

ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, BUILDING TYPE 1  
Bounded by Abbottsford Avenue, Henry Avenue,  
Robert Avenue, and Fox Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6165-A

HABS  
PA  
61-PHILA  
732A-

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

HABS  
PA  
51-PHILA,  
732A-

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### ABBOTTSFORD HOMES, BUILDING TYPE 1

HABS No. PA - 6165 - A

Location: Bounded by Abbottsford Avenue, Henry Avenue, Robert Avenue, and Fox Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania  
USGS: Germantown, Pa.  
UTM Coordinates (Easting, Northing): 18.484740.4429140, 18.484920.4428880, 18.484570.4428620, 18.484410.4428840

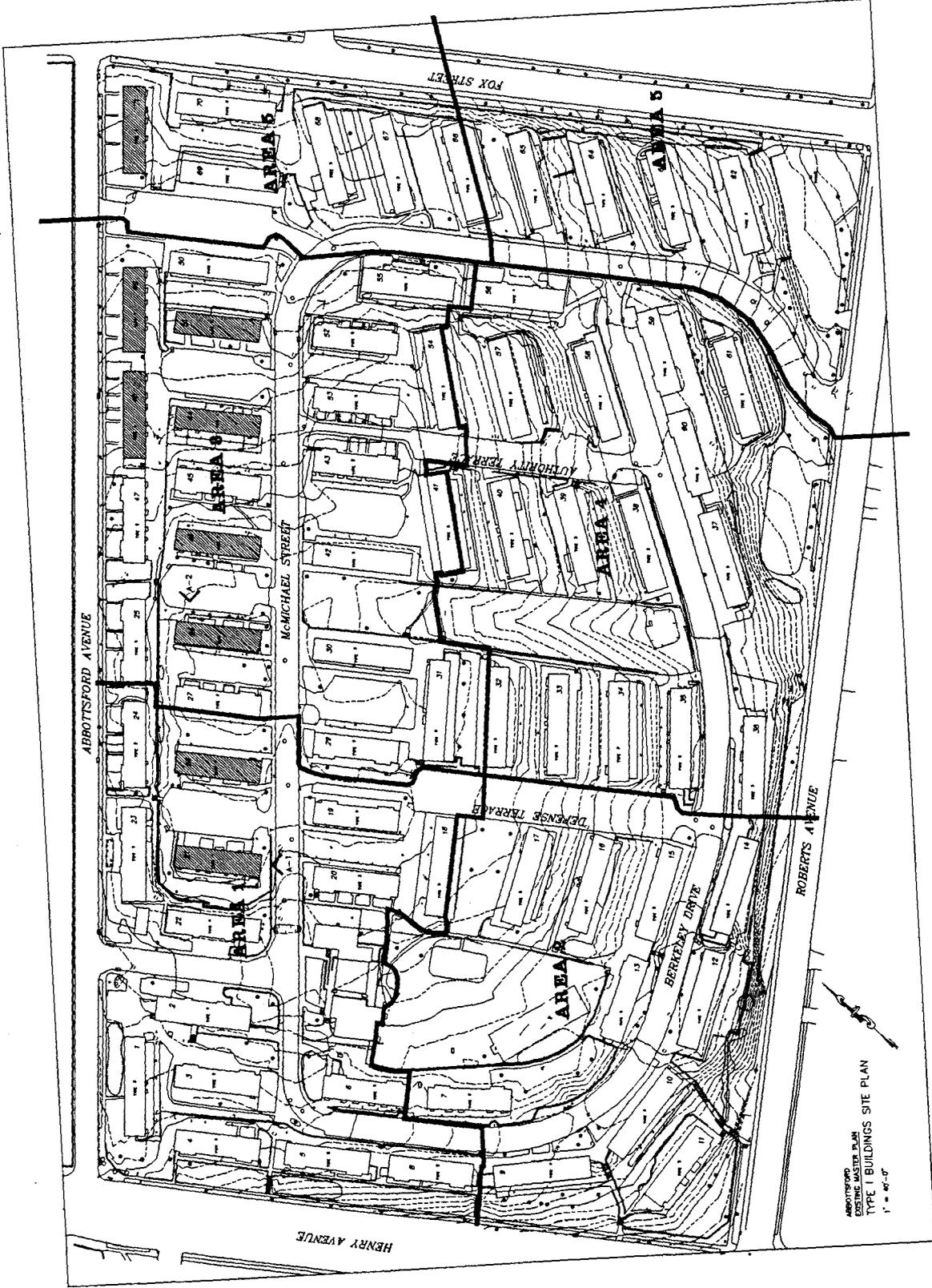
Significance: Built in 1942-43, the Abbottsford Homes Defense Housing Project exemplifies World War II urban workers' housing. It was created to house workers in nearby war-related industries and their families. Housing Type 1 was one of four different housing types built within the residential complex. Type 1 is the most traditional of the Abbottsford Homes units, arranged like the rowhouses which dominated Philadelphia's housing stock since the 18th century.

Description: There are nine Type 1 buildings in the 700-unit complex, containing a total of 54 residences. Type 1 is characterized by three bedrooms, arranged in a two-level, townhouse plan. The Type 1 buildings are two-story, flat-roofed brick structures, with regularly spaced windows. Units are arranged as mirror images of each other, with front doors grouped together on a shared, low concrete stoop. There are typically six units, (three pairs) in each building. The living room is entered directly from the outside stoop; the kitchen also has an exterior door to the common, rear yard.

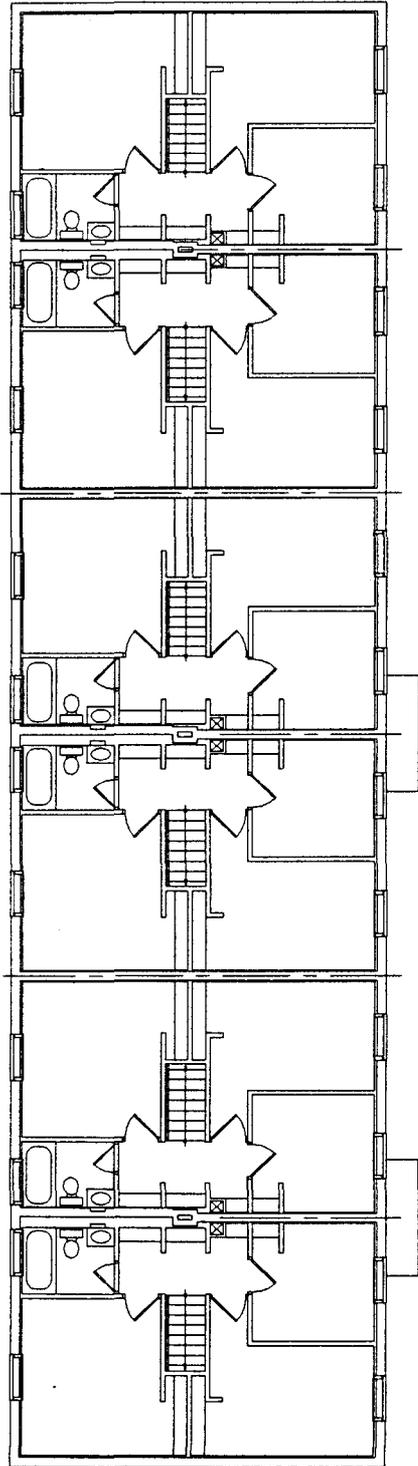
History: Abbottsford Homes was constructed for World War II workers and their families, after the increase in manpower in industry brought about tremendous shortages of appropriate, affordable housing in the area. After World War II, Abbottsford Homes was turned over to the Philadelphia Housing Authority and operated as public housing. Original wood double-hung windows have been replaced with aluminum double-hung windows and storms, creating a 2/2 pattern. The slate sills were also wrapped with aluminum. In 1987, front entrance doors were replaced with metal doors with three small panels, one of which is a window. New entrance canopies were installed on some of the Type 1 Buildings in 1988. Renovations for the buildings are now being planned which will add a pitched roof above the building, replace windows and doors, and redesign the entry canopy to a traditional porch.

Source: Abbottsford Homes National Register Nomination, March 1995  
Part of the "Public Housing in Philadelphia" Multiple Property Documentation for the National Register of Historic Places.

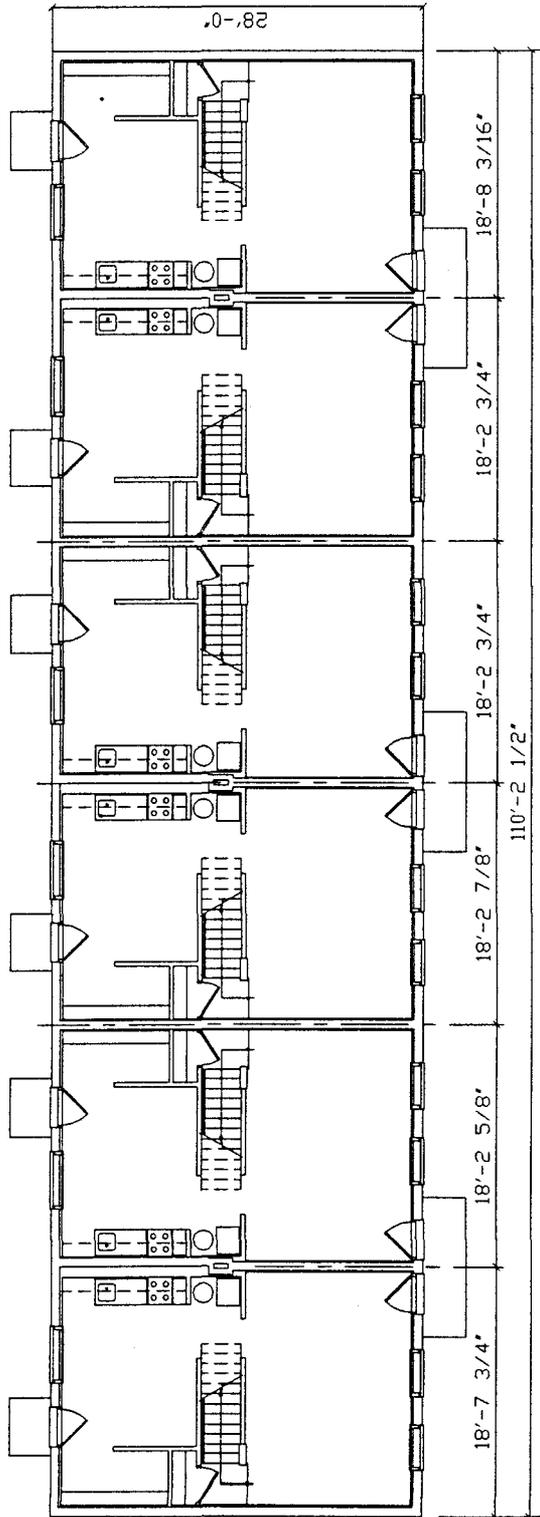
Historian: Janet W. Foster, Acroterion Historic Preservation Consultants  
June 30, 1995. Revised November, 1995.



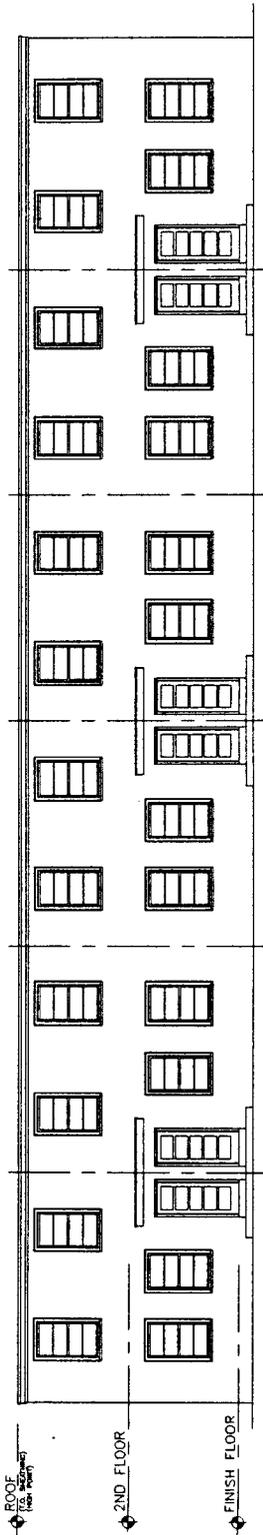
ABBOTSFORD HOMES  
ARCHITECTURAL MASTER PLAN  
TYPE 1 BUILDINGS SITE PLAN  
1" = 40'-0"



1 EXISTING 2ND FLOOR PLAN  
 BUILDING TYPE 1 (3 BEDROOM UNITS)

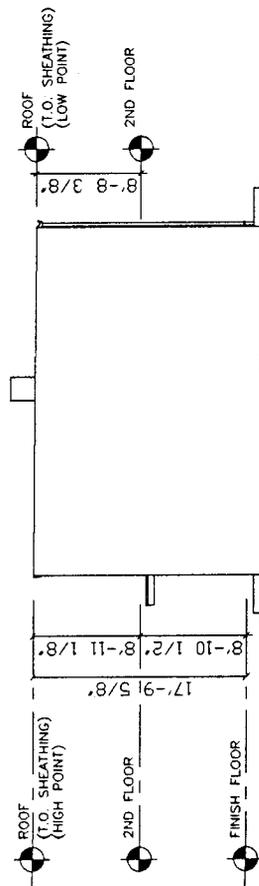


2 EXISTING 1ST FLOOR PLAN  
 BUILDING TYPE 1 (3 BEDROOM UNITS)



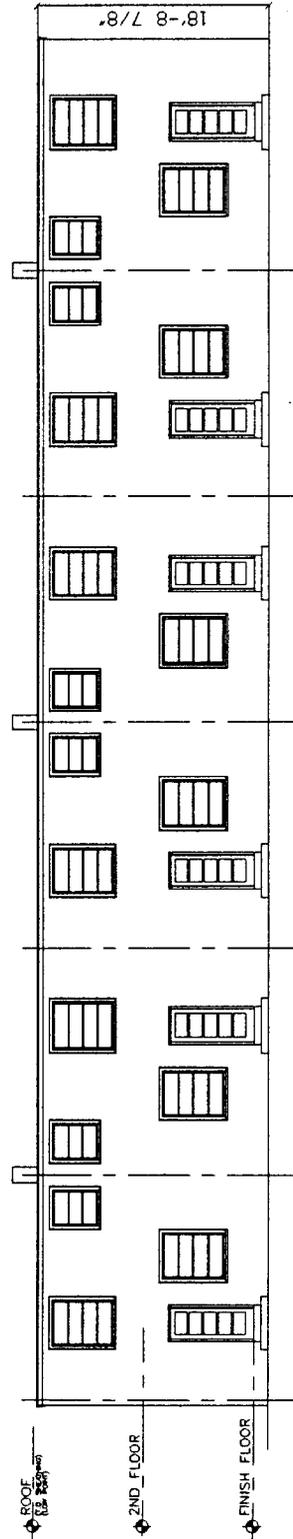
1 EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION

BUILDING TYPE 1 (3 BEDROOM UNITS)



2 EXISTING SIDE ELEVATION

BUILDING TYPE 1 (3 BEDROOM UNITS)



3 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION

BUILDING TYPE 1 (3 BEDROOM UNITS)