

15 PERNOD STREET (House)
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6199

HABS
PA
2-PITBU,
89-

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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15 PERNOD STREET (HOUSE)

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Location: Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh West Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
17.584140.4478890

Significance: 15 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: Set at the end 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 attached to 13 Pernod on the east at the upper floor levels, with a segmentally arched alleyway between on the first floor. On the west, it is fully separated from 17 Pernod by a narrow alley. 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 storm windows on the exterior to protect the original wood sash. The transomed door with a wood hood is reached by a straight set of steps. It rests on a raised stone basement with a stone water table. 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. On the third floor, the space is open, divided only by the railing-height wood wainscot surrounding the stair. The basement plan consists of two major spaces, a laundry and a (wine) press room) separated by the stairway. Original double hung sash (2/2) windows, four-panel doors, casings, and baseboards survive throughout the house. The principal first and second floor rooms have fireplaces with wood mantels. In the kitchen, a built-in dish cupboard, with two glass doors above and a single door below, matches the other doors in the house in its panel configuration.

History: Based on map research confirmed by stylistic analysis, 15 Pernod Street was believed to have been built c.1874-1884. The attached 1851 Day & Cramer map of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, shows that by that date Pernod Street, first called Margaret Alley and later West Pearl Street, had been built between Federal Street on the east and Middle Alley (later, Race Street and today Reddour Street) on the west. Construction of Pernod Street opened the block to residential and commercial construction. Nevertheless, as the G.M. Hopkins & Company atlas shows, by 1872 only one rectangular building, possibly a row house, had been constructed to front on Pernod Street, probably at the 15 Pernod Street address. This building and the lot at today's 17 Pernod Street are shown under the ownership of "H.B. Donald" (?) on the 1872 Hopkins map. (The name may have been McDonough, as a John McDonough did own the nearby lot at 1222 Reddour Street as early as 1850.) Lots along the west side of the block near Reddour Street were then either vacant or lightly built upon, while the east side was taken up by residential and commercial buildings fronting Federal Street. A long-time owner of property in this block was Samuel B. Grove, who, by 1872, owned three residences or stores fronting on Federal Street near the corner of Pernod and an undivided lot 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. Between 1874 and 1884, George Grove may have built the current row houses at 9, 11, 13, and 15 Pernod Street, all of which appear for the first time on the 1884 Sanborn Insurance Company map. Grove continued to own these

properties, as well as his nearby Federal Street holdings, at least into the 1890s. In subsequent years, few major architectural changes were made to these homes. The 1925 G. M. Hopkins & Company atlas shows that both 13 and 15 Pernod Street were then owned by Mrs. W.L. Elkins. More recent owners of the 15 Pernod Street property have included Paul J. and Angela M. Coltellaro. Ownership was transferred from them to Paul J. Coltellaro in February 1984. The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh obtained the house and property from Mr. Coltellaro through a Declaration of Taking filed in June 1996.

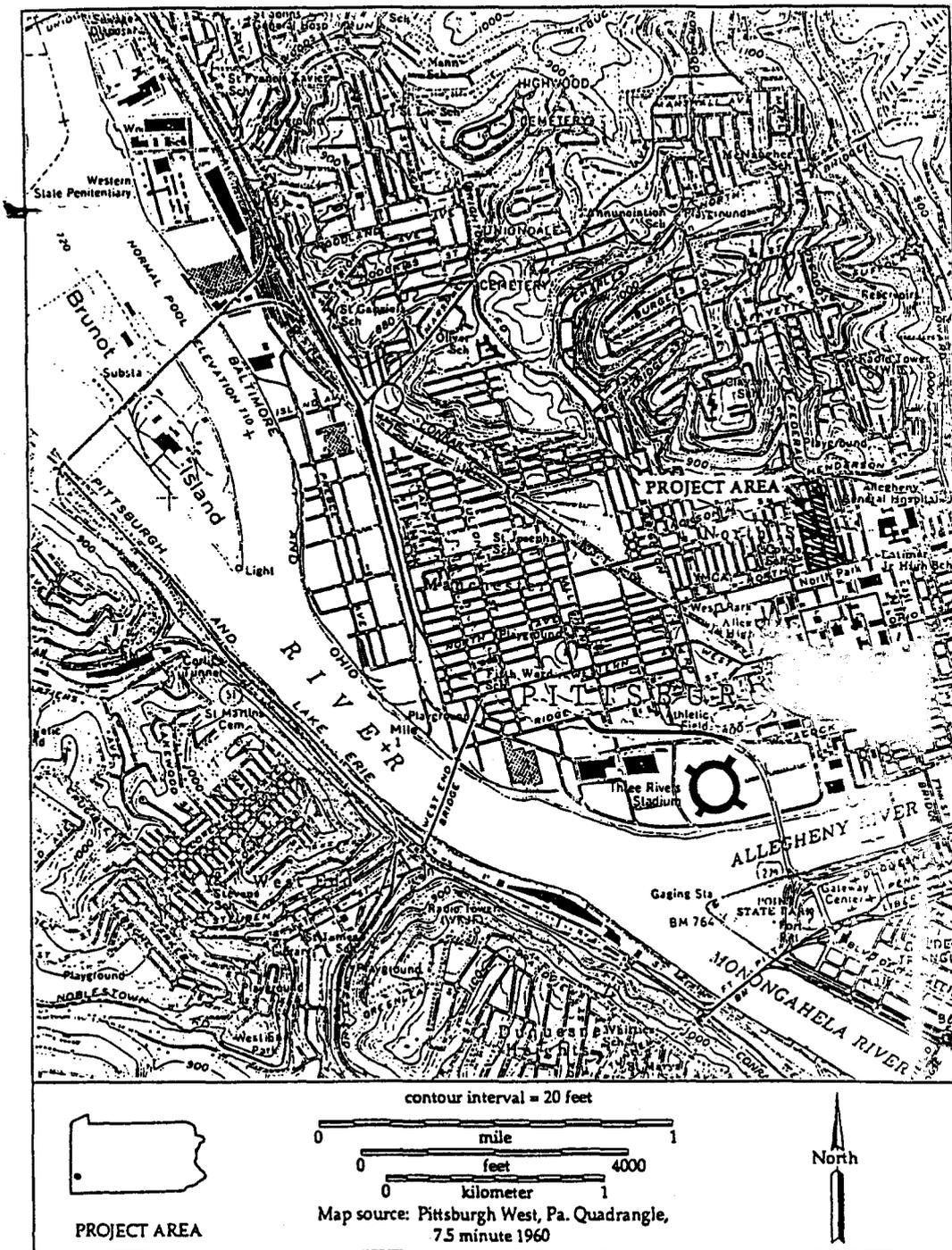
The three-block Federal North Redevelopment Area in the Central Northside Historic District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was certified in 1989. In 1995, Pittsburgh adopted a redevelopment plan for this neighborhood. In consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Officer (PASHPO) and 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 15 Pernod Street is located in Block # 2.

Sources:

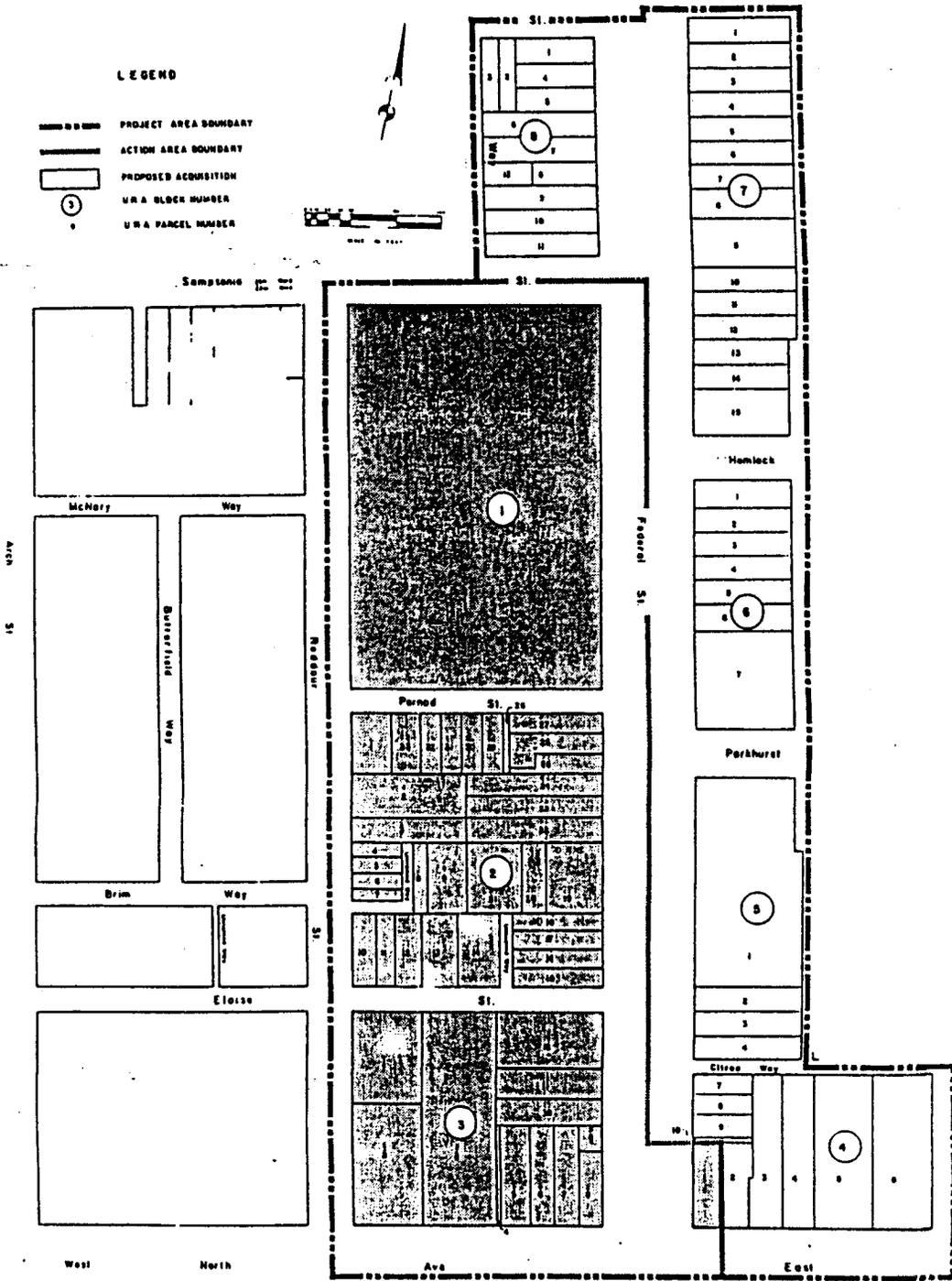
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Historians:

Ronald C. Carlisle, Ph.D, and Eliza Smith Brown
Brown Carlisle & Associates, Inc.
March 1997

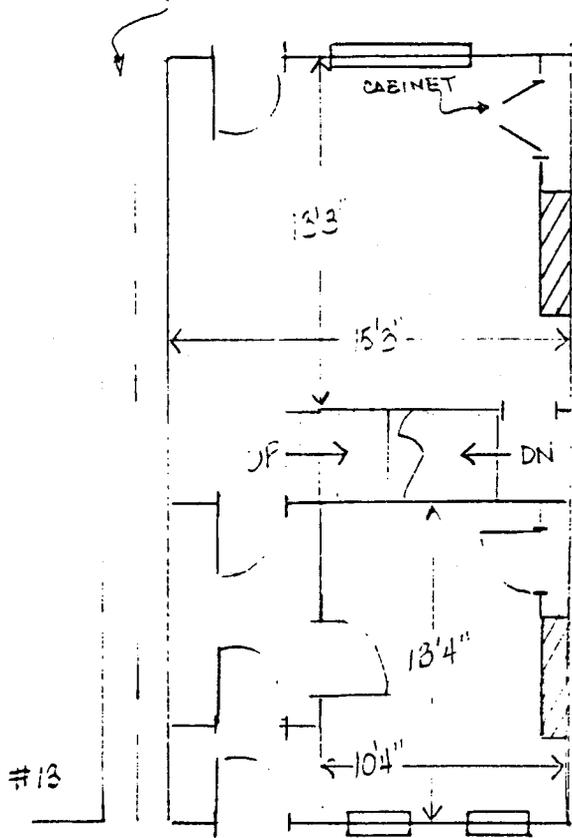


Location of the Federal North Redevelopment Area in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Source: USGS Pittsburgh, West 7.5 minute quadrangle map. After Millis (1995: 2, Figure 1).

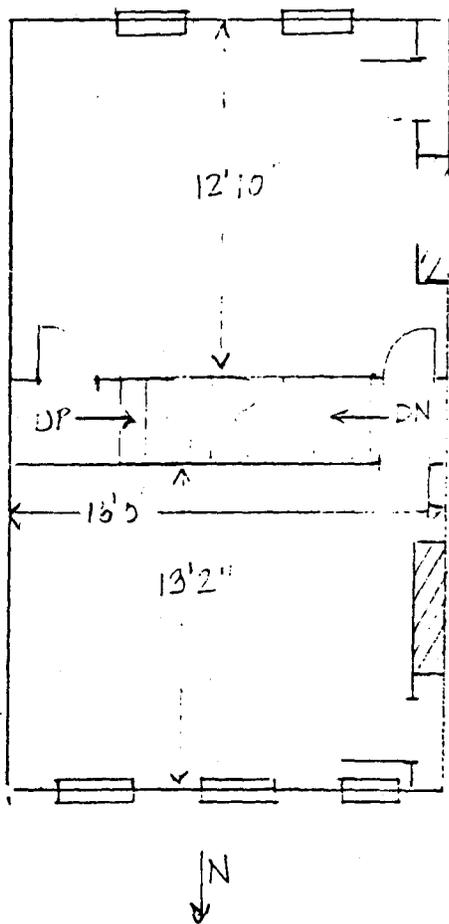


Federal North Redevelopment Area plan in the Central Northside neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The subject building is located in Block 2 of the project. Source: Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

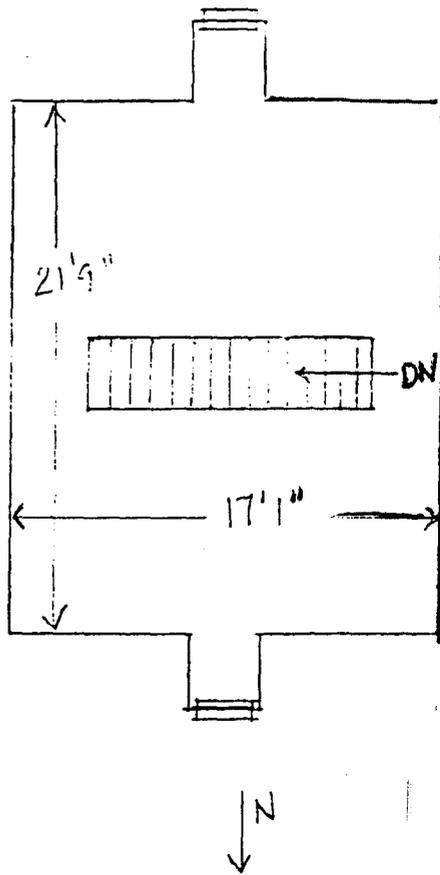
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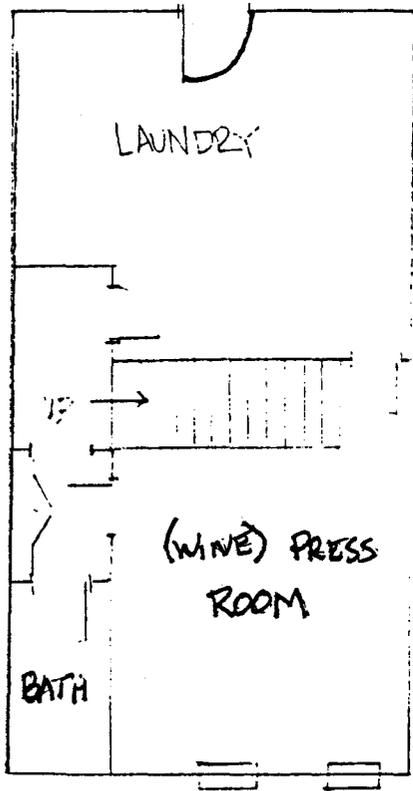
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



BASEMENT