

BLAIR HEIGHTS, BUILDING 8
Maple Avenue
Clairton
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6642-B

HABS
PA
2-CLAIR,
2/B-

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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Location: Maple Avenue, Clairton, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Glassport Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: 17.59546.446108

Significance: Constructed in 1941-42, Blair Heights is one of Allegheny County's World War II defense housing projects. Building 8 is typical of the apartment buildings constructed in the complex.

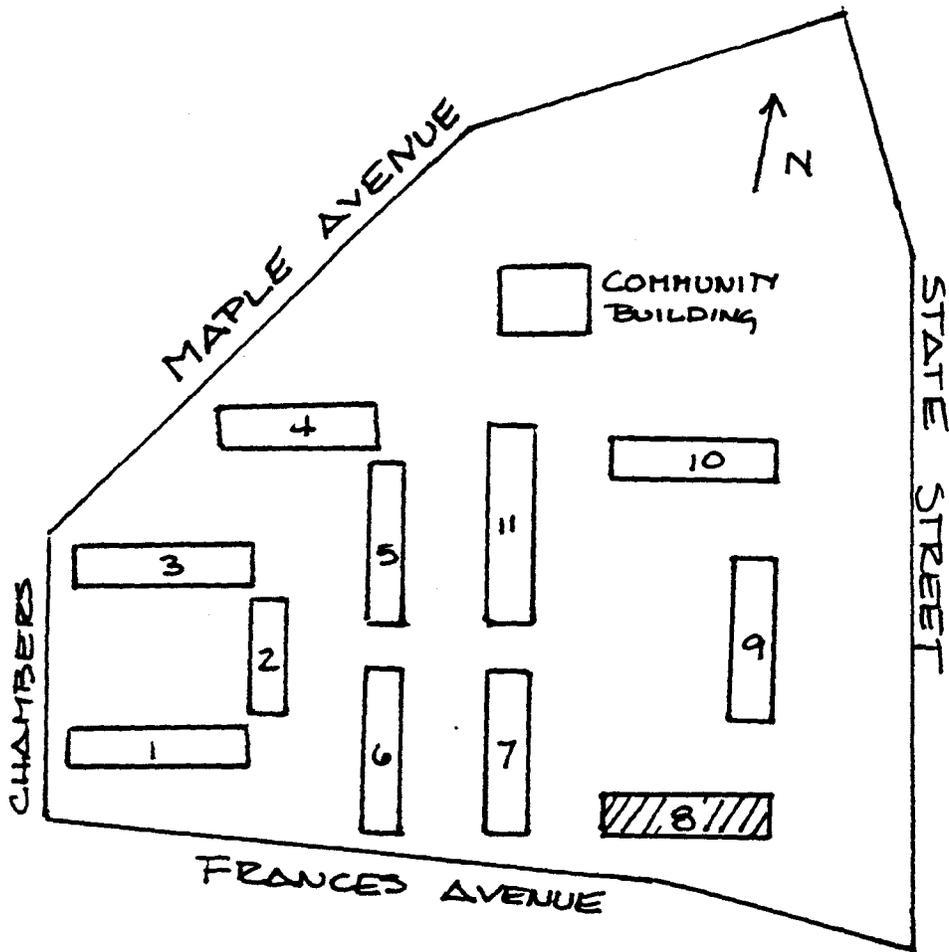
Description: Building 8 is a three-story, red brick, walk-up apartment. It is rectangular in plan. The roof is flat. Two rows of shallow brick corbels provide the only decorative detailing. The front elevation has two entrances, each with a flat metal cover. The entrances are flanked by paired double hung sash windows on each floor. The remaining openings have a single window. The rear and side elevations are similar with monotonous rows of windows. There are no doors on the rear and side elevations.

The outside entrance doors lead directly to a stairwell. The stairwells are brick, painted light blue, and are double loaded with mirror image apartments on either side. Building 8 contains twelve two-bedroom units. Each unit has a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms.

History: Blair Heights was designed in 1941 by Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr. as defense housing. The floor plans have remained unchanged, however certain elements were updated in the 1970s. Drawings indicate the windows originally had six-over-six lights. They are now one-over-one lights with bronze aluminum sash. Entrances have replacement flush metal doors. Kitchens have a floor unit with an aluminum sink, cream-colored counter, and four cabinets and drawers in a light wood finish. The wall mounted cabinets appear to be original, though heavily painted dark brown. The bathroom fixtures have all been replaced except the bath tub. Yellow ceramic tile has been added on the lower half of two walls. Closets are now hidden behind bi-fold doors, instead of open or hung with a curtain. The plaster walls and ceilings are painted cream. The floors are covered with beige vinyl tile.

Sources: Architectural plans in the Allegheny County Housing Authority offices.

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



Site Plan Noting Location of Building 8, 1999