

BROADHEAD MANOR
TWO-BEDROOM TYPE
3644 Old Orchard Circle
Pittsburgh
Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6221-C

HABS
PA-6221-C

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, TWO-BEDROOM TYPE

HABS No. PA-6221-C

Location: 3644 Old Orchard Circle, 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 first public housing projects. Built as defense housing, it was designed to be converted to low income housing at the end of World War II. All of the rows in the complex had the same basic exterior design. However, there were originally four different floor plans for one- through four-bedroom units. This is representative of the two-bedroom unit type.

Description: There are forty two rows which contain two-bedroom units. Each unit is two stories with a flat roof. The front or "service" walls are red brick. The rear or "garden" walls are cream brick. Side walls are either red brick or stone. On the front facade each unit has a central entrance flanked by a small opening for a coal chute, now bricked in, and a double hung sash window. Some units have aluminum panels which shield the entrance. These appear to have been added in the 1970s. The garden facade has a central entrance flanked by double hung sash. Double hung sash alternate with fixed sash on the second floor. The roof has a deep overhang. A concrete slab, now covered with aluminum, projects over the first floor. Many units have blue or beige glazed brick, T-shaped terrace walls. Each unit has a clothes line pole at the end of the yard.

The first story features a living room, kitchen, combined coal-heater-storage room, and closet. Within the center of the first story is a ceramic tile heater and flue that distributes radiant heat to both floors. On the second story, there are two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a stairhall. The interior walls and ceilings are painted (off-white) plaster. The wood floor on the second story, the stairs, two-panel doors, and wood trim throughout the unit are painted (beige). The stairs are framed by a solid balustrade of plaster with wood trim. The first story and second story bathroom floors are finished with linoleum tile.

History: Broadhead Manor was designed by James A. Mitchell and Dahlen Ritchy and constructed in 1943-44 as defense housing. In 1954 ownership was transferred from the Public Housing Administration to the Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh. Although the floor plans have remained unchanged, elements have been updated over the years. Wood windows have been replaced with aluminum

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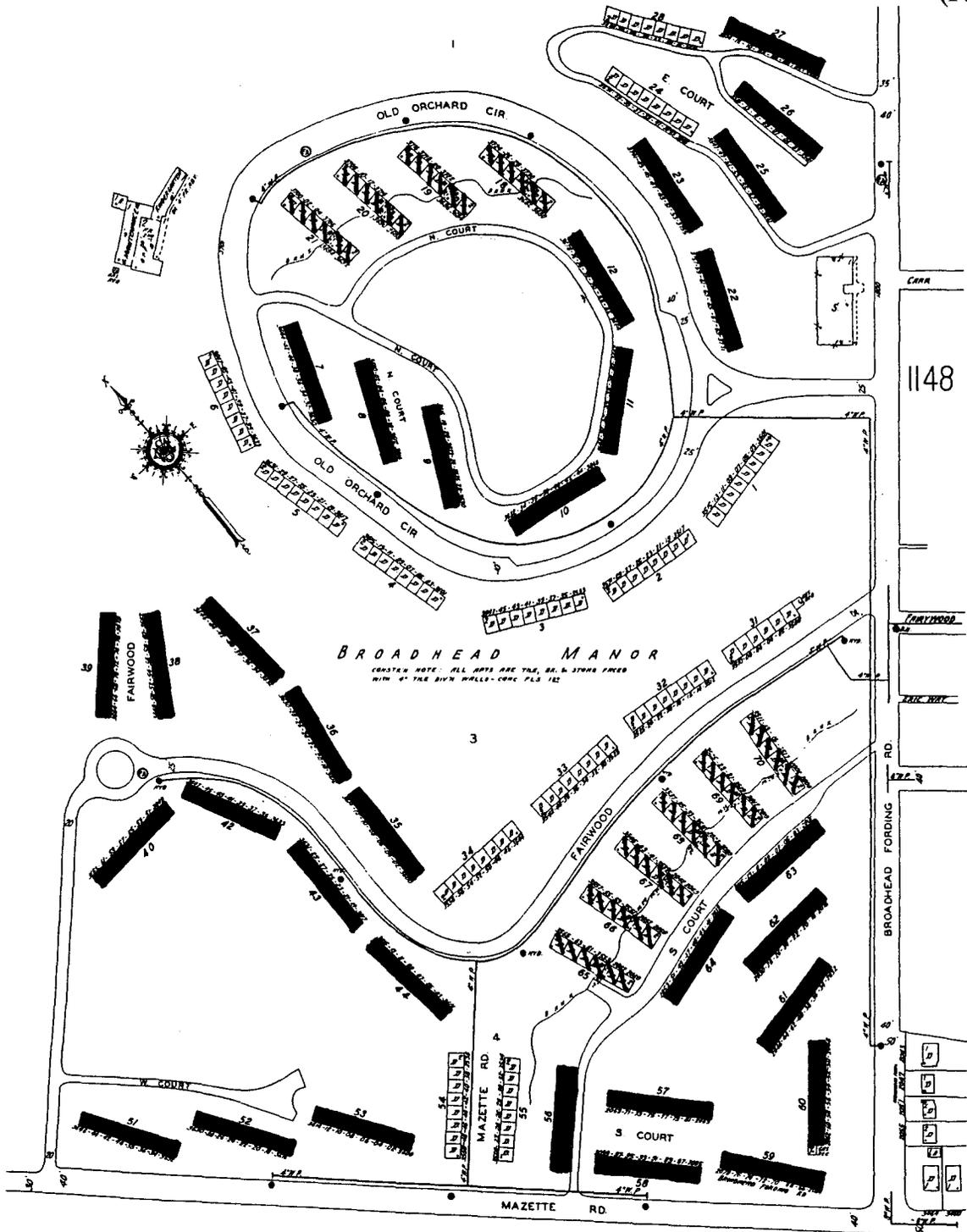
sash and frames. Soffits and first floor concrete projections have been covered with aluminum. Most paneled wood doors have been replaced with flush steel doors. Aluminum panels were added to shield the front entrances, however, many of these have since been removed.

Eight units at the southwest corner of the complex were remodeled in the mid 1990s. A gable roof was added to each row. Each unit received a concrete block room on the garden elevation. Service side elevations were altered with aluminum siding, paired double hung sash windows, and a shed roof covering the entrance.

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 Pittsburgh, 1997.

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

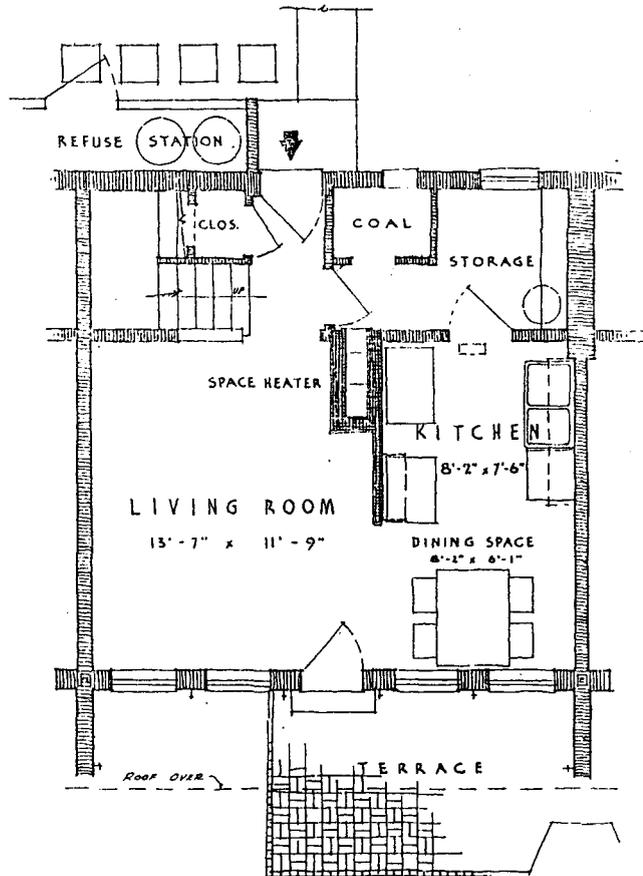
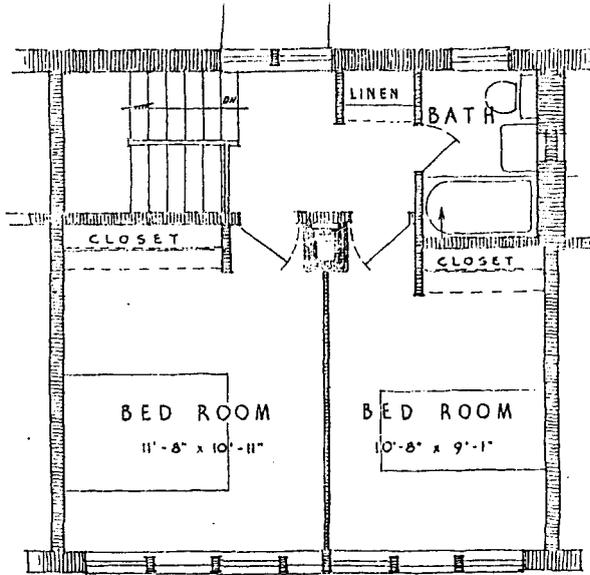
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Location of Rows Containing Two-bedroom Units

- ☐ Rows containing four two-bedroom units
- Rows containing all two-bedroom units

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Floor Plans for Two-bedroom Units
Technical Division Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, January 18, 1944