

BROADHEAD MANOR  
THREE-BEDROOM TYPE  
3501 Old Orchard Circle  
Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6221-D

HABS  
PA-6221-D

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, THREE-BEDROOM TYPE

HABS No. PA-6221-D

Location: 3510 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 three-bedroom unit type.

Description: There are fourteen rows of three-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 by paired double hung sash windows. 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. The soffit is covered with aluminum. A concrete slab, also 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.

Upon entering the unit by way of the front or service entrance, there is a stair landing with a short flight of stairs down to the first story and up to the second story. The first story consists of a living room, kitchen, combined coal-heater-storage room, and a closet. The second story consists of three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a small central stairhall. The interior is finished with painted (off-white) plaster walls and ceilings, painted (beige) wood floors on the second story and stairs, linoleum tile floors on the first story, and painted (beige) wood trim and two-panel doors.

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

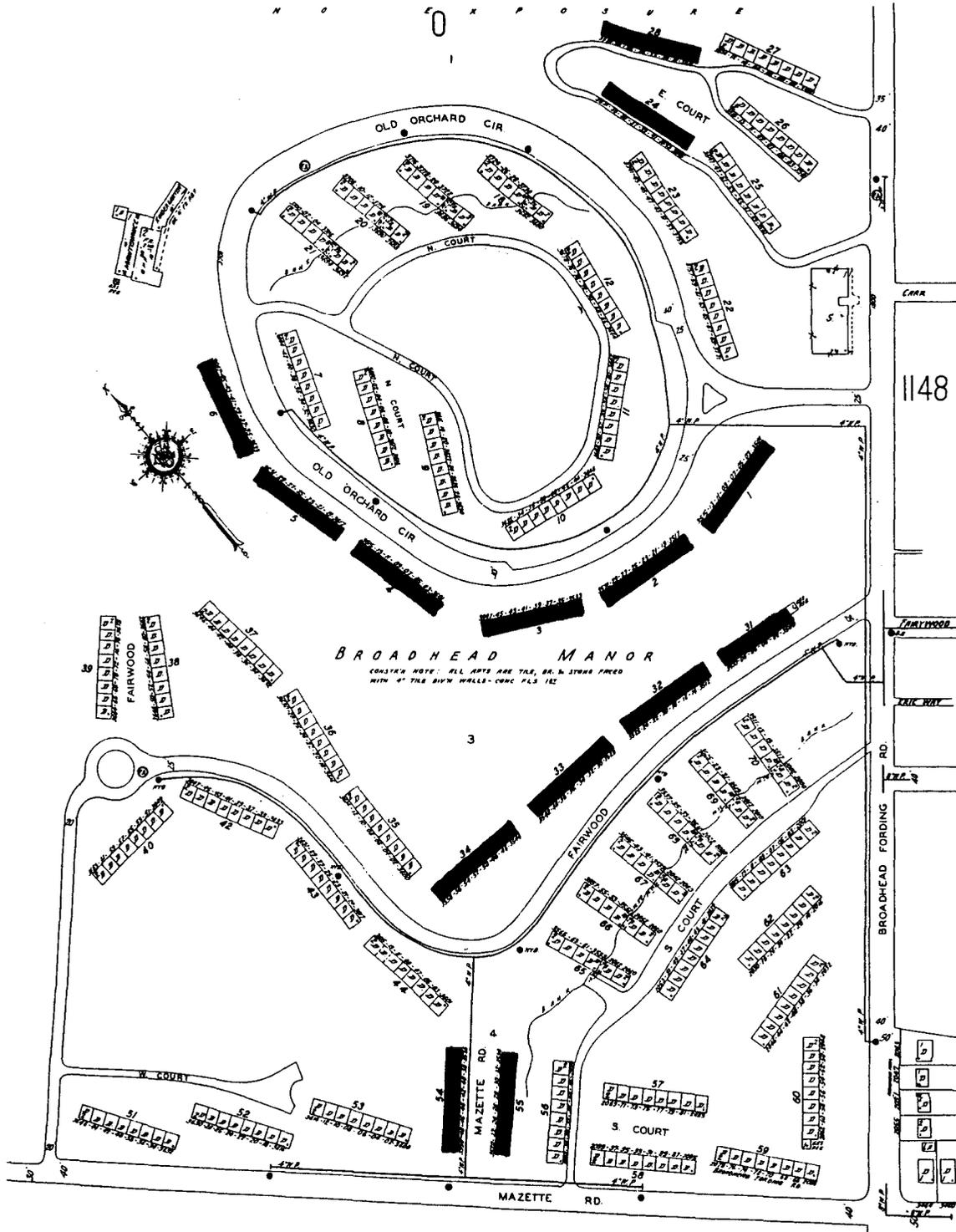
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over the years. Wood windows have been replaced with aluminum sash and frames. Soffits and first floor concrete projections have been covered with aluminum. Most paneled wood doors have been replaced with flush steel doors. Aluminum panels were added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

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.

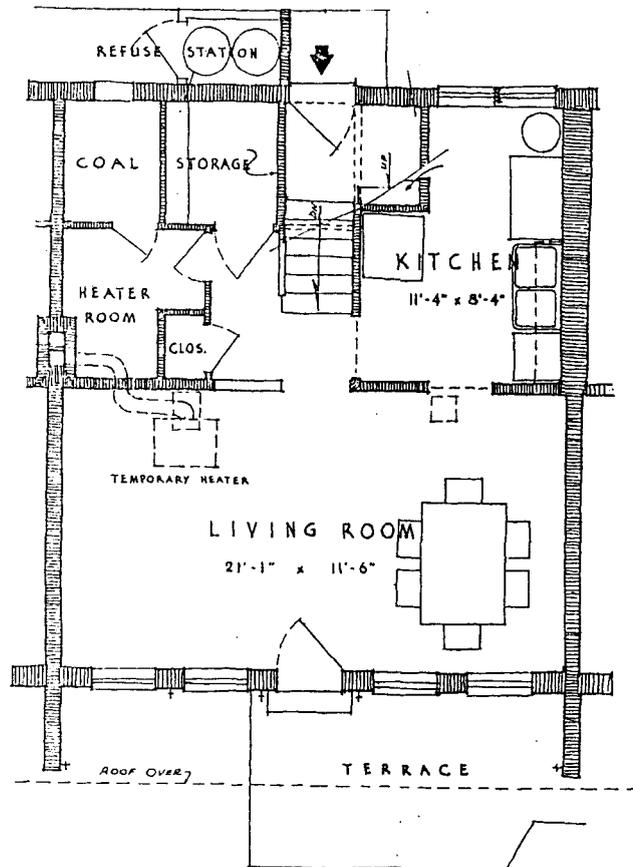
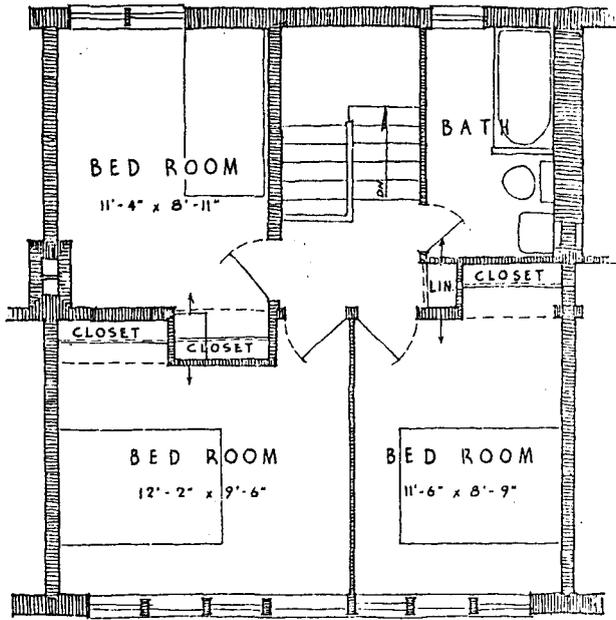
Historian: Lauren Uhl and Tracy Walther, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania  
July 1997

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Location of Rows Containing All Three-bedroom Units

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