

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Boys' Club of Pittsburgh

Other names/site number: Lawrenceville Y.M.C.A; Boys' and Girls' Club of Pittsburgh

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 212 45<sup>th</sup> Street

City or town: Pittsburgh City State: Pennsylvania County: Allegheny

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

	<b>November 6, 2017</b>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<u>PA Historical and Museum Commission</u>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title :

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)

*Patrick Andrews*

Signature of the Keeper

*2/19/2018*

Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:   
Public – Local   
Public – State   
Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)   
District   
Site

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Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/Civic

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, TERRA COTTA, STONE/Limestone;

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh is a three-story Colonial Revival building constructed in red Flemish bond brick with limestone and terra cotta detailing. The steel and reinforced concrete building rests on a limestone foundation and sits on a lot sloping up from the northwest to the southeast, exposing its foundation on Butler Street. The roughly L-shaped building consists of three sections: the trapezoidal 1912 section at the corner of 45<sup>th</sup> Street and Butler Street, which features a light well at its rear; a two-story addition dating to 1933 adjacent to the west elevation of the building; and a 1957 addition consisting of a roughly U-shaped one-story corridor and a two-story annex facing Cessna Way. The building features a courtyard at its southeast corner. Also on the property, facing 45<sup>th</sup> Street, is a ca. 1990 one-story concrete block garage with a single garage bay; it is a noncontributing building. The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh is set back from the sidewalk line and sits in a dense urban neighborhood facing Butler Street, the main commercial artery in the Lawrenceville neighborhood. The building provided social and recreational services to underprivileged boys, and though it has seen some changes, it continues to convey its significance to the social history of Pittsburgh.

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### Narrative Description

#### *Setting and Grounds*

The building is located in Pittsburgh's central Lawrenceville neighborhood, an urban setting whose architecture dates largely from the late nineteenth century. The building's primary elevation is on Butler Street, the neighborhood's main commercial artery, and faces predominantly three-story vernacular commercial buildings on the opposite side of the street. It is immediately flanked on the right by two- and three-story brick row houses, which are set back

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from Butler Street by yards, making the building's west elevation and courtyard visible from the street. The site is located at the southwest corner of Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street, which meets Butler at a slightly acute angle. The building's immediate neighbors on 45<sup>th</sup> Street are twin row houses separated from the building by a service alley and screened by a low concrete block wall. In general, 45<sup>th</sup> Street is residential in character, with two- and three-story brick row houses amid a scattering of churches and fraternal buildings. The rear addition of the building faces Cessna Way, a through alley that intersects another service alley midblock and that consists primarily of garage buildings and modest row houses. The building's size in comparison to its smaller-scaled neighbors make it one of the more prominent structures along Butler Street in these few blocks of central Lawrenceville.

The building's grounds have almost been entirely developed, first with the original structure and then with the subsequent additions. There is a small landscaped courtyard to the right of the primary Butler Street elevation, separated from the street by a chain link fence. The service alley behind the building is approximately 15 feet wide, and is enclosed by a wrought iron fence. On the Butler Street elevation, there are four trees in pits located directly next to the building, as well as several trees located in sidewalk pits.

### *Exterior Description*

The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh is a roughly L-shaped building, consisting of three sections: the 1912 three-story and basement section facing Butler Street, which forms a trapezoid at the corner of Butler and 45<sup>th</sup> Street; the two-story 1933 addition located to the right of the original building's main elevation and set back behind a landscaped courtyard; and a 1957 annex that consists of a roughly U-shaped one-story brick corridor enveloping the 1933 addition and a two-story rectangular brick addition that sits on the Cessna Way alley. The third-story portion of the 1912 building has a U-shaped lightwell facing the rear of the site, and a chimney rises from the rear elevation at the corner of the lightwell to one story above the roofline. The roofs of all three portions of the building are flat and not visible from the street, and are constructed either from rubber membrane (on the 1912 and 1933 portions of the building) or gravel (on the 1957 annex). On the northwest corner of the 1912 portion there are two doghouse structures now completely covered by the membrane roof that may have originally served as skylights.

The building's primary elevation on Butler Street is a symmetrical three-story brick composition over the limestone basement (Photos 1-2). The brick is a rough-textured dark red, laid in a Flemish bond with sand-colored mortar. The basement level has eight rectangular window openings, four on either side of the entry stair. The basement window sills sit at sidewalk level; all of these openings have been infilled with glass block. The ground story, sitting about five feet above street level, features a rounded central entrance, framed by a decorative terra cotta arch with a bracketed keystone. The terra cotta has been painted purple. The entry doorway is recessed in an alcove beneath the arch, with double glass and aluminum doors sitting beneath a half-round transom, which has been infilled with a solid panel. The entry is flanked on either side by four window bays; the window openings are round headed beneath brick arches that feature pale gray terra cotta keystones and soffits, with gray terra cotta sills. Above each window bay is a recessed terra cotta spandrel. The second story has nine rectangular window bays matching the bay locations on the floor below, topped by splayed terra cotta window lintels with inset

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keystones and terra cotta sills. The third-story window openings are smaller and spaced more closely, with 11 rectangular bays sitting above a narrow terra cotta string course and below a flat terra cotta band. Above, a lighter band of common brick marks where the pressed metal cornice was once attached. Throughout, the original divided light windows have been replaced with white one-over-one aluminum windows. On the rounded ground floor openings, the top rounded section of each window has been infilled with a solid white panel. The building's parapet rises by several brick courses to create a stepped roofline, and is topped by a thin terra cotta cap.

A rounded brick corner provides a transition to the 45<sup>th</sup> Street elevation, with the terra cotta string course and band on the third story continuing uninterrupted around the corner (photo 3). The slope of 45<sup>th</sup> Street conceals much of the basement. On the ground floor, there are seven windows bays identical to those on the Butler Street elevation featuring rounded brick arch openings with pale gray terra cotta keystones and soffits, with terra cotta sills. Recessed terra cotta spandrels are located above these window bays, identical to those on the Butler Street elevation. The second bay from the left is a doorway, with a flat gray metal door and side panel sitting beneath a glass transom and rounded white infill panel. The five rightmost bays are windows, with white one-over-one windows sitting beneath a rounded white infill panel. Four of the five windows are covered in metal protective screens in varying states of repair. The leftmost ground floor window bay has been bricked in almost to head height, with a small rectangular window beneath the rounded white infill panel. The second story has seven rectangular window bays matching the bay locations on the floor below, topped by splayed terra cotta window lintels with inset keystones and terra cotta sills, identical to those on the Butler Street elevation. On the third story, there are eight window openings in rectangular bays sitting above the narrow terra cotta string course and below a flat terra cotta band, again identical in appearance to the Butler Street elevation. The 45<sup>th</sup> Street elevation features a parapet rising by several brick courses to create a stepped roofline, topped by a terra cotta cap. On this elevation, the original cornice survives beginning at the rightmost third-story window bay, but is hidden beneath a white sheet metal covering that conceals its original detailing. The covered cornice wraps onto the right corner of the rear elevation, terminating at the chimney adjacent to the lightwell.

The rear elevation facing the service alley is three stories tall, with a lightwell at the central portion of the third story, and a large rectangular brick chimney rising nearly four stories from the ground at the right edge of the lightwell (Photo 4). To the left of the chimney, the brick is smooth and lighter in color, in contrast to the textured face brick of the primary elevations. The decorative terra cotta course and band, parapet cap, and, as noted, the cornice continue around the corner, all terminating at the chimney. There are four main large window bays, which are then horizontally divided into two openings separated by a brick spandrel. The top openings are rounded, set beneath brick arches, with a white panel in the rounded portion above paired white painted one-over-one windows. The lower openings are rectangular, with paired white one-over-one windows in each opening. (These window openings all light the two-story gymnasium space inside.) On the third story, there are thirteen regularly spaced rectangular window openings and a doorway facing the lightwell, and two additional windows located directly facing the service alley. All these window openings also feature white one-over-one windows.

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From the service alley, the two-story hyphen connecting the main portion of the building to the rear annex is visible, as are the west and south elevations of the annex, which is described below.

The west elevation of the building continues in the same manner as the Butler Street elevation, turning around a 90-degree corner to face the courtyard (Photos 5-6). The 1933 and 1957 additions, described below, are built directly against the lower two stories of this elevation. The exposed limestone building foundation faces the landscaped courtyard. On the ground floor, there are two bays identical to those on the Butler Street elevation featuring rounded brick arch openings with pale gray terra cotta keystones and soffits, with terra cotta sills, as well as a small rectangular window located to the right of these two larger bays. Unlike the Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street elevations, there are no terra cotta spandrels on this elevation between the ground floor and the second-story window bays. The second story has three window bays identical in appearance to other primary elevations, with splayed terra cotta window lintels with inset keystones and terra cotta sills. The middle window bay on the second story is infilled with brick. On the third story, there are nine rectangular bays sitting above a narrow terra cotta string course, again identical to those on the other primary elevations described previously. Above the window bays, and continuing perpendicularly around the corner from the Butler Street elevation, the flat terra cotta band and common brick where the lost cornice was mounted extend the breadth of the elevation, topped by another band of face brick and flat terra cotta parapet. All windows on this elevation are white one-over-one windows matching the other replacement windows throughout the building.

The 1933 addition, on the right side of the Butler Street elevation, is two stories tall and set back from Butler Street by the small courtyard (Photo 6). The one-story access corridor to the 1957 annex sits directly in front of the 1933 addition, meaning that only its second-story elevation is visible as a box set back and projecting sideways from the west elevation of the 1912 building, separated from the neighboring row houses by a narrow light court. The elevation is red brick laid in Flemish bond with a sand-colored mortar identical to the 1912 portion of the building. Two gray cast stone roundels flank a half-round window opening with two arched decorative brick bands and cast stone keystone. The window opening has been infilled with a solid white panel. A gray cast stone band located approximately one-and-a-half feet below the parapet runs the entire width of the elevation, with incised lettering reading "JOHN SHONBERGER McCORMICK MEMORIAL." The parapet is capped with a gray cast stone band.

The Butler Street elevation of the 1957 annex sits directly in front of the first story of the 1933 addition, forming a relatively seamless ensemble with the older portions of the building, with red brick (laid in common bond rather than Flemish bond, however) and a gray cast stone band matching the appearance of the story above (Photo 6). An entrance with a minimally classical door surround sits at the ground floor up a small flight of concrete steps from the courtyard. Twin-leaf metal doors sit in the door opening, below a double horizontal rectangular transom infilled with metal panels.

The Cessna Way elevation (Photo 7), which comprises the south face of the rectangular 1957 annex, is two stories tall, constructed in red brick laid in a common bond, matching the finish of the annex's Butler Street elevation. The first story has an entry door within a decorative

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geometric recessed double rectangle surround. Three rectangular window bays are arranged symmetrically on either side of the door, with gray stone cast sills. On the second story, there are seven window bays identical to those on the ground floor, with a central window located above the doorway and the other six directly above the bays on the ground floor. All window openings are infilled with glass block. The secondary elevations of the annex, to the extent they are visible, are finished in brick and are windowless, and its rear elevation, which is visible only from the service alley, has four window openings on the third story, two on either side, and two on the second story, on the left side. Both are filled with glass block. The west elevation of the annex faces a courtyard formed by two neighboring buildings (Photo 8).

Taken as a whole, the building exterior has been little altered since the end of the period of significance. The primary exterior alterations relate to the loss of the original windows and doors, which have all been replaced with, respectively, white metal windows dating from the 1980s or generic metal or glass doors. The other significant loss is the majority of the pressed metal cornice, marked, as noted, by common brick of a different shade than the face brick where the cornice was removed. In addition, a projecting terra cotta balcony originally was located above the main Butler Street entry; its attachment point has been patched with brick nearly matching the original masonry.

#### *Interior Description*

The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, as noted above, consists of three sections: the original 1912 building, the 1933 addition, and the 1957 annex. These three sections are clearly evident in the interior organization of the building: the basement and first two stories of the 1912 portion of the building are configured as a trapezoid, with the rectangular double-height gymnasium occupying nearly half the area of the ground and second floors. The third story of the 1912 portion is configured as a U around a lightwell, which sits above the volume of the gym. The 1933 addition forms a double-height stage that opens off the west side of the gym interior, and which is slightly lower in height than the original gymnasium. A one-story access corridor wraps around the addition, connecting it to the two-story 1957 annex, which, due to the sloping site, sits at the second and third floor level of the original building.

The main entrance to the building is up a flight of steps from Butler Street. The entry doors open into a vestibule (which dates from 1999), then into a lobby. There are also three secondary entrances: one located on 45<sup>th</sup> Street, a second off the Butler Street courtyard, and the third off Cessna Way. Circulation between the floors is provided by four stairs (two in the original building, and two in the annex) and by an elevator, which is located on the left side of the lobby and accesses the ground, second, and third floors. This elevator is located in a former stair tower, the remnants of which are visible behind the elevator shaftway. The 45<sup>th</sup> Street entrance opens directly into a stair tower dating from 1912 (Photo 15). The second stair, dating from 1999, is located on the right side of this section of the building, and exits into the annex access corridor. The third stair is located in the hyphen connecting the annex to the main portion of the building. The fourth stair connects the second and third stories of the annex, and exits directly to Cessna Way.



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The original 1912 configuration of the building, by floor, according to a 1928 newspaper report, was as follows: the basement featured a swimming pool, four bowling alleys, locker rooms, and eight shower rooms. On the ground floor, there were offices, a lobby, a game room, a reading room, and a gymnasium. On the second floor, there was a balcony ringing the gymnasium, an auditorium, club rooms, and one shower. On the third floor, there were 34 dormitory rooms with shower and washing accommodations.

On the ground floor, many historic features of the floor plan described above survive intact. As noted, the entry lobby is located off the central stair up from Butler Street. This lobby opens to the right into a substantial rectangular main hall spanning nearly half the depth of the building, which is connected by a set of double doors to a square library that faces Butler Street and the building's courtyard. Straight ahead from the lobby, through two sets of double doors, is the gymnasium. To the left of the lobby, there are classrooms and offices facing Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street. Most of the room divisions reflect the original configuration of the space, including the main hall, library, and two small offices facing Butler Street, as well as the gym.

Numerous interior features also survive intact on the ground floor. The original main hall off the lobby is largely unaltered, and has two impressive Doric columns flanking a decorative fireplace (Photo 9). The lobby and main hall feature a gray speckled and pink terrazzo floor, scuffed but otherwise in good condition. Two small rooms facing the corner of Butler and 45<sup>th</sup> Streets retain their original dimensions and nearly all historic details, including paneled doors, casings, baseboard, and decorative plaster ceilings (Photo 10) (though the ceilings have been coated with a popcorn finish). Along the perimeter walls across the rest of the floor, most of the historic baseboard and window casings survive intact (Photos 11-13), and most of the decorative plaster ceilings also appear to have survived; however, they are concealed above the dropped acoustical ceilings. The room at the corner of Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street features a decorative fireplace (Photo 14), as does the classroom located off the 45<sup>th</sup> Street stair. The brick of both these fireplaces has been painted white.

The gymnasium space is also intact, with the double-height space retaining the original dimensions as constructed in 1912 (Photos 16-17). It is lit by four bays of south-facing windows on the first and second story. The first-story windows are set in rectangular openings about eight feet above the floor, while the second-story windows are set in arched openings. The interior walls of the gym are glazed brick, which has been painted white, with decorative pilasters meeting the underside of the reinforced concrete and steel beams that run across the ceiling. The floor is a reddish concrete, and there is a U-shaped wooden balcony ringing the second floor with a metal railing. The balcony (Photo 25) is suspended from the ceiling by metal tension rods. On the west side of the gym, a brick proscenium frames the 1933 addition, which is configured as a double-height stage. To either side of the stage, there are double doors, with the doors on the right providing access to the annex corridor (Photo 18), and the set to the left opening to the bottom level of the annex.

The basement interior, in contrast to the ground floor, dates entirely from the reconfiguration of the building as a high school in 1999. An L-shaped corridor runs between the two stairways, interrupted by the elevator pit room. On the Butler Street side of the building, there are

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classrooms and offices. In the interior of the building, there is a large recreation room sitting above the former location of the pool, which has been infilled, and which is ringed by offices and bathrooms. All of these rooms feature white-painted walls with gray vinyl base trim, gray carpets, and white acoustical ceilings. Utility and electric rooms are located in vaults beneath the sidewalk and service alley. The locker rooms, bowling alleys, and showers that were originally found in the basement have been lost.

On the second floor of the 1912 section, there is an L-shaped corridor connecting the two stairs (Photo 20), with the elevator located in between them, along with a door next to each stair that allows access to the balcony. Six classrooms are located facing Butler and 45<sup>th</sup> Street, and two bathrooms are located to the right of the elevator. These room divisions date from the 1999 conversion into a high school, which changed this floor's plan. A handful of original walls, however, including a decorative arch (Photo 22) and two doorways, survive near the elevator, and all the perimeter walls feature the original baseboard and window casings (Photo 23). In addition, the decorative plaster ceilings appear to survive above the dropped acoustical ceilings, as does the original wooden flooring beneath the carpeting that has been laid in all the classroom spaces. There is a decorative brick fireplace (Photo 21) located at the Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street corner of the building.

On the third floor, the corridor is a U shape, with six irregularly shaped classrooms located facing Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street, three classrooms located in the wings of the U, and three bathrooms located next to the elevator. On this floor, few historic finishes survive, limited to a handful of window casings on the Butler Street elevation. The other non-historic finishes are identical to those dating from the school conversion (Photo 26).

The annex is accessed by a corridor on the ground floor that wraps around the 1933 addition. The corridor is finished in tan glazed tile and white-painted concrete block (Photos 19 and 24). The corridor has two short flights of steps that bring the floor level up to the second story at the rear of the annex. These two floors of the annex originally contained a wood shop, a print shop, photography shop, and art shop, all lost. On the second story (which corresponds to the exterior Cessna Way elevation and the second floor of the main building) the annex interior is divided into small office suites, a configuration dating from the conversion into the high school. On the top story of the annex (corresponding to the third floor of the main building) there are four classrooms located off central corridors. All finishes date to the 1999 conversion, and are identical to those in the main section of the building (Photo 27).

#### *Noncontributing Garage*

In the service alley behind the 1912 portion of the building is a ca. 1990 one-story concrete block garage, whose south wall is coterminous with the property boundary. The garage is noncontributing because it postdates the period of significance.

#### **Integrity Assessment**

Although there have been changes to the building, it retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a charitable social service organization for underprivileged boys in Pittsburgh. The property retains integrity of **Location**, since it has never been moved. The property also

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retains integrity of **Materials** as seen in in the exterior brickwork and terracotta, and in the interior terrazzo and wood (even though it has been covered by carpet) flooring, plasterwork on the walls and ceilings, fireplaces, and window and door casings. Integrity of materials has been slightly impacted by the installation of replacement aluminum windows throughout the building, however. Integrity of **Design** has seen the greatest impact due to changes to the interior floorplans of the basement, second, and third floors on the interior; however, several of the important interior spaces, such as the ground floor hall, library, lobby, and gymnasium (with its stage) remain. Integrity of design has been slightly impacted on the exterior due to the loss of part of the original metal cornice and the loss of an original terra cotta balcony. The property retains integrity of **Workmanship** as seen in the exterior lintels and sills, the exterior entryway, and the exterior brickwork, and in the interior flooring, platers walls, plaster ceilings, fireplaces, and door and window casings. The property retains integrity of **Setting** because the dense urban neighborhood surrounding the building remains intact. The property, with its Colonial Revival detailing, gymnasium, library, and lobby continues to reflect its **Association** with early 20<sup>th</sup> century efforts to serve underprivileged boys in Pittsburgh. Because of its design and interior spaces, the building still has the **Feeling** of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century social service organization for underprivileged boys. All in all, the property continues to convey its significance.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1912-1966

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1928, 1933, 1957

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Trimble, Robert Maurice

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

### Statement of Significance Introduction

The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh meets National Register Criterion A under Social History as a significant charitable social service institution for underprivileged boys in Pittsburgh. Constructed in 1912 as the Lawrenceville YMCA, it was purchased in 1928 by the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, which occupied the building until 1999, when it became a high school. Throughout its history, particularly as the headquarters of the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, the building provided recreational opportunities, vocational and pre-vocational training, and health and dental care to thousands of underprivileged boys each year from Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville and surrounding neighborhoods, vastly improving their lives. These services kept the boys out of trouble, helping to combat delinquency and other social ills. The building also provided space for other organizations. The period of significance begins in 1912 when the building was constructed and ends in 1966 following the National Register's 50-year guideline since the building continued its significant role well into the recent past period of less than 50 years ago.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### Summary History

#### *The YMCA & the YMCA in Pittsburgh*

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) organization was founded in London in 1844 by George Williams as a refuge of Bible study and prayer for young men seeking an escape from the hazards of the street and to put Christian principles into practice by developing a healthy "body, mind, and spirit."<sup>1</sup> The first YMCA in the United States was founded by Thomas Valentine Smith in Boston in 1851.<sup>2</sup> Between the Civil War and World War I, the YMCA constructed more than 1,000 buildings on main streets and in urban neighborhoods across the United States, forming a distinct architectural typology reflecting the YMCA's "fusion of the civic and public interests of the town with commerce and religion."<sup>3</sup> Central YMCAs with hundreds of dormitory rooms were constructed in the downtowns of major American cities, and three-to-five story "neighborhood" YMCA buildings were constructed in the downtowns of smaller cities and in dense, near-in residential neighborhoods of larger cities.

The YMCA in Pittsburgh was active by the immediate post-Civil War period, according to the March 1870 *Association Monthly*, the YMCA's official publication, which reported that Pennsylvania had been divided into various administrative districts with Pittsburgh serving as the statewide headquarters.<sup>4</sup> In the early 1880s, the YMCA constructed a central location in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ymca.net/history/founding.html>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ymca.net/history/founding.html>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Paula Lupkin, *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010, p. 97.

<sup>4</sup> Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States and British Provinces, *Association Monthly*, 1870, p. 60.

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downtown Pittsburgh.<sup>5</sup> In the subsequent decades, in conformance with the YMCA's nationwide building program, numerous Pittsburgh branch locations were constructed in neighborhoods outside downtown, and a new central location was completed in the 1920s at the corner of Third Avenue and Wood Streets downtown, designed by the firm of the prolific Pittsburgh architect Benno Janssen.<sup>6</sup> Among surviving buildings of this era in Pittsburgh is the 1910 East Liberty YMCA (now the Ace Hotel), listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the East Liberty Commercial Historic District. As of 2016, there are 16 YMCA branches and three camp locations in Greater Pittsburgh serving 90,000 individuals each year.<sup>7</sup>

### *The Boys' Club of America*

The first Boys' Club in the U.S. was founded in 1861, in Hartford, Connecticut, organized by women who wanted to help children whose parents worked in the mills. Boys' Clubs proliferated in the latter half of the nineteenth century as they evolved into a national institution whose simple goal was "to give underprivileged boys a chance, a little health, and some fun."<sup>8</sup> By 1906, the individual clubs understood that there was strength in numbers and they decided to join forces as the Federated Boys' Clubs, the effective real beginning of the national Boys' Clubs movement. As their first president, they elected Jacob Riis, the internationally recognized reformer. It was an appointment that attracted considerable attention in the press and one that placed the Boys' Clubs in a leadership role as a progressive group.

The goal was to provide a service that no other youth organization could, one where boys had their own building and their own club. The idea was not just to prevent juvenile delinquency but rather to focus on wholesome activities, or what Boys' Club leaders called "juvenile decency."<sup>9</sup>

Many clubs provided medical and dental exams by qualified doctors, a service rarely if ever provided by any other civic organization. As a national organization, the Boy's Club strove to be inclusive. First and foremost, it was to be non-sectarian with an open-door policy, offering day and evening programs open to all boys, "not limited to boys of proven good character."<sup>10</sup> Clubs welcomed boys from age 8 to 16; after that age, boys graduated to a senior club, which often had its own clubhouse. Annual dues were minimal—25 cents to \$2 according to age, with the estimated cost to benefactors per boy ranging from \$20 to \$50 a year.<sup>11</sup> By 1946 there were 260 clubs nationwide, of which six, including Lawrenceville and the Heinz House, were in the Pittsburgh area.<sup>12</sup> In the 1950s girls started to be admitted, but only in 1990 did the name change to Boys and Girls Clubs of America.<sup>13</sup> As of 2016, the number of clubs was 4,200.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>5</sup> YMCA Year Book and Official Rosters, 1884, p. 13. See also *American Architect and Building News*, February 10, 1883, np.

<sup>6</sup> *Western Pennsylvania History*, Winter 2008-09, p. 20.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org/locations/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> William Edwin Hall, *100 Years and Millions of Boys*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1961, p. 15.

<sup>9</sup> Hall, p. 20.

<sup>10</sup> Hall, p. 27.

<sup>11</sup> Hall, p. 21.

<sup>12</sup> "Boys' Club Week To Begin April 1," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 25, 1946. P.13.

<sup>13</sup> <http://bgca.org/whoweare/Pages/History.aspx>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>14</sup> <http://bgca.org/whoweare/Pages/FactsFigures.aspx>; accessed March 4, 2017.

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The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, following the national model, began in 1923 on a volunteer basis in the Strip District of Pittsburgh on the third floor of the Franklin Bank building at 2813 Penn Avenue, when Lincoln Brown was sent by the Boys' Club Federation to organize it. James W. Lodge served as director until 1952 and David I. McCahill was the first president. It was the oldest club in the region and one of the oldest nationwide outside of New York City. The Boys' Club Golden Anniversary Program described the effect of the initial club as follows:

Scarcely had the Boys' Club been open for members, the policeman on the beat missed the disturbing element in the doorways and street corners. The absence of vandalism made him suspicious, everything was too quiet and he figured something had happened. He found out the boys were all in the Boys' Club. He also found the ring leaders, who had always caused him all the trouble after school during their leisure time, were interested in playing pool, ping pong, basketball or were in the wood shop, print shop and also busy in the library doing their homework or reading all kinds of magazines.<sup>15</sup>

Within the first two years of operation, it was clear that the original quarters were inadequate, and a search was begun for an effective facility. The selection and acquisition of the Lawrenceville YMCA as the Boys' Club was led by Charles D. Armstrong, the head of the Armstrong Cork Company, who sat on the board of both the YMCA and the Pittsburgh Boys' Club. After an extensive fundraising campaign, "which produced contributions from all classes and all sections of the city," the Boys' Club bought the YMCA building on Butler Street, and the building was officially dedicated as the Boys' Club on November 18, 1928.<sup>16</sup> The success of the Lawrenceville location was the catalyst for the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh expanding into other neighborhoods in the region with significant populations of underprivileged boys. By 1971, there were six clubs, four extension clubs, and two camps in the region, providing over 7,000 boys with swimming and gymnastics facilities, vocational workshops, club rooms, dramatic workshops, and camping.<sup>17</sup> As of 2016, there are eight clubs in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, with its headquarters remaining in Lawrenceville.<sup>18</sup>

### *Building History*

Land for the Lawrenceville YMCA was purchased in 1906 for \$75,000.<sup>19</sup> The construction contract was awarded to Rose & Fisher of Pittsburgh's North Side, and the building was completed in 1912.<sup>20</sup> The building appears identical to many neighborhood YMCA buildings across the Midwest completed in the same era designed by YMCA specialist architects Shattuck and Hussey.<sup>21</sup> These neighborhood YMCAs all shared an effectively uniform program, with a pool located on the lowest floor, a multistory gymnasium at ground level ringed by a balcony

<sup>15</sup> Boys' Club of Pittsburgh Golden Anniversary, History on Allegheny Cemetery letterhead, 1973, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

<sup>16</sup> "Boys' Club Purchases Lawrenceville Y," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1928, p.2.

<sup>17</sup> "Boys Warm Up To Clubs," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1971, sec. 1 p. 2.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.bgcwpa.org/locations/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>19</sup> *The American Architect and Building News*, Vol. LXXXIX-No.15, p xvi.

<sup>20</sup> *Steel & Iron*, August 7, 1911, p. 943.

<sup>21</sup> Lupkin, plate 1. A selection of YMCA buildings by specialists Shattuck and Hussey, 1904-1916.



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and accompanied by locker rooms and showers, and club and dormitory rooms on the upper floors. Inside, the Butler Street building replicated this prototypical YMCA layout. In the basement there was a swimming pool, four bowling alleys, locker rooms, and eight shower rooms. On the ground floor there was a "lobby, the offices, game room and reading room," all flanking the substantial gymnasium. On the second floor there was a balcony ringing the gymnasium, an "auditorium, club rooms and one shower," and on the third floor there were "34 dormitory rooms with shower and washing accommodations."<sup>22</sup>

The Lawrenceville YMCA was designed by noted Pittsburgh architect Robert Maurice Trimble, whose career spanned the first four decades of the twentieth century.<sup>23</sup> Trimble's extant buildings in the Pittsburgh region include the North Side YMCA, the Sarah Heinz House, the North Side Unitarian Church, St. Thomas Memorial Church, Ben Avon Presbyterian Church, and two high schools listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Perry High School in the Perry North neighborhood and Taylor Allerdice High School in Squirrel Hill.

The YMCA proved perfectly suited to a light adaptation as the Boys' Club, with the layout largely preserved intact in the 1928 conversion. The floors were reorganized by age, with the youngest boys on the ground floor, intermediate boys on the second floor, and the oldest boys on the third floor in the former club rooms. (No breakdown was given of the corresponding actual ages for each grouping, but in general the boys ranged in age from eight to 18, with few over 15.) The third floor was converted into pre-vocational class rooms.<sup>24</sup> In 1933, Sophie G. McCormick funded an addition to the gymnasium to construct a stage that could also be used for wrestling, tumbling, and gymnastics.<sup>25</sup> In 1957, a two-story annex was constructed on Cessna Way to house vocational shops, including a wood shop, print shop, photography shop, art shop, as well as a large kitchen and storeroom connected to the gymnasium.<sup>26</sup> The new vocational facilities supplemented those located on the third floor. The undeveloped portion of the property was used as a playground until 1933, and the property was also served by an off-site 100-acre summer camp.<sup>27</sup>

The building continued in service as the Boys' and Girls Club until 1999, when the club vacated the old Butler Street location after a \$2.5 million donation by Estelle Campbell allowed construction of a new facility just two blocks away.<sup>28</sup> The building was converted into a high school, which occupied the building for the subsequent 15 years.

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<sup>22</sup> "Boys' Club Purchases Lawrenceville Y," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1928, p.2.

<sup>23</sup> Frank C. Harper, "Robert Maurice Trimble," *Pittsburgh of Today: Its Resources and People*. Vol. 3. New York: American Historical Society, 1931: 147-48.

<sup>24</sup> "Boys' Club Purchases Lawrenceville Y," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1928, p.2.

<sup>25</sup> Boys' Club of Pittsburgh Golden Anniversary, History on Allegheny Cemetery letterhead, 1973, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

<sup>26</sup> "The Last 25 Years," *The News*, Newsletter published by The Boy's Club of Pittsburgh, Volume 20, Number 1, March 21, 1948.

<sup>27</sup> "Boys' Club Purchases Lawrenceville Y," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1928, p.2.

<sup>28</sup> "Donor of \$2.5 million fulfilled her dream," *The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, Clipping file, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

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### Criterion A Significance for Social History

#### *Recreational, Vocational and Prevocational Opportunities Provided*

The purchase of the Lawrenceville building in 1928 allowed the Boys' Club to greatly expand its services. In the new location, the Boys' Club provided the boys of the congested neighborhood a second home, where they could spend their leisure time at athletics, games, and prevocational training. Instruction at the Boys Club included "printing, wood working, electricity and dramatics, education programs, medical and dental clinics, gymnasium classes, [and] swimming classes."<sup>29</sup> At the time of its opening in November 1928, the club served 2130 members with an average nightly attendance of 500 boys.<sup>30</sup>

Numerous sources speak to the role that the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh played in enhancing the recreational and vocational lives of underprivileged boys. Judge A. D. Brandon of the Morals Court praised the value of the Boys' Club "in cutting down the amount of juvenile delinquency" in the Strip, Lawrenceville, Bloomfield, and adjacent districts. He noted that "the club is operated for the benefit of underprivileged youths who are taught play that develops their bodies and also are instructed in vocational training."<sup>31</sup> Advocates of the club believed that "if you give boys a chance to do things their own way, they'll keep busy at constructive activities and out of trouble," according to the *Pittsburgh Press* in 1938. "Because of the Boys' Club, street fights of yesterday become supervised wrestling and boxing matches in the club gymnasium," the same report observed.<sup>32</sup> The boys also engaged in model ship building, art, printing, radio work, metal craft, and soap carving. Pool and billiards were also popular.

In 1941 over 300 boys competed in a national indoor athletic competition, with some 140 boys competing in the swimming portion of the program.<sup>33</sup> There was also an active boxing program for youths over 16 years of age. A photo from 1954 pictures the Golden Gloves Team from the Lawrenceville Boys' Club getting ready for competition.<sup>34</sup> In addition to boxing, photos from the Boys and Girls Club archives show pictures of boys engaged in swimming, wrestling, weightlifting, pool, basketball, band music, theatrical performance, and social dancing with girls.<sup>35</sup>

#### *Area and Number of Boys Served*

When it was founded in 1923 in the Strip District, the Boys' Club served a small number of boys in the immediate neighborhood, but demand for the activities quickly meant that it also served boys in the adjacent Lawrenceville and Bloomfield neighborhoods.<sup>36</sup> Armstrong Cork Company executive Charles D. Armstrong, who spearheaded the fundraising for the purchase and conversion of the Lawrenceville YMCA into the Boys' Club, saw the move as an opportunity for

<sup>29</sup> "Boys' Club Purchases Lawrenceville Y," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1928, p.2.

<sup>30</sup> "Open Boys Club Here Friday," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* November 11, 1928: Clipping file, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

<sup>31</sup> "Boys' Club Fund Drive Shows Total of \$65,000," *The Pittsburgh Press*, April 12, 1928, p.25.

<sup>32</sup> "Keeping Boys Out of Trouble," *The Pittsburgh Press*, November 20, 1938, Metro Photo Gravure Section, p.7.

<sup>33</sup> "Pittsburgh Boys' Club in National Contest," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 17, 1941, p.15.

<sup>34</sup> "Lawrenceville Team Gets Ready," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, January 27, 1954, p. 22.

<sup>35</sup> Various photos from Boys and Girls Club of Pittsburgh archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

<sup>36</sup> "The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 9, 1928 p.8.

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both the YMCA and Boys' Club to greatly expand their services to boys in both neighborhoods: "The representatives of both organizations believe that this arrangement assures a larger and better service with the boys of the Lawrenceville and Strip districts, and with a considerable reduction in the combined expenses" with each organization responsible for the "line of service for which it is especially qualified."<sup>37</sup> The Boys' Club was particularly fitted for its mission compared to the YMCA because it was "fundamentally non-sectarian," that is, "serving boys of every race and creed," and thus having a larger natural audience.<sup>38</sup>

A letter from Armstrong dated exactly one year after the acquisition of the Lawrenceville building showed the dramatic difference between 1928 and 1929: membership more than tripled (from 1,101 to 3,334), average daily attendance tripled (from 201 to 603), total attendance more than doubled (from 56,980 to 119,302), and there was a similar expansion in the club's medical and dental examinations, industrial art classes, and athletic participation.<sup>39</sup>

A 1947 report by the Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, on the social and recreational facilities in Lawrenceville gives an enlightening window into the role the Boys' Club building played in the neighborhood and beyond. The Boys' Club itself had 4,379 members, evidence that the club served "more than just its immediate neighborhood, although the bulk of its membership does come from within walking distance." Intriguingly, the report noted that though all boys between ages six and 21 could join the club, the membership included "only white boys." By contrast the Lawrenceville Branch of the Y.M.C.A., located on a new location on Penn Avenue with diminished facilities (it had no gym) was now "also attended by other religious and racial groups, as well as by women" even though it was still nominally restricted to "white Protestant boys and men."<sup>40</sup> Nevertheless, anecdotal evidence from the Boy's Club photograph archive shows black members by the mid-1960s.

### *Health Services Provided*

From its inception the Boys' Club provided health services. In a 1928 fundraising campaign to raise money for the newly purchased building, the club stated, "The boys are under the constant attention of doctors and dentists who look after their physical welfare. Clean healthy minds in clean healthy bodies is the objective of the Boys' Club."<sup>41</sup> When a boy joined the club, he was required to have a complete medical and dental exam. A report on the exam was given to his parent or guardian. The clinic was staffed by a registered nurse who also made home visits.<sup>42</sup> The Boys' Club performed 184 medical and 698 dental exams in the last six months of 1928 and

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<sup>37</sup> "Boys' Club Purchases Lawrenceville Y," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 28, 1928, p.2.

<sup>38</sup> "The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh," Ad in *The Pittsburgh Press*, April 9, 1928 p.8.

<sup>39</sup> Armstrong, Charles D, "The First Year in Our New Building," Boys' Club of Pittsburgh fund raising letter, May 1, 1929. Boys and Girls Club of Pittsburgh archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

<sup>40</sup> Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Bureau of Social Research., Allegheny Conference on Community Development (Pa.) (1947), *Recreational facilities, Pittsburgh & Allegheny County*, Vol. 1. p.69, from Historic Pittsburgh General Text Collection, <http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/t/text/text-idx?c=pitttext;cc=pitttext;view=toc;idno=01a374359m>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>41</sup> "The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh," advertisement in *The Pittsburgh Press*, April 9, 1928, p.8.

<sup>42</sup> Boys' Club of Pittsburgh Golden Anniversary, History on Allegheny Cemetery letterhead, 1973, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

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1,307 medical and 1,405 dental exams in 1929.<sup>43</sup> The Women's Auxiliary (founded in 1934) sponsored the dental clinic, which provided service to more than 21,402 boys in its first ten years.<sup>44</sup>

### *Provision of Space for Other Organizations*

In addition to serving its members, community groups used the auditorium, gymnasium, and library. In 1947, 21 organization were "listed as using the facilities regularly," with programs consisting of "sports, games, dancing, music and drama, arts and crafts, social events, nature study, clubs and special events" spread across "afternoons and evenings, Monday through Saturday, throughout the year."<sup>45</sup> Members of the Mothers' Club used the kitchen to feed the Lawrenceville Rotary Club every Thursday.<sup>46</sup>

### **Context and Comparisons**

Early twentieth-century Pittsburgh was a study in the extreme disparity of wealth created by its industrial might. Company owners and managers lived a lavish lifestyle, while the bulk of the laboring population, many of them immigrants, lived in poverty toiling for the same companies. A detailed report on conditions titled *The Pittsburgh District, Civic Frontage, The Pittsburgh Survey* was published by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1914 and was based on field work concluded in 1908. The 700-page document painted a bleak picture of life in the city, cataloguing the limited number of groups involved in public betterment work, most of them led by women; their efforts were viewed as largely piecemeal and ineffective. Among them were the Civic Club of Allegheny County (founded 1895), the Twentieth Century Club and the Council of Jewish Women. The Civic Club started a playground movement, a municipal hospital, an open-air tuberculosis school and a child-labor association.<sup>47</sup>

There were, nevertheless, settlement houses that, with limited resources, managed to provide outreach to children in their immediate neighborhoods, and who concentrated their services on the children of immigrants. One prominent example was the Kingsley House, in the Hill District, founded in 1894 by the Reverend George Hodges as a Christian settlement house. About half of the 600 boy and 600 girl members used the facilities daily for gymnastic training, games, industrial classes, discussions, music, and so forth. The settlement worked on improving people's

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<sup>43</sup> Armstrong, Charles D. "The First Year in Our New Building," Boys' Club of Pittsburgh fund raising letter, May 1, 1929. Boys and Girls Club of Pittsburgh archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

<sup>44</sup> Boys' Club of Pittsburgh Golden Anniversary, History on Allegheny Cemetery letterhead, 1973, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201; Adele Moyer. "Society Folks Bring Happiness to a Lot of Little Boys," *The Pittsburgh Press*, March 26, 1939, Society Section p.3.

<sup>45</sup> Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Bureau of Social Research., Allegheny Conference on Community Development (Pa.) (1947), *Recreational facilities, Pittsburgh & Allegheny County*, Vol. 1. p.69, from Historic Pittsburgh General Text Collection, <http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/t/text/text-idx?c=pitttext;cc=pitttext;view=toc;idno=01a374359m>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>46</sup> Boys' Club of Pittsburgh Golden Anniversary, History on Allegheny Cemetery letterhead, 1973, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201, p.3.

<sup>47</sup> *The Pittsburgh District, Civic Frontage, The Pittsburgh Survey*, ed. Paul Underwood Kellogg, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1914, pp.33-34, [www.russellsage.org/sites/all/files/Kellogg\\_The%20Pittsburgh%20District\\_0.pdf](http://www.russellsage.org/sites/all/files/Kellogg_The%20Pittsburgh%20District_0.pdf); accessed March 4, 2017.

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living conditions and sent about 4,000 each summer to a specially built vacation house.<sup>48</sup> The Columbian School and Settlement (also known as the Irene Kauffman Settlement), also in the Hill District, was founded by Jewish citizens and served Russian immigrants. It served as a model for the public schools by providing evening industrial schools, recreation centers and vacation schools.<sup>49</sup> Other settlement houses included the Soho Baths Settlement erected by the Civic Club, and Woods Run House in Allegheny.<sup>50</sup>

Post-World War I restrictions on immigration shifted the focus of youth outreach nationwide toward what were considered a more permanent underclass of poor youths, who without intervention threatened to slink toward juvenile delinquency. In place of settlement house programs of assimilation and general education—the latter of which had been supplanted by public schooling—emphasis shifted toward structured hobbies and sports in settings that removed youth from the streets. At the same time, boys (and to a lesser extent girls) from the ages of eight to adulthood began to be considered a separate age group between childhood and adulthood, one for which service organizations had to provide specific age-appropriate service. This shift was seen nationwide with the YMCA, which had been born to provide facilities and services to young professional men but in the early twentieth century began to provide complementary yet distinct services for young adults. By the 1920s, 70 percent of urban YMCAs had launched programs for boys, especially for those between ages 14 and 17.<sup>51</sup>

As individual organizations serving youth developed, there was a substantial effort to expand collaboration among them. In 1908, the same year the field work for *The Pittsburgh Survey* was conducted, the United Charities was formed to create an umbrella organization for public service organizations.<sup>52</sup> Subsequently, in 1927, a more comprehensive attempt was made with the creation of the Welfare Fund of Pittsburgh (later the Community Chest), bringing together 140 social service organizations.<sup>53</sup> Each member organization that was admitted was to have “as its major purpose, the conduct of social welfare activities or service for people in Allegheny County.” The Boys’ Club of Pittsburgh was among them. Also joining at the same time was the American Red Cross, Associated Charities, the Brasher Association, the Children’s Aid Society, the Children’s Service Bureau, the Girls’ Service Club, and the Urban League. Within four years, the number of member agencies doubled from 39 to 75. Among the new agencies that joined in 1932 were the Boy Scouts, the YMCA, the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, Fresh Air Camp and the Conferences of Catholic Charities. The example of Armstrong Cork Company executive Charles D. Armstrong, who, as cited earlier, served on the board of both the YMCA and the Boys’ Club of Pittsburgh, shows that philanthropic leaders had at least to some extent learned to coordinate resources to best serve those in need, rather than operating entirely separate organizations competing for the same limited pool of funds.

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<sup>48</sup> *The Pittsburgh Survey*, p. 36.

<sup>49</sup> *The Pittsburgh Survey*, p. 37.

<sup>50</sup> *The Pittsburgh Survey*, p. 37.

<sup>51</sup> Lupkin, p. 194.

<sup>52</sup> *The Pittsburgh Survey*, p. 36.

<sup>53</sup> Edwin Beachler, *Silver anniversary: 25 years of helping people: Community Chest of Allegheny County*, published by Community Chest of Allegheny County, Historic Pittsburgh Text Collection, 1952, p. 8.

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### *Comparisons*

One of the early settlement houses that compares favorably to the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh was Covode House, the most successful of the early outreach organizations for youth, which was founded in 1901 by Howard Heinz in Allegheny near the H. J. Heinz factories; it benefitted from the resources of the Heinz family.<sup>54</sup> Although Charles D. Armstrong sat on the Board of the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, it did not enjoy the patronage of a single Pittsburgh family. Like the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, the Covode House provided recreational and social activities for the sons of immigrants; however, in 1903, it began to admit girls.<sup>55</sup> In 1913 the club outgrew its space and constructed a new building. Renamed the Sarah Heinz House, the new building was designed by Robert Maurice Trimble, who one year earlier, had designed the Lawrenceville YMCA. In the 1930s the Sarah Heinz House became entwined with the Lawrenceville Boys' Club when it too became an affiliate member of the Boys' Club of America, offering comparable programs, though unlike other Boys' Clubs at the time, it served both boys and girls.

The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh's founding and flourishing in the 1920s occurred as other similar though unaffiliated organizations in the region attempted to occupy the same role in underserved communities in outreach to at-risk boys and youth in the Pittsburgh area. In early 1931 Mrs. Charles Longenecker and George Hailman of the Pittsburgh Newsboys' Home and Homer Brown and Harry Craft of the Centre Avenue YMCA established the Kay Boys' Club in a former factory at 2038 Bedford Avenue in the Hill District, by then a heavily African-American neighborhood. Like the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, they instituted a program of recreation, physical activities, and vocational training. By 1939, they were serving 600 boys and expanded their facility and services to include club and class rooms for members and community use. A children's health clinic and pre-school program was opened. An interest was taken in camping, community recreation, health needs, community gardening, better neighborhood efforts, a limited program for girls, juvenile delinquency and inter-racial relations. By 1943, over 1,600 members were enrolled and in 1944 the club moved into a building they purchased at the corner of Wylie Avenue and Green Street, which had been erected in 1915.<sup>56</sup> A picture of the building by the noted African-American Pittsburgh photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris shows a building not unlike the YMCA structures built at that time.<sup>57</sup> The "Kay Boys' Club" sign over the front entrance in the Harris photo has since been removed, exposing the incised entablature with the Hebrew words meaning "Hebrew School," indicating its original use and the ethnic makeup of the community.<sup>58</sup> In 1964 a new agency, Hill House Association, was formed from settlements and the Hill City Youth Municipality, and the Kay Boys' Club became the Blakely Program Center.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.sarahheinzhouse.org/about-us/our-history/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>55</sup> *The Pittsburgh Survey*, p. 38-41.

<sup>56</sup> [http://www.info-ren.org/projects/btul/exhibit/neighborhoods/hill/hill\\_n72.html](http://www.info-ren.org/projects/btul/exhibit/neighborhoods/hill/hill_n72.html); accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>57</sup> <http://oldblog.cmoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/teenie111.jpg>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.instantstreetview.com/@40.444035,-79.981273,-142.23h,6.32p,2.47z>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.hillhouse.org/about-hill-house/history/> and <https://www.hillhouse.org/about-hill-house/venue-rental/blakey-program-center-multipurpose-room/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

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"Keeping Boys Out of Trouble." *The Pittsburgh Press* November 20, 1938: Metro Photo Gravure Section. p.7.

"Lawrenceville Team Gets Ready." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* January 27, 1954: p.22.

Ludlam, Judy. "'Men Who Care' Staff Pittsburgh Boys' Club." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* October 23, 1969. Clipping file, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

Moyer, Adele. "Society Folks Bring Happiness to a Lot of Little Boys." *The Pittsburgh Press* March 26, 1939: Society Section p.3.

"Open Boys Club Here Friday," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* November 11, 1928: Clipping file, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

"Pittsburgh Boys' Club in National Contest." *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* April 17, 1941: p.15.

*Steel & Iron*, August 7, 1911, p.943.

"The Boys' Club of Pittsburgh." Ad in *The Pittsburgh Press* April 9, 1928: p.8.

*The Pittsburgh Press*, April 1, 1928. Clipping file, Boys and Girls Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

"Workers Reach Half-way Mark in Chest Drive," *The Pittsburgh Press* November 20, 1938: p.6.

### **Books**

Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Bureau of Social Research, Allegheny Conference on Community Development (Pa.): *Recreational facilities, Pittsburgh & Allegheny County*, Vol. 1 (1947).

Hall, William Edwin. *100 Years and Millions of Boys*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1961.



Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA  
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Lupkin, Paula. *Manhood Factories: YMCA Architecture and the Making of Modern Urban Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010.

Winter, Thomas. *Making Men, Making Class: The YMCA and Workingmen, 1877-1920*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2002.

Kellogg, Paul Underwood, ed. *The Pittsburgh District, Civic Frontage, The Pittsburgh Survey*: Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1914,  
[www.russellsage.org/sites/all/files/Kellogg\\_The%20Pittsburgh%20District\\_0.pdf](http://www.russellsage.org/sites/all/files/Kellogg_The%20Pittsburgh%20District_0.pdf); accessed March 4, 2017.

### Internet Websites

<http://bgca.org/howeare/Pages/FactsFigures.aspx>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://bgca.org/howeare/Pages/History.aspx>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://oldblog.cmoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/teenie111.jpg>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://www.bgcwpa.org/locations/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<https://www.hillhouse.org/about-hill-house/history/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<https://www.hillhouse.org/about-hill-house/venue-rental/blakey-program-center-multipurpose-room/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<https://www.instantstreetview.com/@40.444035,-79.981273,-142.23h,6.32p,2.47z>; accessed March 4, 2017.

[http://www.info-ren.org/projects/btul/exhibit/neighborhoods/hill/hill\\_n72.html](http://www.info-ren.org/projects/btul/exhibit/neighborhoods/hill/hill_n72.html); accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://www.referenceforbusiness.com/history2/86/Boys-Girls-Clubs-of-America.html>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://www.sarahheinzhouse.org/about-us/our-history/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://www.ymca.net/history/founding.html>; accessed March 4, 2017.

<http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org/locations/>; accessed March 4, 2017.

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA  
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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** N/A

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**2. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.471822                      Longitude: -79.959186

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property corresponds to Allegheny county tax parcel 49-B-216, available at the Allegheny County Courthouse, Pittsburgh, PA.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with the Boys' Club of Pittsburgh.

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA  
County and State

---

### 3. Form Prepared By

name/title: Patrick Ciccone, Roslyn Bernstein & Shael Shapiro

organization: Crow Hill Development

street & number: 1000 Dean Street Suite #224

city or town Brooklyn state: New York zip code: 11238

e-mail patrick@crowhilldev.com

telephone: 646-483-4563

date: 3-5-17

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
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## Photo Log

Name of Property: Boys' Club of Pittsburgh

City or Vicinity: City of Pittsburgh

County: Allegheny County State: Pennsylvania

Photographer: Patrick W. Ciccone

Date Photographed: March 2015 (photo 1-7, 23); May 2015 (photos 9, 11-12, 14-17, 19, 22, 25, 27); December 2015 (Photo 24); January 2016 (Photo 20); April 2016 (Photos 10, 13, 18, 21, 26); February 2017 (Photo 8)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Butler Street and 45<sup>th</sup> Street elevations, camera facing south.
2. Butler Street elevation, camera facing east.
3. 45<sup>th</sup> Street elevation, camera facing northwest.
4. Rear elevation, camera facing southwest.
5. West (courtyard) elevation, camera facing east.
6. Butler Street addition elevation, camera facing southeast.
7. Annex Cessna Way elevation, camera facing west.
8. West annex elevation, camera facing northeast.
9. Ground floor entry hall, camera facing southeast.
10. Ground floor entry hall ceiling details, camera facing east.
11. Ground floor hallway, camera facing northeast.
12. Ground floor door and pilasters, camera facing northeast.
13. Ground floor door and casing, camera facing north.
14. Ground floor corner fireplace, camera facing northeast.
15. 45<sup>th</sup> Street stairway tower, camera facing up from ground floor.
16. Gym interior toward stage, camera facing southwest.
17. Gym interior toward 45<sup>th</sup> Street, camera facing northeast.
18. Gym entry door from Butler Street entrance, camera facing northwest.
19. Annex corridor hallway and stairs, camera facing southeast.
20. 45<sup>th</sup> Street stair tower, camera facing down from third floor landing.
21. Decorative fireplace, corner of 45<sup>th</sup> and Butler, camera facing north.
22. Second floor hallway, camera facing northeast.
23. Second floor room and windows, camera facing northwest.
24. Annex corridor hallway, camera facing northwest.
25. Gym interior wall from balcony, camera facing southwest.
26. Third floor room and window, camera facing north.
27. Annex interior, camera facing southeast.

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

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1912 exterior photograph at building's completion, as published in Pittsburgh Architectural Club 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Exhibition Catalog, Carnegie Institute, 1913, n.p.

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

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County and State



Butler Street entrance, undated photograph, Boys' and Girls' Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

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County and State



Game room, ground floor, undated photograph, Boys' and Girls' Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA  
County and State

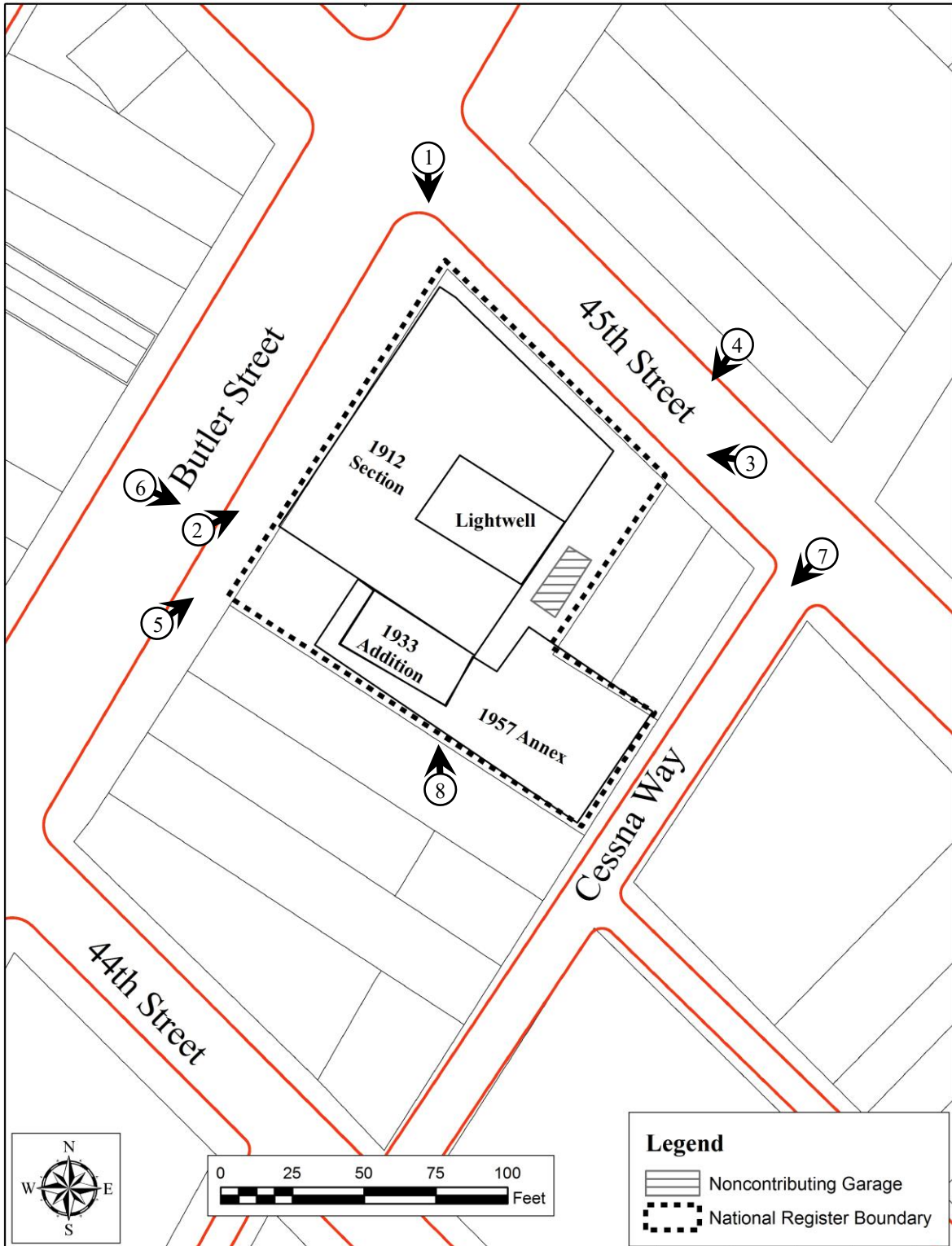


Gymnasium interior, undated photograph, Boys' and Girls' Club archives, 5432 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.



Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

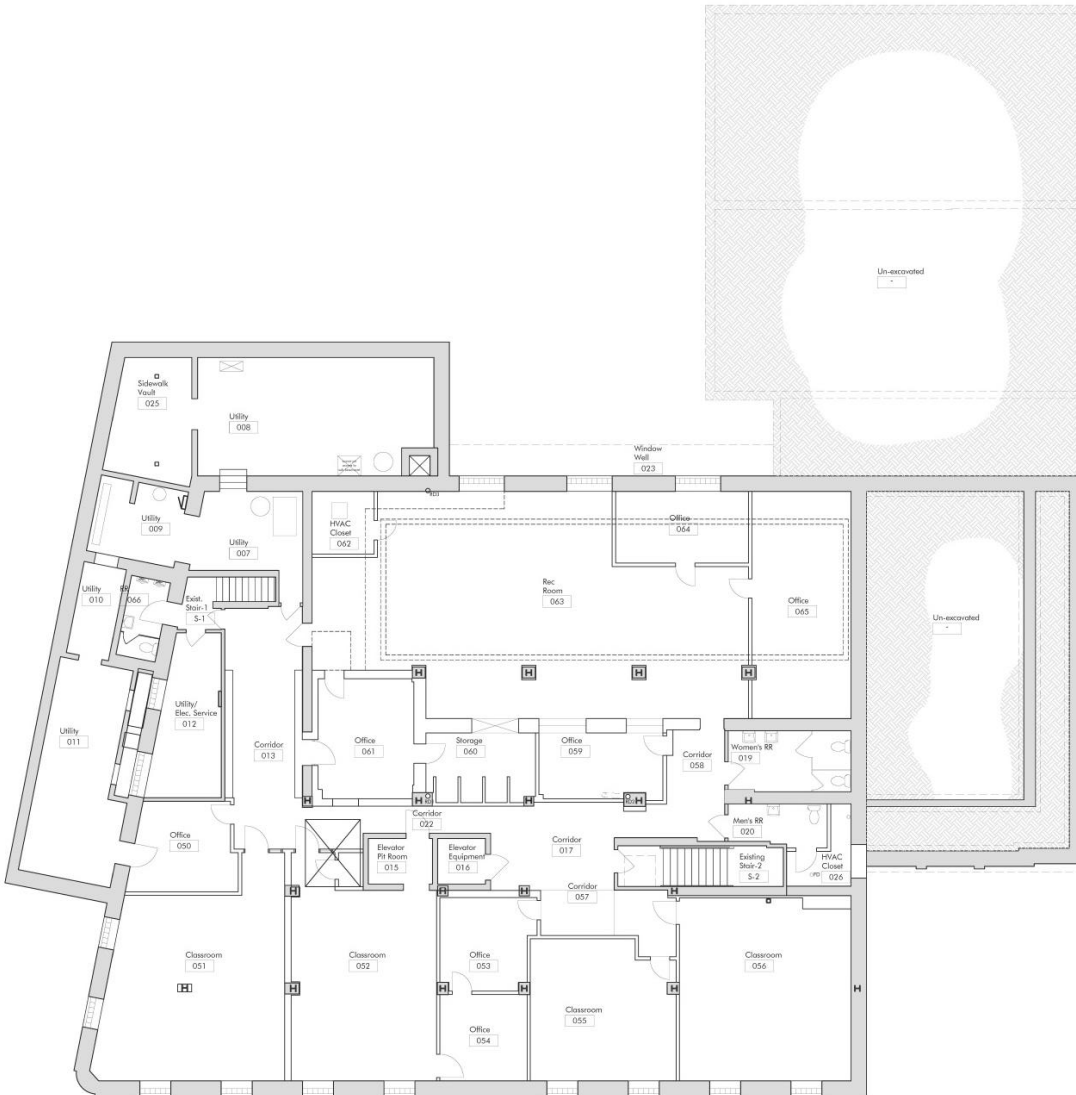
Allegheny County, PA  
County and State



Site Plan and Photo Key

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

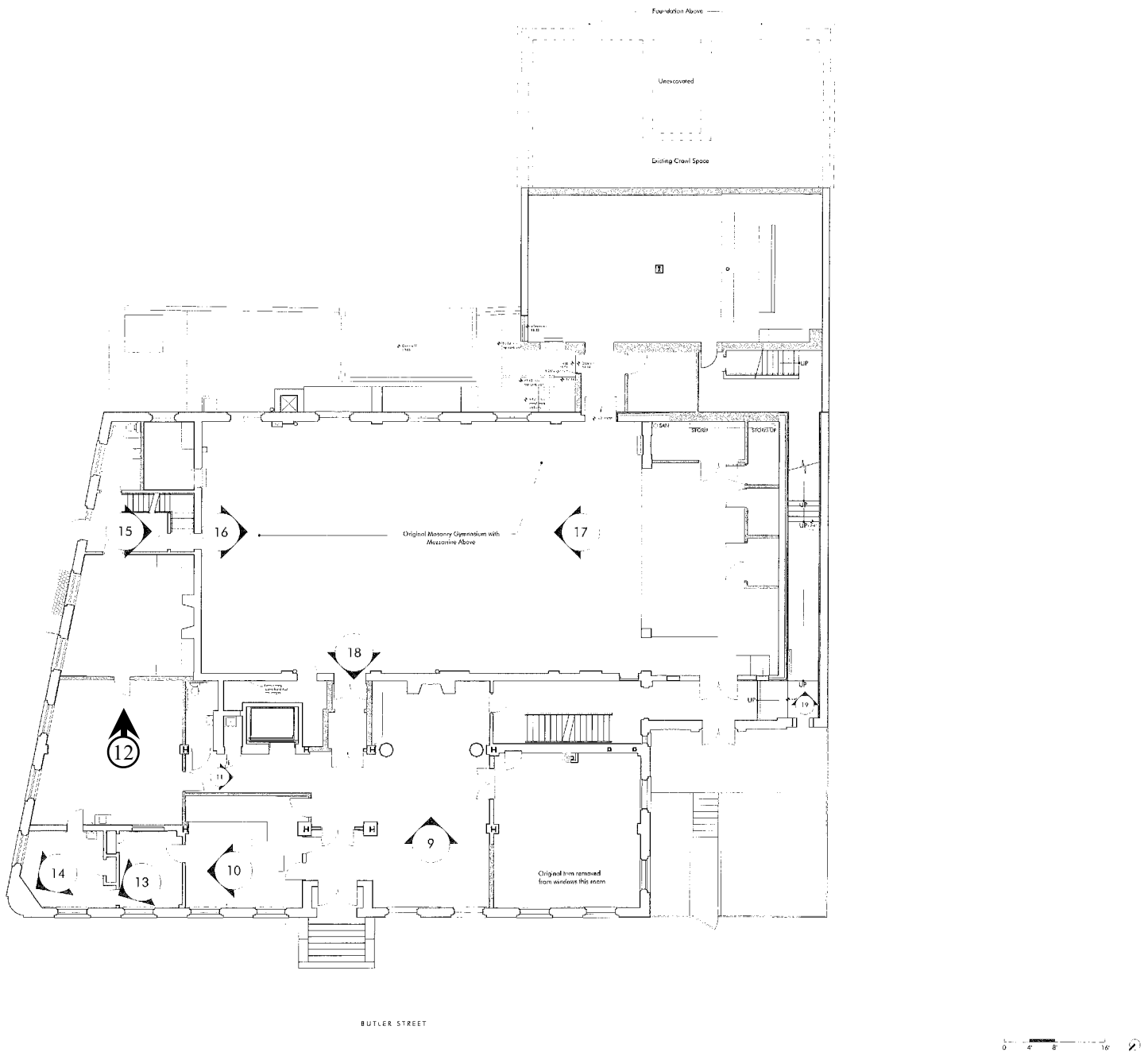
Allegheny County, PA  
County and State



Basement Floor Plan

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

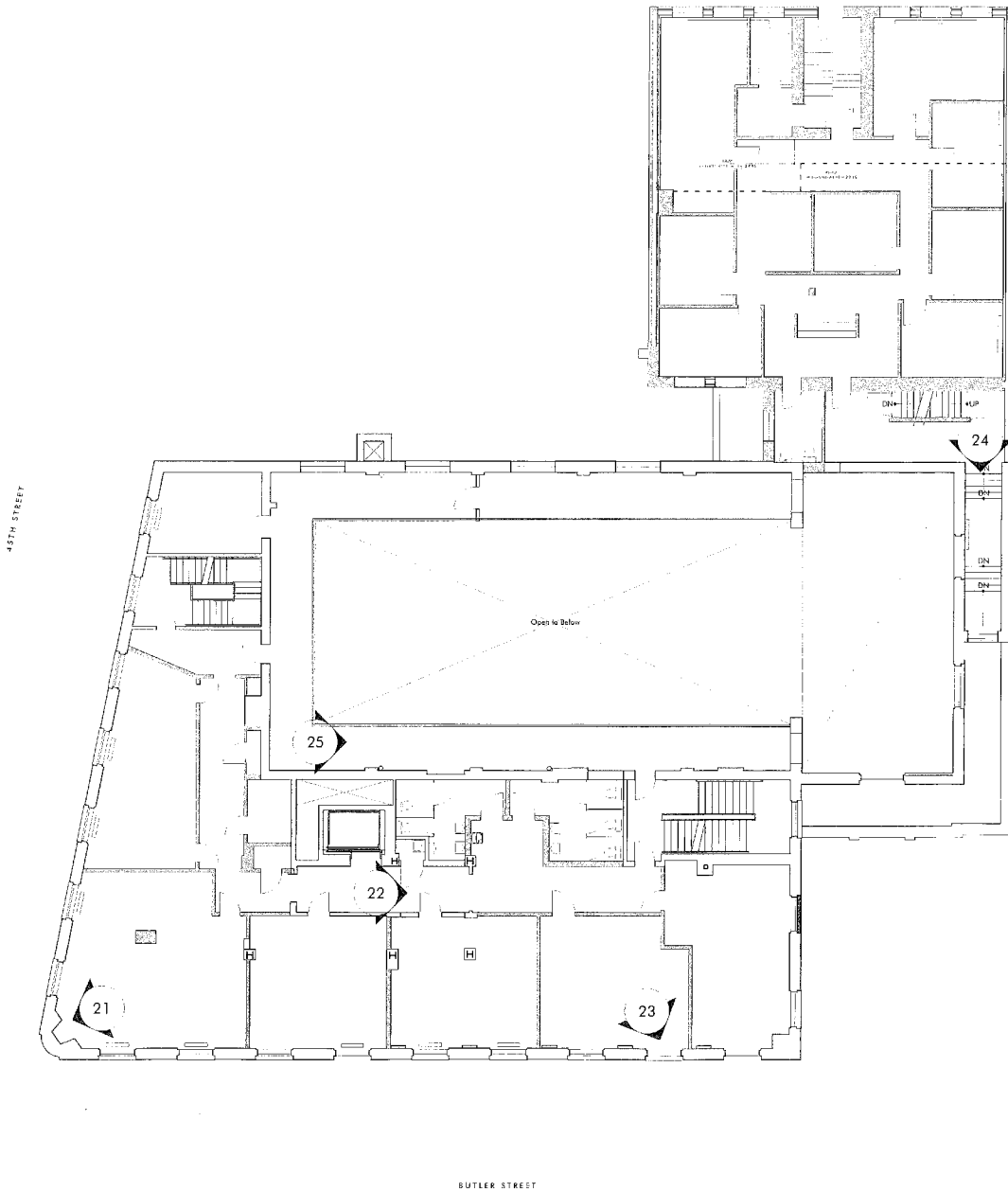
Allegheny County, PA  
County and State



First Floor Plan and Photo Key

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

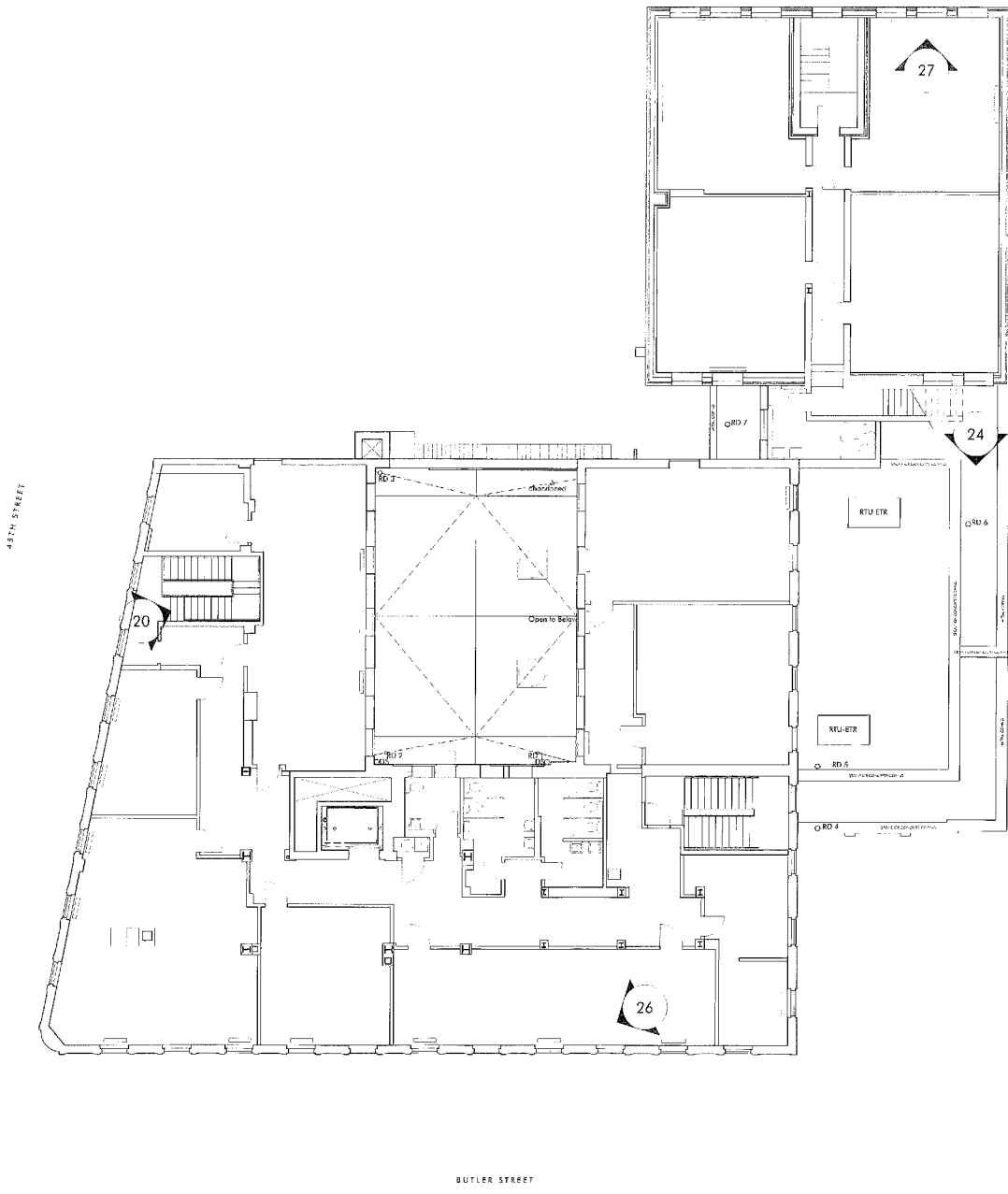
Allegheny County, PA  
County and State



Second Floor Plan and Photo Key

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

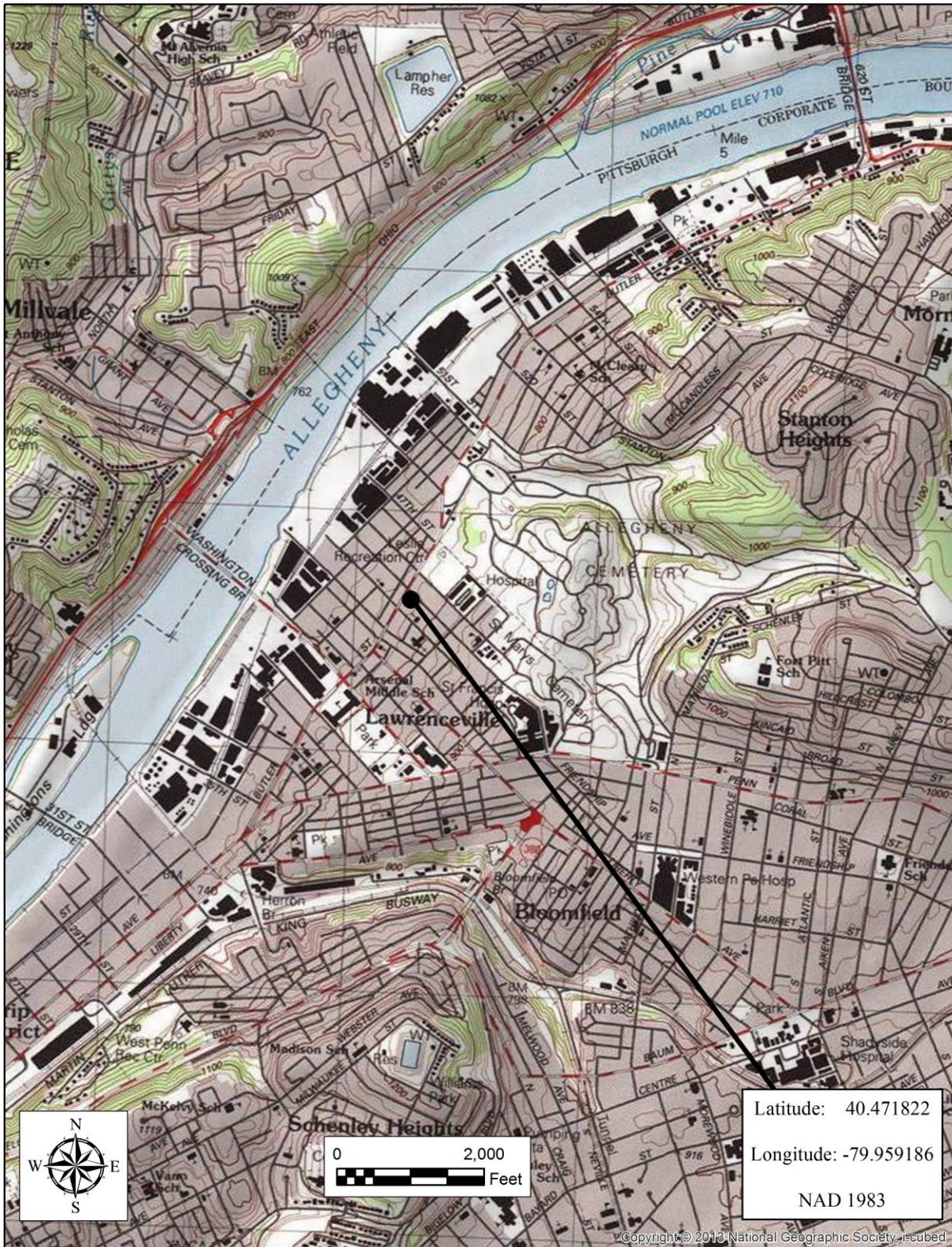
Allegheny County, PA  
County and State



Third Floor Plan and Photo Key

Boy's Club of Pittsburgh  
Name of Property

Allegheny County, PA  
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4500 Lawrenceville 4400  
Butler St

NO TURN  
ON RED  
7AM-7PM

DO NOT  
ENTER

NO LEFT TURN

NO TURN  
ON RED  
7AM-7PM

20

45th St

Butler St

Available  
222.84.2123



1111 11th St  
Cincinnati, OH 45202



Redevelopment Opportunity  
Ohio Landmarks Property Available  
Jim Kelly  
AMERICAN  
YOUNG  
Available  
412.944.2133











CHSC  
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES CENTER



1718 BROADWAY

NO PARKING  
ANYTIME

P  
NO PARKING  
ANYTIME

45th St

STREET  
CLEANING  
NO PARKING  
IN THIS BLOCK  
ON THE SIDEWALK  
OR IN THE FRONT  
OR REAR YARD  
APR. 1 TO DEC. 31

PERMIT  
AREA A  
1 HOUR  
PARKING  
IN AREA  
7 AM - 7 PM  
← COMMERCIAL →

5  
P.H.

172-5165





CCCHS











PRINCIPAL

Pete Simpson

206







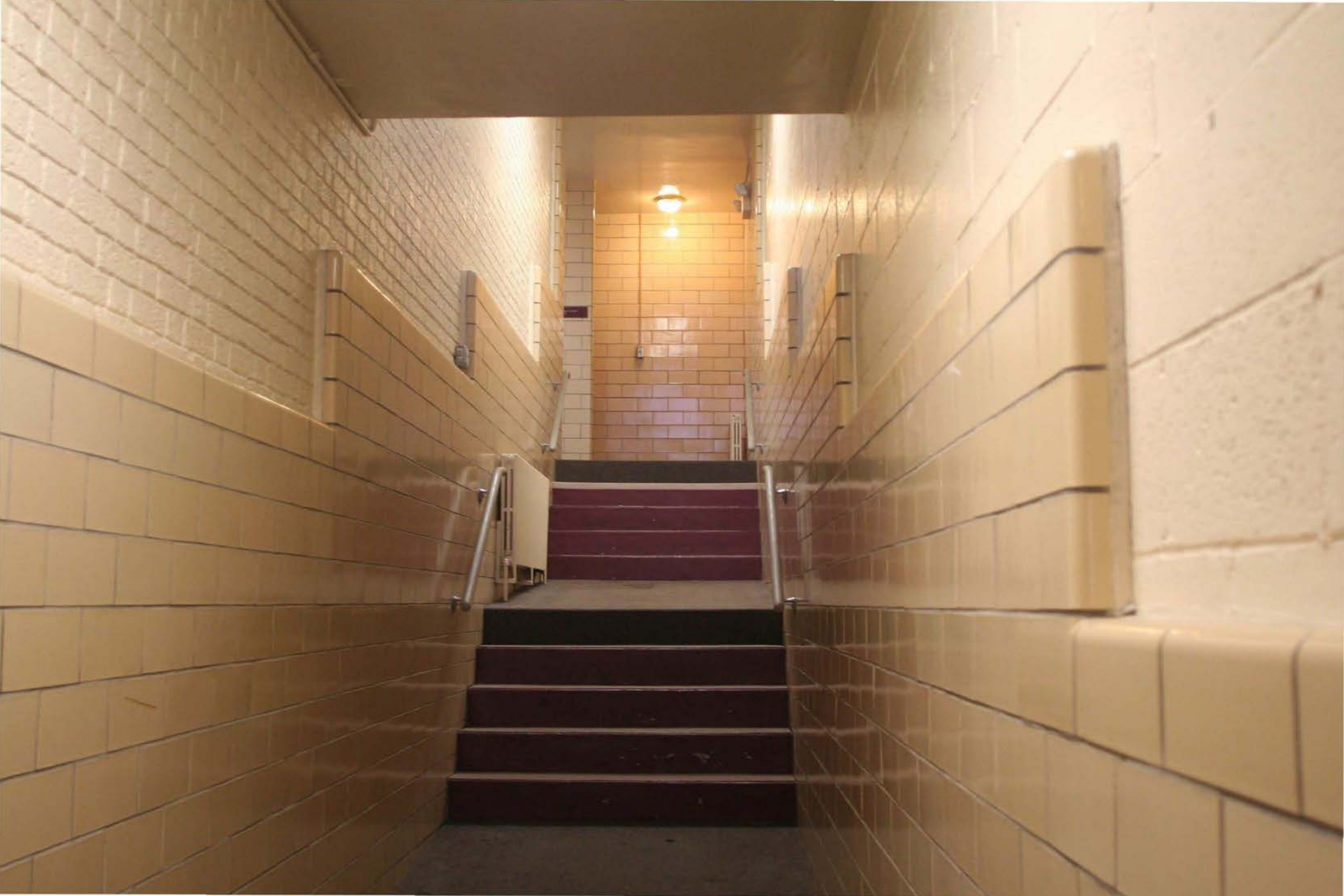




EXIT

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Boys' Club of Pittsburgh

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Allegheny

Date Received: 12/6/2017      Date of Pending List: 1/4/2018      Date of 16th Day: 1/19/2018      Date of 45th Day: 1/22/2018      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: SG100001976

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG  |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      1/19/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept, National Register Criterion A.

Reviewer: Patrick Andrus *Patrick Andrus*      Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2218      Date: 1/19/2018

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



September 14, 2017

Keith Heinrich  
National Register and Survey  
Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, Pa 17120-0093

RE: Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh City, Allegheny County, Key #005373

Dear Mr. Heinrich:

As requested in your letter dated August 2, 2017; the following is meant to fulfill the City of Pittsburgh's obligations as a Certified Local Government for providing comment on National Register Nominations. The public involvement process included emailing notices to interested parties of both the Historic Review Commission and the Planning Commission of the City of Pittsburgh, including members of the press. Written comments from the public were requested at that time. The nomination was also posted on the City's website on August 23, 2017. The City's position on the nomination is outlined below.

**Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh City, Allegheny County**

The City of Pittsburgh supports this nomination because the property meets the requirements of National Register Criterion A in the Area of Social History. We agree that the building provided a vital function for the neighborhood and its residents as a significant charitable social service institution throughout, and even after, its period of significance. In addition, we agree that the property retains sufficient integrity to reflect its historical significance and should be protected and preserved. At this time the property is not listed on the Local Register of Historic Places. One of the goals of the City's preservation plan is to list additional properties on the Local and National Registers.

I can be contacted at 412-255-0739 or via email at [sharon.spooner@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:sharon.spooner@pittsburghpa.gov).

Regards,

Sharon Spooner  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
City of Pittsburgh



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

DEC - 8 2017

November 27, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington D.C. 20240

Re: NR nomination discs

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following nomination forms are being submitted electronically per the "Guidance on How to Submit a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Disk Summary (5/06/2013)":

Boys' Club of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA  
Palmerton Historic District, Carbon County, PA

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for Boys' Club of Pittsburgh and Palmerton Historic District. The proposed action is listing in the National Register.

The nomination for Palmerton Historic District was submitted to your office on July 29, 2013, after it was reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Board; it was returned to our office for substantive and technical revision on September 18, 2013, and received by us on October 30, 2013. Staff have addressed the comments in the return letter after physically revisiting the district.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination please contact Keith Heinrich at 717-783-9919.

Sincerely,

Keith T. Heinrich  
National Register and Survey