

13 PERNOD STREET (House)
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6198

HABS
PA
2-PITBU,
88-

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

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Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh West Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.584140.4478890

Significance: 13 Pernod Street is representative of the smaller scale brick rowhouses that were constructed in this section of Allegheny between 1874, when a devastating fire cleared four acres of some 199 buildings, and 1884, by which time the neighborhood was densely built-up.

Description: As part of a row of four brick houses set directly on the sidewalk (9-15 Pernod Street), this three bay, two-and-a-half story structure is fully attached to 11 Pernod on the east and separated from 15 Pernod to the west by a street-level segmental arched passageway. The house measures 18'-2" in width and 31'-5-1/2" in depth. The gable roof is pierced by a brick chimney and a single gabled dormer. Its original window openings with segmental brick arches and wood sills have been filled in with smaller replacement windows on the second floor and replaced with a single picture window on the first floor. The transomed door with a wood hood has also been replaced. The rear yard is too overgrown to permit photography.

On the interior, each floor consists of a front room and a rear room separated by a transverse stair. All of the spaces have been altered to remove the original architectural details. The only surviving detail is the vertical tongue-and-groove wall enclosing the staircase to railing height in the first floor rear room. The basement plan consists of two major spaces separated by the stairway.

History: Based on map research confirmed by stylistic analysis, the building's construction date is estimated at ca. 1874-1884. The attached 1851 Day & Cramer map of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, is the first to show that by that date Pernod Street, first called Margaret Alley and later West Pearl Street, had been built through the block between the commercial and residential Federal Street hub on the east and Middle Alley (later called Race Street and today Reddour Street) on the west. Construction of Pernod Street opened the block to residential and commercial construction by the mid-nineteenth century. Nevertheless, by 1872, the G.M. Hopkins & Company atlas shows that only one row house (possibly at 15 Pernod Street) had been constructed fronting on Pernod Street. The west side of the block near Reddour Street was then largely vacant or lightly built upon, while the east side was taken up by residential and commercial buildings facing on the important Federal Street corridor. One long-time owner of property in this area was Samuel B. Grove, who owned three residences or stores fronting on Federal Street near the corner of Federal and Pernod. By 1872, Grove also owned several empty lots along Pernod Street, probably where 9, 11, and 13 Pernod Street are today. On July 4, 1874 a serious fire began in the carpenter shop of Cresswell and Burgoyne at 255-257 Federal Street, about one block northeast of the subject property. It spread west and south over four acres and consumed some 199 buildings, including the area of the subject property. The extant architecture in the Pernod-Federal-Eloise-Reddour Street block thus dates after the 1874 fire. In the aftermath of this fire, George Grove apparently expanded his property holdings west along Pernod Street. Between 1874 and 1884, he is believed to have built the current row houses at 9, 11, 13, and 15 Pernod Street, all of which are shown on the 1884 Sanborn Insurance Company map. Grove continued to own these properties, as well as his Federal Street holdings, at least into the 1890s. In the intervening years, few architectural changes have been made to the houses built along the south side of Pernod Street between 1874 and 1884. The 1925 G. M. Hopkins & Company atlas shows that 13 and 15 Pernod Street were then owned by

Mrs. W.L. Elkins. More recent owners of the 13 Pernod Street property have included Rosa and Antonia Cuda, who sold it to Eugene F. and Adelia Cook in 1952. The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh obtained the house and property from the Cooks in 1996.

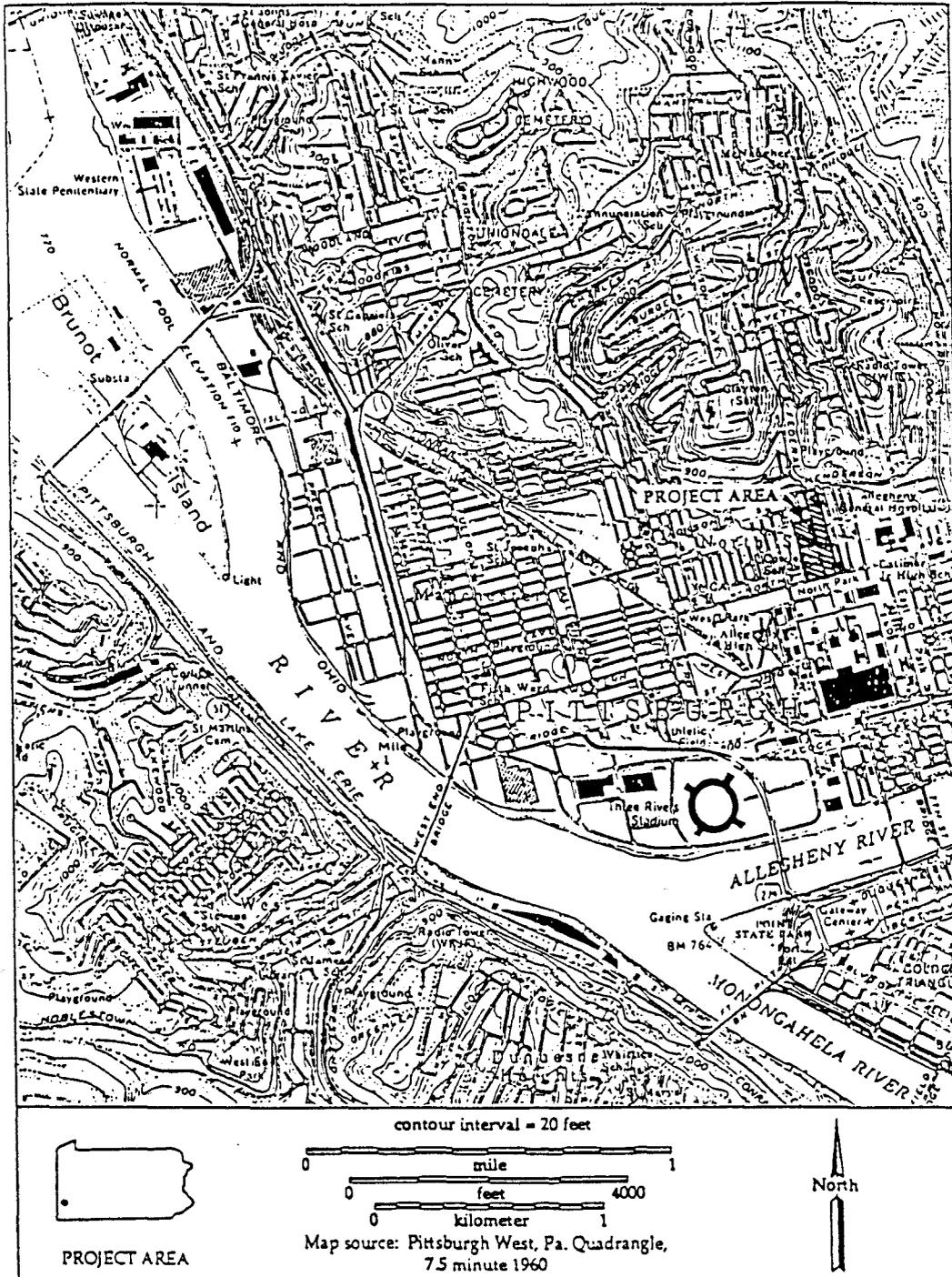
The three-block Federal North Redevelopment Area in the Central Northside Historic District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was certified in 1989. In 1995, Pittsburgh adopted a redevelopment plan for this neighborhood. In consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer (PASHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), it was determined that proposed redevelopment in the Federal North neighborhood would affect National Register of Historic Places-eligible historic properties. One condition of the project's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) provided for Historic American Building Survey (HABS) recording of 14 buildings in a portion of the redevelopment project called "Block #2." Block #2 includes the area bounded by Federal Street on the east, Eloise Street on the south, Reddour Street on the west, and Pernod Street on the north. The dwelling at 13 Pernod Street is located in Block # 2.

Sources:

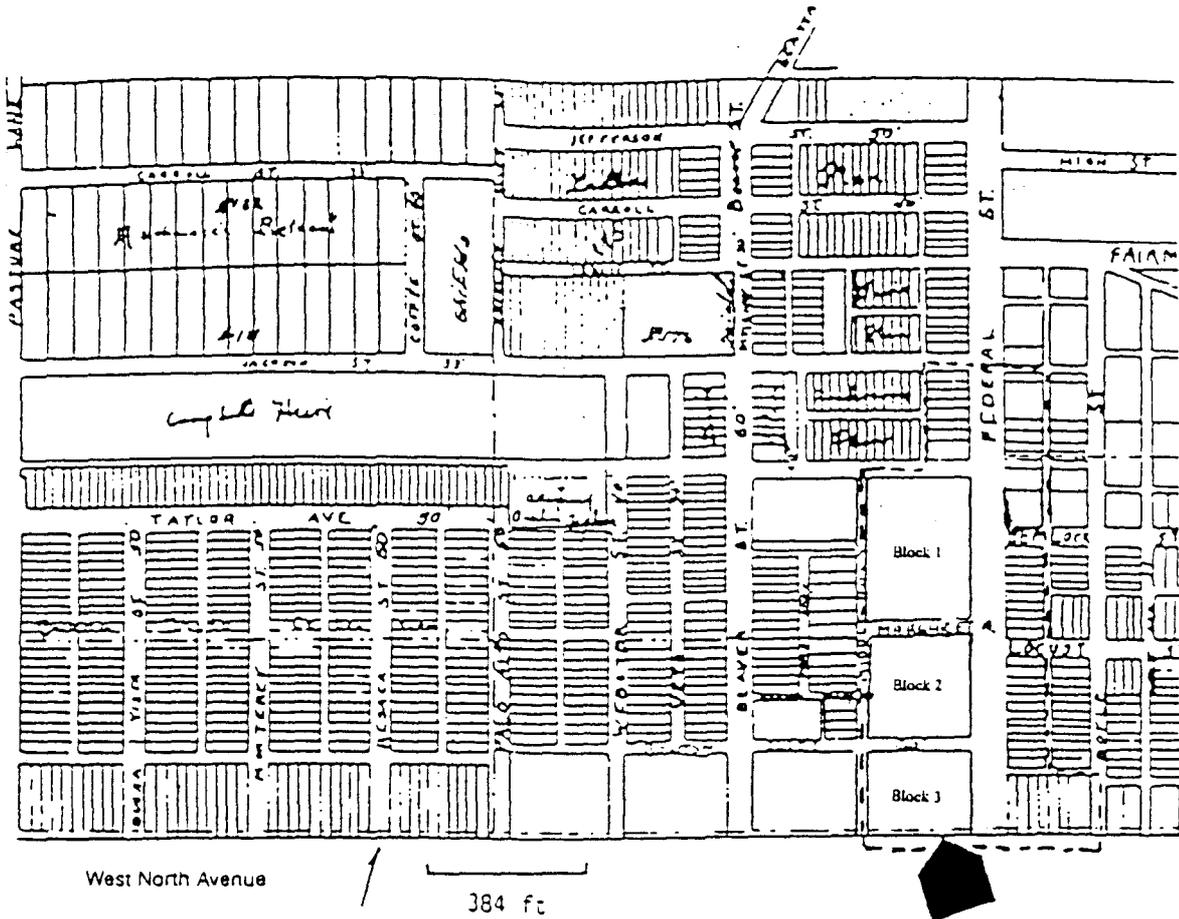
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- Millis, Heather. "An Archaeological Survey and Land-Use History for the Proposed Federal North Redevelopment Project, City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania." A report prepared for the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh by Garrow & Associates, Inc., Thomas R. Baker, Ph.D., principal investigator, 1995.

Historians:

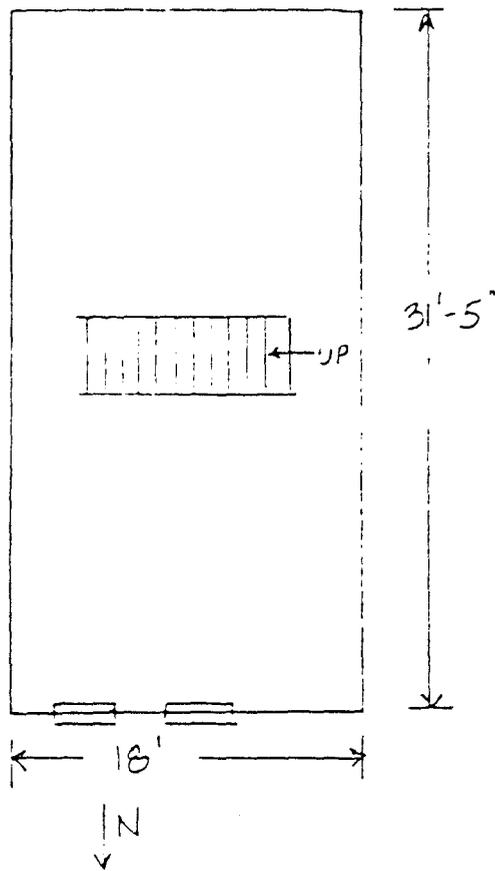
Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D, and Eliza Smith Brown
Brown Carlisle & Associates, Inc.
November 1996



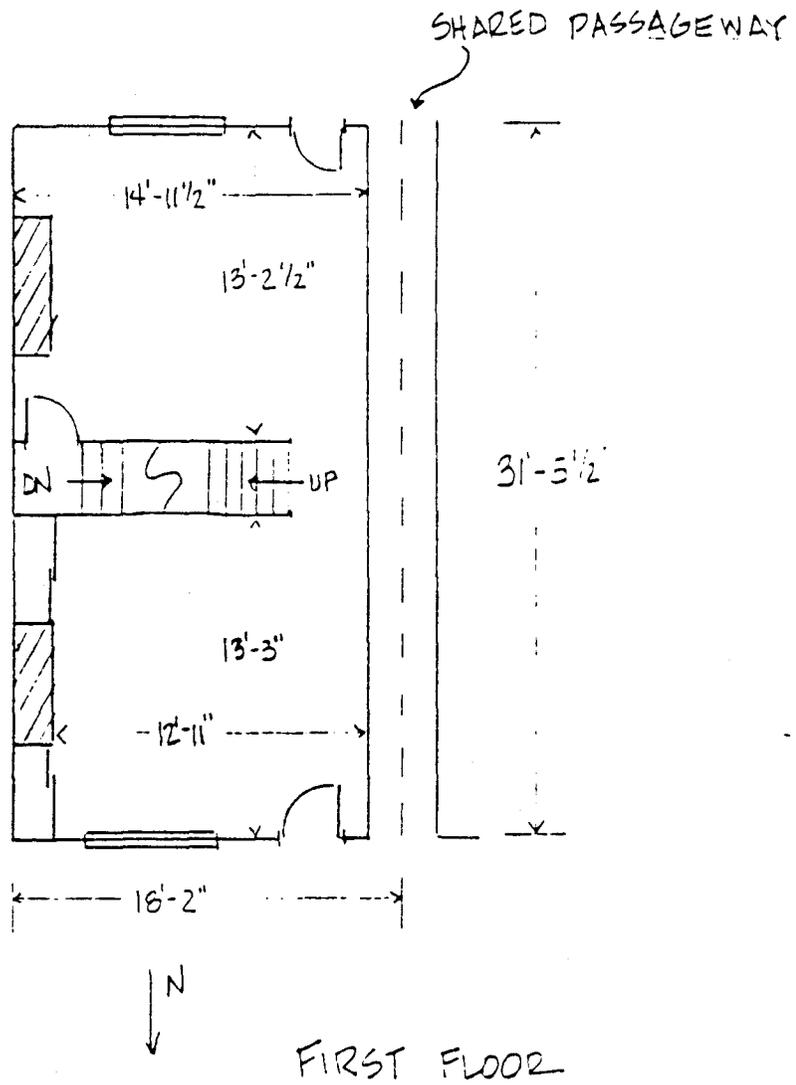
Location of the Federal North Redevelopment Area in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Source: USGS Pittsburgh, West 7.5 minute quadrangle map.

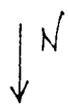
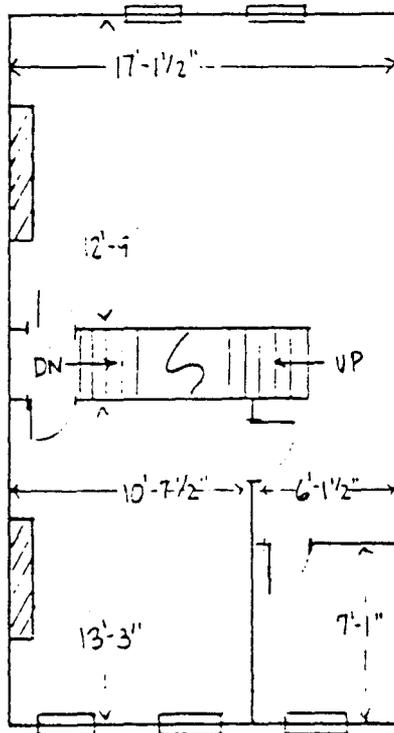


The Day & Cramer 1851 map of Allegheny, Pennsylvania (today, the Northside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) showing lot divisions in and near the Federal North Redevelopment Area (arrow). Dashes outline the project area. The subject building is located in Block 2. Benton Alley is today's Eloise Street. Margaret Alley is today's Pernod Street. Middle Alley is today's Reddour Street. Federal Street has retained its name to the present.

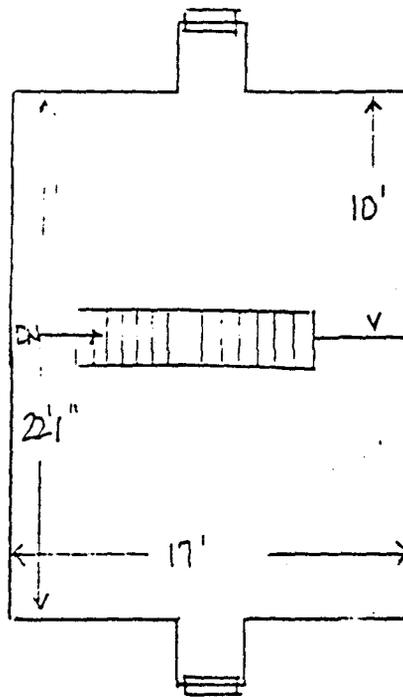


BASEMENT





SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR