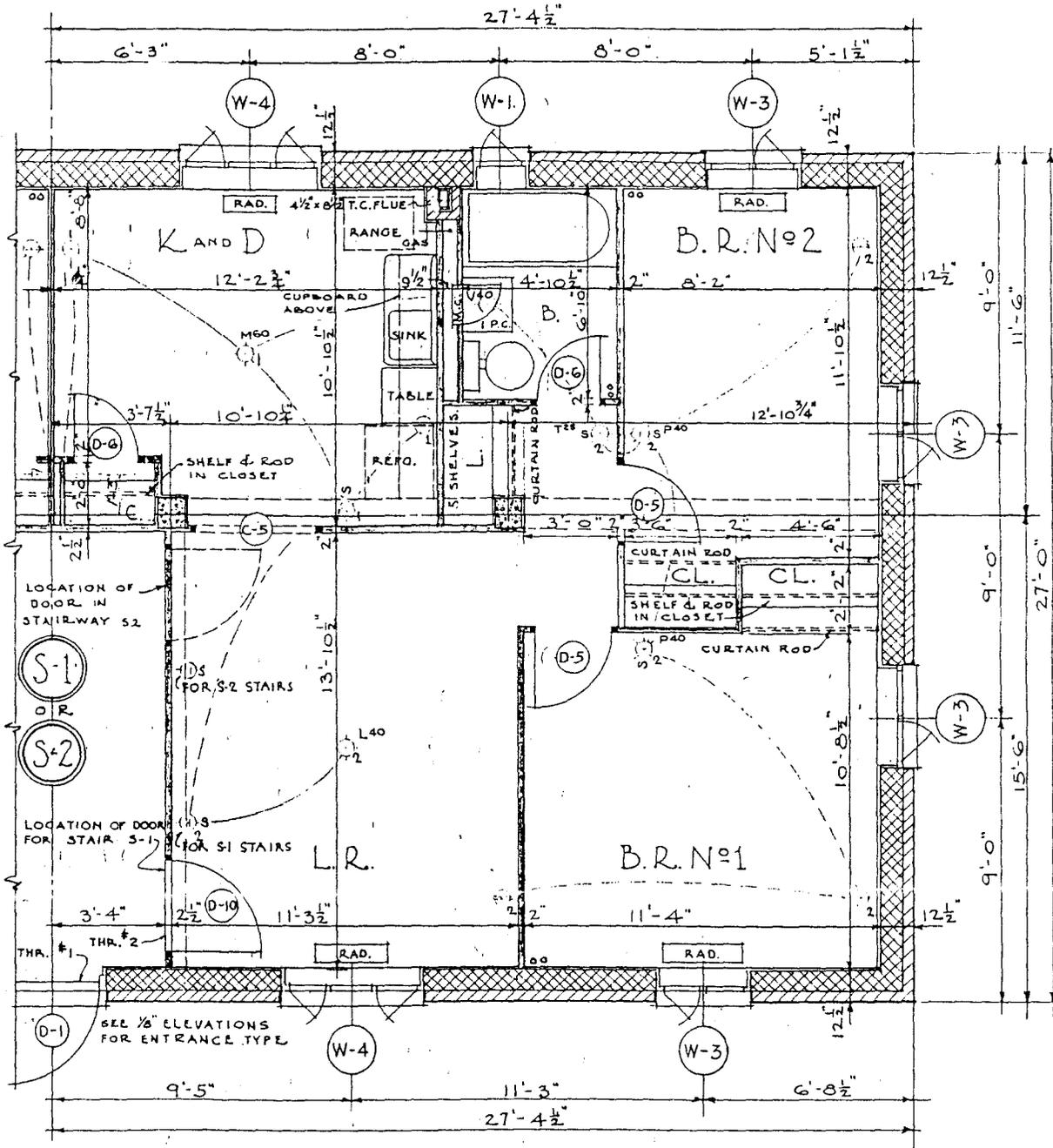


Location of 429-433 Robinson Court

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA



First, Second, and Third Floor Plans, 429-433 Robinson Court
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, PA



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