

BROADHEAD MANOR  
UJAMAA COMMERCIAL SERVICE CENTER  
1900 Broadhead Fording Road  
Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6221-A

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PA-6221-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### BROADHEAD MANOR, UJAMAA COMMERCIAL SERVICE CENTER

HABS No. PA-6221-A

**Location:** 1900 Broadhead Fording Road, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

USGS Pittsburgh West Quadrangle

UTM Coordinates: 17.059224.4481009, 17.057761.4477752,  
17.057738.4478090, 17.057753.4478241

**Significance:** Constructed in 1943-44, Broadhead Manor is among Pittsburgh's earliest public housing projects. Built as defense housing, it was designed to be converted to low income housing at the end of World War II. Unlike the first projects in Pittsburgh's Hill District, Broadhead Manor was designed to include a commercial building to make shopping more convenient for residents.

**Description:** The commercial building, now the Ujamaa Commercial Service Center, is a one story red brick building with a shallow gable roof and a deep overhang. Brick pilasters divide the front facade into nine bays. Five bays are glazed. Each bay contains three fixed sash covered by a steel grid painted blue. The transom area above is concrete painted red with white circles above each sash. Two bays have been filled with concrete block. The end bays are brick. The entrance is toward the right and is covered by a corrugated metal awning. Four stone pillars hold metal poles to which are attached metal banners. The side and rear facades are plain red brick with steel entrance doors.

The interior, although slightly altered from its original plan, is divided into three main areas: the After School Program Room (originally the Food Room) at the south end of the building; the Laundry Room (originally the Variety Room) at the north end of the building; and the central offices and restrooms (originally the Pharmacy). A kitchen and storage area is situated along the west side of the building, parallel to the After School Program Room. There is a small store adjacent to the Laundry Room at the northwest corner of the building. The interior is finished with plaster walls or drywall partition walls, ceramic tile-clad masonry walls, fiberboard and dropped acoustical tile ceilings, and linoleum tile (white and green; red and black) floors. Support columns, which are finished with ceramic tile, are situated throughout the After School Program and Laundry rooms at approximate fourteen foot intervals.

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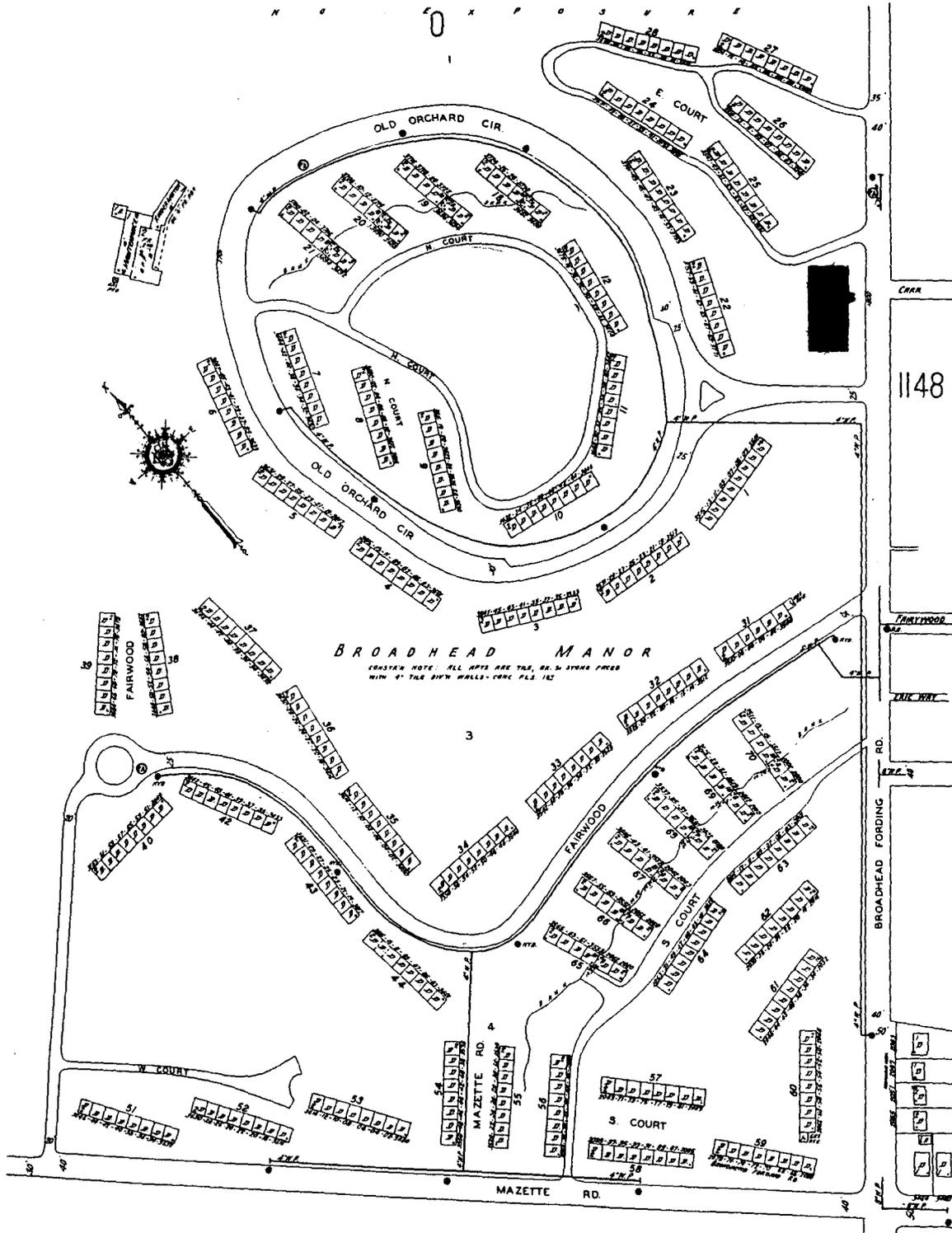
History: Broadhead Manor was designed by James A. Mitchell and Dahlen Ritchey and constructed in 1943-44 as defense housing. The commercial building was a part of the original plan. Initially it contained grocery, drug, and variety stores. The building was updated in 1991 by the firm Design 3 Architecture. Currently it houses a day care, market, credit union, laundry, and tenant's association office.

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 (Alleqippa Terrace); and PA-1-6 (Broadhead Manor)" prepared by John F. Bauman for the Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, 1997.

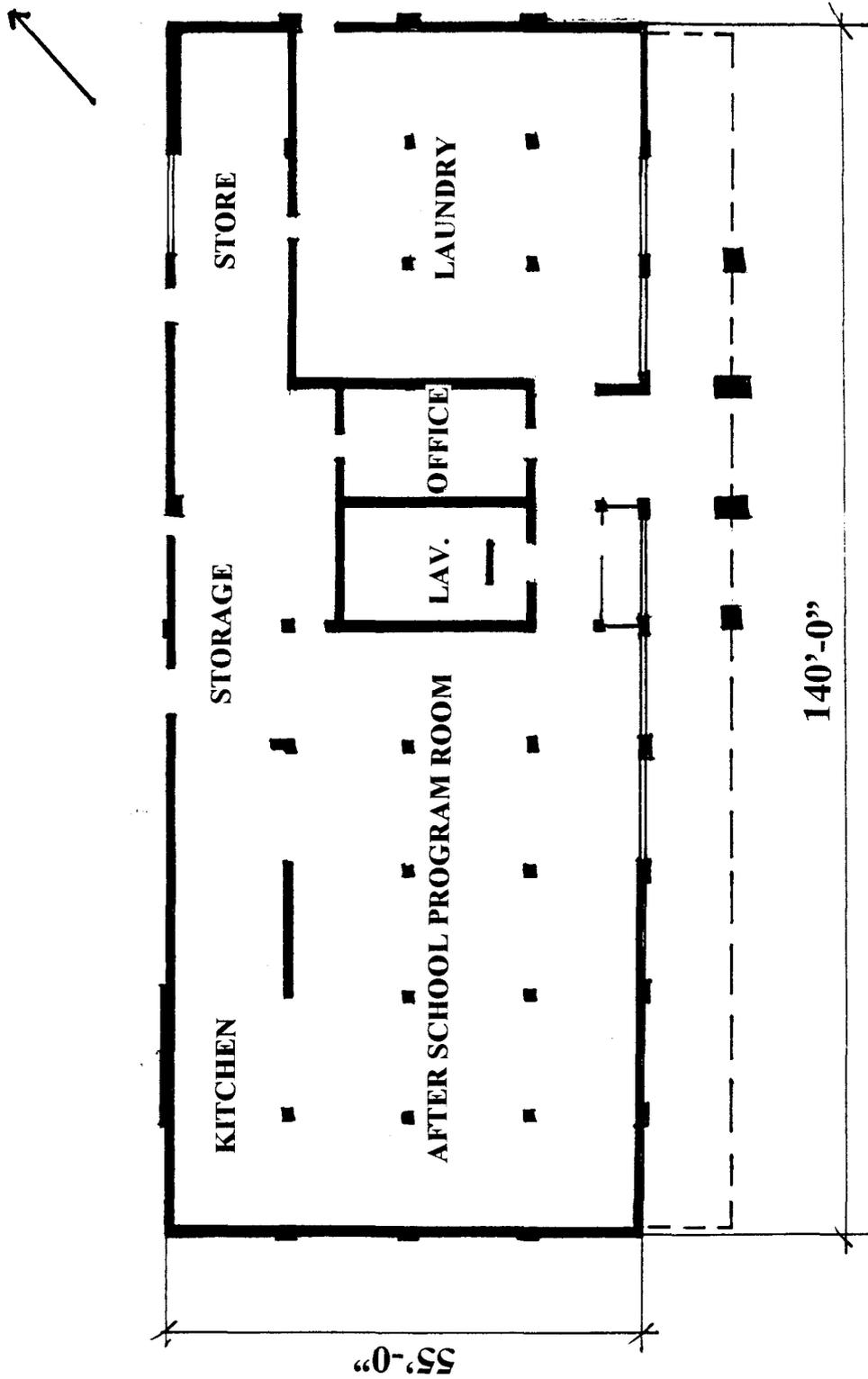
Architectural records of Design 3 Architects.

Historians: Lauren Uhl and Tracy Walther, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, 1997

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Site Plan Noting Location of Ujamaa Commercial Center, 1997



Floor Plan Ujamaa Commercial Service Center, 1997