

BEDFORD DWELLINGS, MANAGEMENT BUILDING  
2304 Bedford Avenue  
Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6339-A

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PA-6339-A

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
BEDFORD DWELLINGS, MANAGEMENT BUILDING

HABS No. PA-6339-A

Location: 2305 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh East Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinates: 17.058689.4478194

Significance: Constructed in 1939-40, Bedford Dwellings is among Pittsburgh's earliest low-income public housing projects. The management building originally served as the administrative office and community center.

Description: The management building is located on a parcel that slopes slightly to the north. The building is L-shaped in plan. The front block is two-stories, the rear ell is one story. The building is red brick with a flat roof. It has no architectural details except for a date stone on the lower left side of the front elevation. The windows have brown aluminum sash and are covered with metal security grids. A handicap accessible ramp has been added to the front. The railing and trim on the front is painted blue.

The right side elevation has one window on the front portion of the building and eight windows on the rear ell. The rear elevation of the main block has rows of windows on the first and second floors and a flush metal door. The west elevation of the rear ell also has rows of windows (shortened from larger windows or doors) and a flush metal door.

The first floor has a lobby with cream colored walls and a large wallpaper frieze with a primitive rural scent. A central plate glass security window separates the lobby from the administrative offices. Behind the window is a large central working space with two small offices to the west and a vault, rest room and small kitchen to the east.

The large central room in the basement is concrete block painted blue. The kitchen and rest rooms retain their plaster walls, painted cream, and their original fixtures. Drywall partitions have been erected at the northern end of the basement to divide a play area into four offices.

History: Bedford Dwellings was designed by the architectural team of Raymond Marlier, William Boyd, Edward B. Lee, and Bernard H. Prack in 1939-40 as low-income public housing. Original drawings note that the first floor contained a central public entrance and work space flanked on the left by two offices and on the right by a vault and rest room facilities. The basement contained storage, a kitchen, rest rooms, an examination room and two large playrooms. The building has

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remained remarkably intact. On the first floor, one of the rest rooms has been converted to a galley kitchen. In the basement, a small play area has been partitioned to create offices.

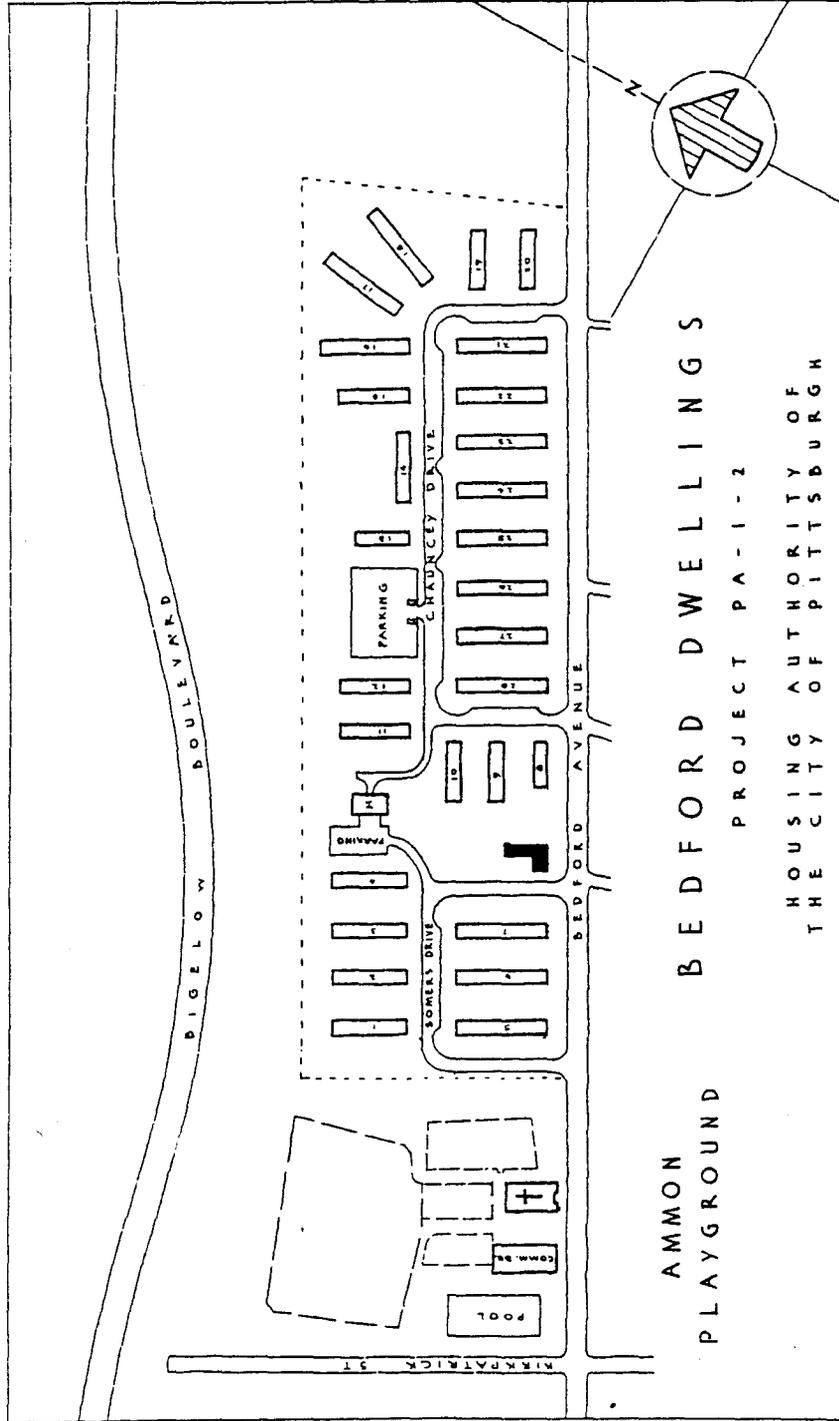
A planting plan from 1939 indicates that the area behind the management building was used for a junior playground and had a spray pool at the rear. This area is now covered with asphalt.

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.

Plans and drawings located at the Housing Authority offices.

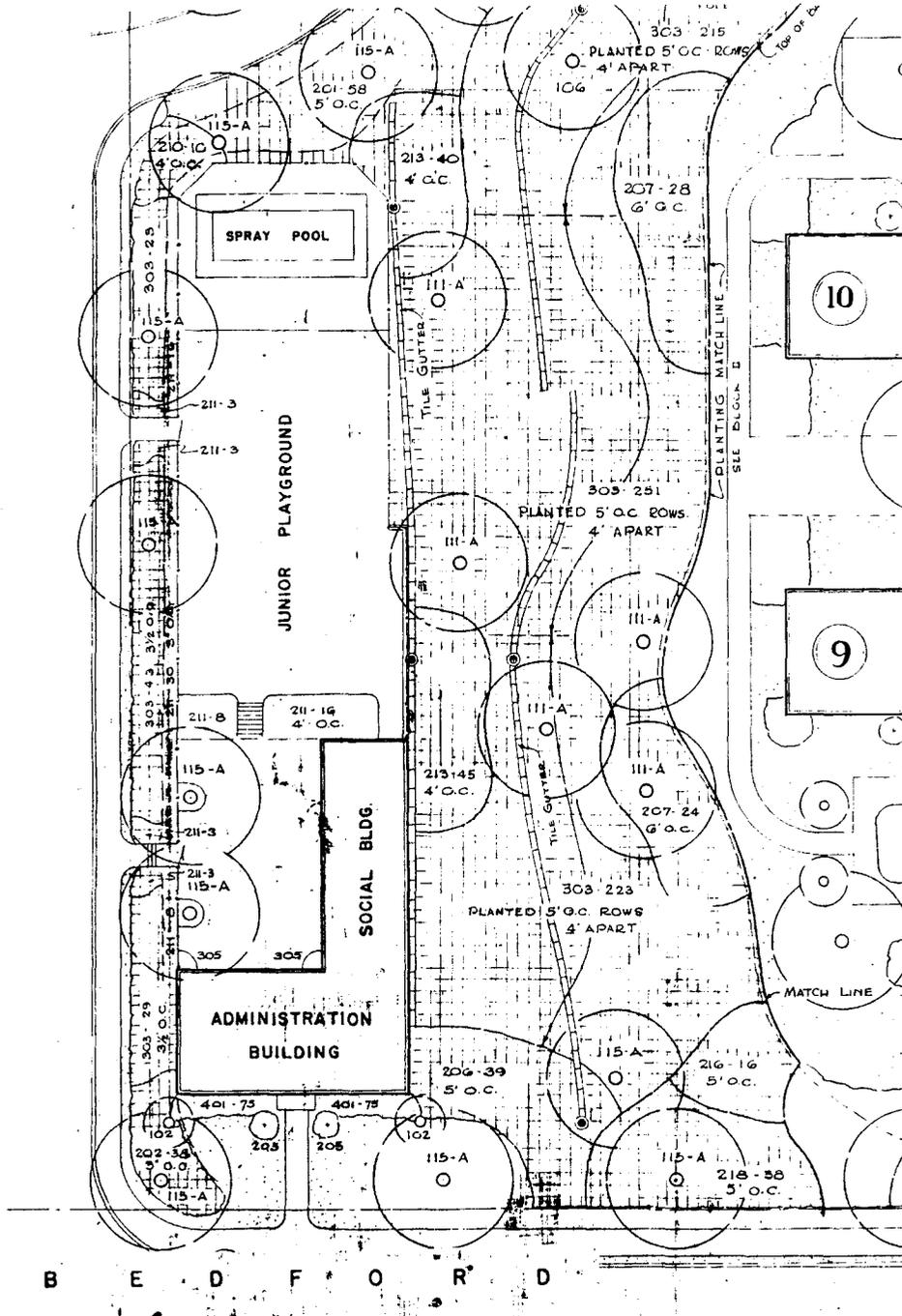
Historian: Lauren Uhl, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1999

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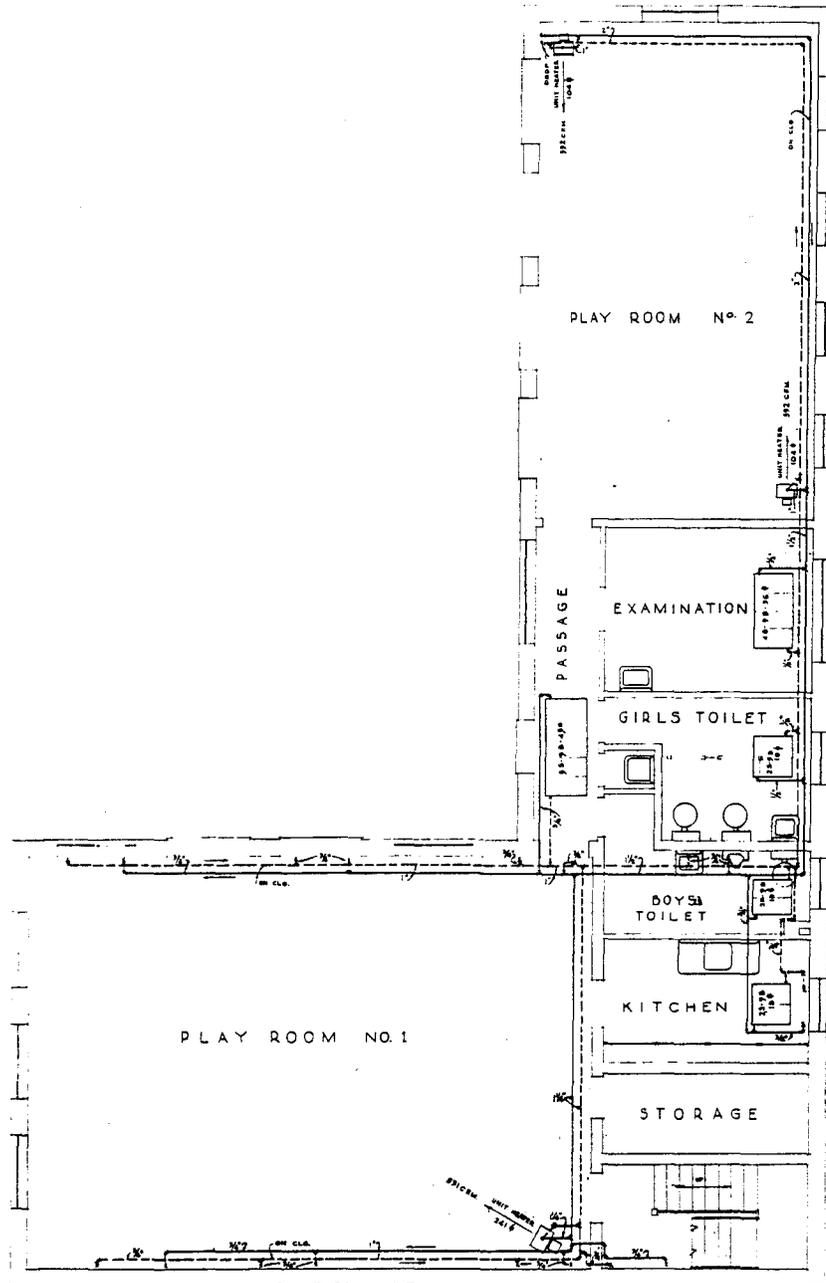
Site Plan Noting Location of Management Building, 1999

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Portion of Planting Plan Around Administration Building at Bedford Dwellings, 1939  
Collection of Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh

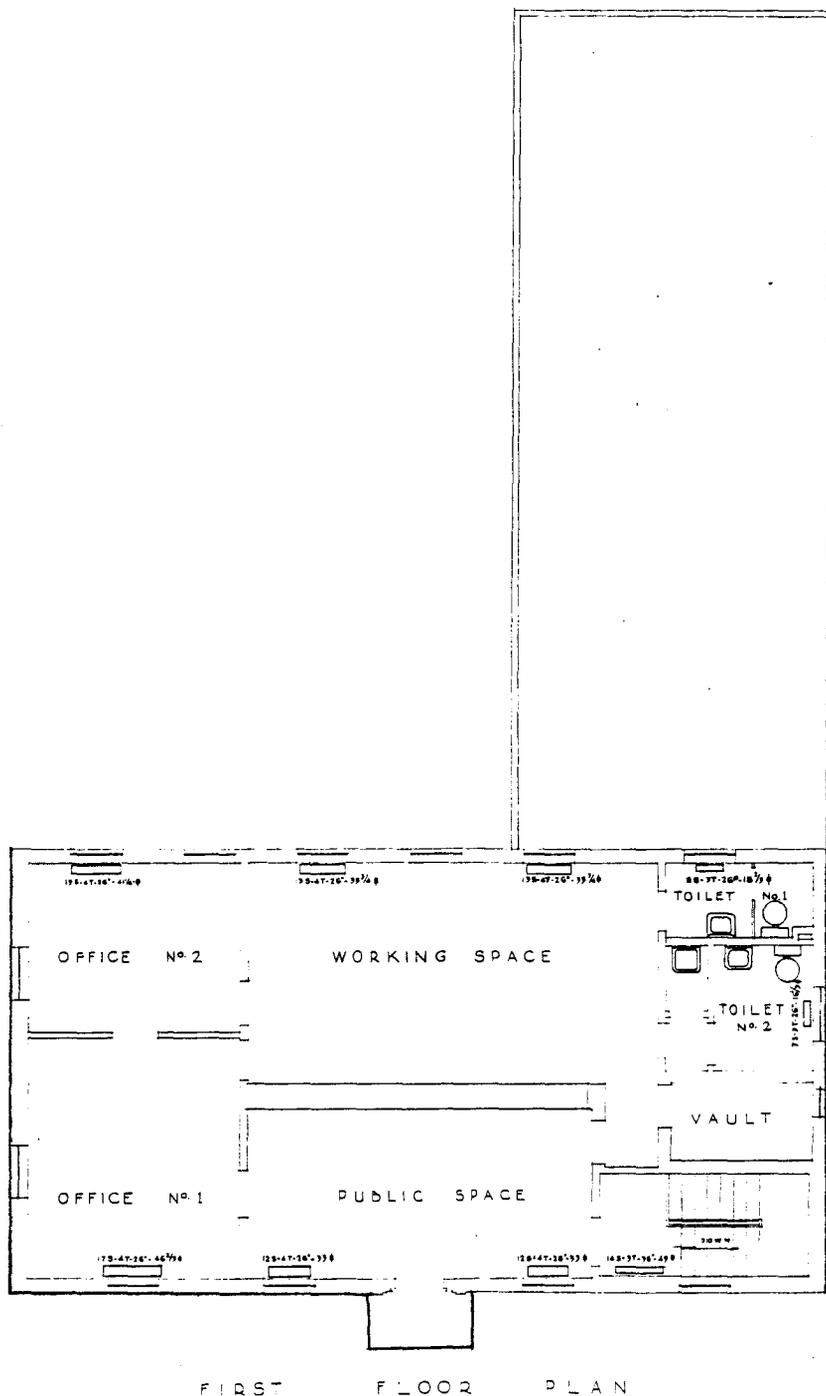
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BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

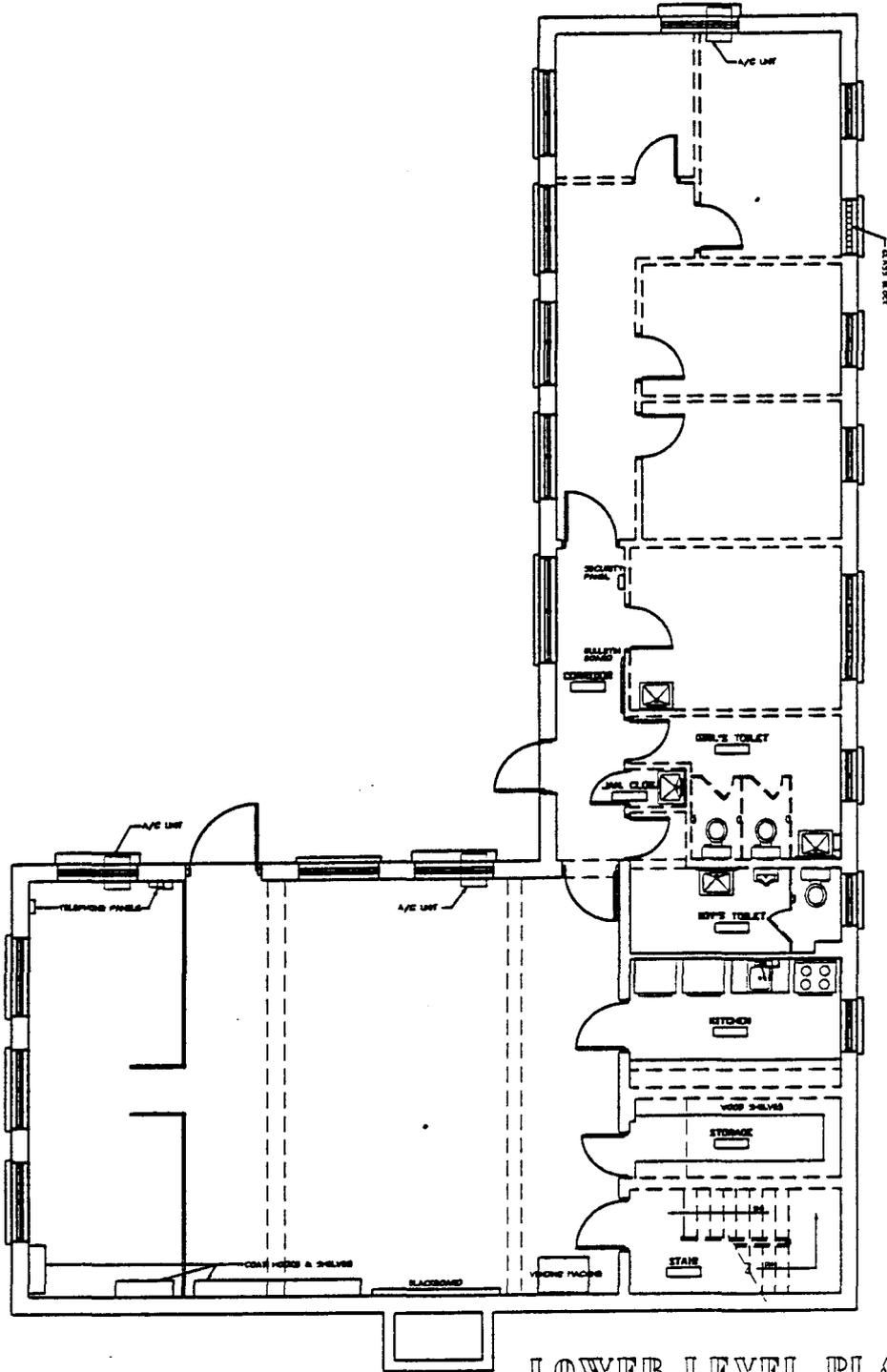
Basement Floor Plan of Administration Building, Bedford Dwellings, 1939  
Collection of Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh

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First Floor Plan of Administration Building, Bedford Dwellings, 1939  
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**LOWER LEVEL PLAN**  
SCALE - 1" = 10'-0"



Basement Floor Plan of Management Building, Bedford Dwellings, 1998  
Collection of Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh

