NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

310

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.

RECEIVED 2280
APR 15 2016
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Carver Court
Other names/site number: Foundry Street Defense Housing Project
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: Foundry Street and Brooks Lane, east of 11th Street
City or town: Caln Township State: PA County: Chester
Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this X 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 X 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 _X_local

Applicable National Register Criteria: **_X_A ___B _X_C ___D**

Andrea T. MacDonald 4/8/2016

Signature of certifying official/Title **Date**

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title: **Date**

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:) _____

for Edson N. Beall 5.31.16

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	X
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property (Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	X
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing
89 buildings	3 buildings
1 sites	1 sites
_____ structures	_____ structures
_____ objects	_____ objects
89 Total	4 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
Domestic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
Domestic
Religious

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Modern

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, vinyl, concrete block

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.)

Summary Paragraph

Initially named Foundry Street Defense Housing (but quickly renamed Carver Court), this small 1942-44 development is located immediately northeast of Coatesville in Caln Township. Carver Court is just west of the Coatesville Area High School campus, and both are at the base of a heavily wooded hill, below a Veterans' Administration hospital. Carver Court, the school campus, and nearby businesses are separated from Coatesville by the Lincoln Highway and Amtrak railroad tracks. Despite its proximity to the school campus and nearby businesses, Carver Court has a somewhat isolated and insular setting, with the wooded hillside to the north and buffers of green space on the other sides. The district's buildings (89 contributing and 3 non-contributing) line the roughly-oval Foundry Street, and the short offshoot of Brook Lane. The contributing one and two-story houses are clustered in 29 groupings of two to six houses, with equal setbacks that provide both shallow front and deep rear yards. Many of the yard spaces remain unfenced, providing an impression of the intended communal use of green space. The entrance to the development is marked with a distinctive metal sign welcoming visitors to Carver Court (see photo 1). There are 3 non-contributing buildings within the development—a c.1980 house and a 1969 church and house. The original Administration Buildings (also known as the Community Center) was converted into apartments and eventually demolished, c.1980. The site of that former building is considered to be non-contributing. The overall planned district is considered to be a contributing site, due to the importance of the arrangement of buildings on the landscape and the communal space ideal. The shape of Foundry Street is purported to reflect the previous use of the site, a former

racetrack, although that is uncertain.[1] Carver Court was designed by architects Louis Kahn, Oskar Stonorov, and George Howe, with landscape architect Daniel Urban Kiley assisting with the overall site design, as part of a federal program to provide housing for African American steel workers and their families (in this case those employed at the nearby Lukens Steel and Iron or Midvale Steel and Ordnance companies), to support the WWII defense industry. Individually, many buildings have lost aspects of physical integrity (primarily materials), but overall the district retains sufficient original design, and the important aspects of setting, feeling, and association remain intact.

East of the Coatesville Area High School complex is a development featuring some of the same or similar house plans, built at the same time as Carver Court with the same team of architects and designers, to house white steelworkers and their families. Originally known as Lincoln Highway Defense Housing, this neighborhood was renamed Brandywine Homes.

Overall Setting and Layout

Carver Court is visually defined by Foundry Street's oval loop configuration, with most of the houses clustered near this primary street, with shallow front yards. Foundry Street is a one-way street, accessed by quiet School Drive. Brook Lane is a short dead-end street that branches off of Foundry Street in the northwestern portion of the site. There are three primary house types located within the development, dispersed somewhat randomly. Within the center of the oval formed by Foundry Street is considerable open space, intended to be shared by the residents. Some yards are completely or partially fenced, while others are open. Some have extensive landscaping, and/or mature trees, while others are solely lawn. There are short paved driveways or parking pads in front of the houses, either leading to carports or marking the divisions between duplexes or row units. Located at the base of wooded hillside to the north, and buffered by green space and deep back yards, the development has an isolated and insular feel. Despite this well-defined, quiet setting Carver Court is a short walk to the adjacent Coatesville School District complex to the east and to the residential and commercial streets of Coatesville to the west and south.

The Buildings

The architects designed three residential plans for use in Carver Court, designated A, B, and C (see figures 11-13). Plan A was two stories, and grouped together four one-bedroom units; three of these plans were built. Plan B was one story, with two bedrooms in each house. There were three variations of this plan created—B, BB, and BBB—either duplexes (B) or clusters of four (BB) or six (BBB) homes. Nine of plan B, eight of plan BB, and two of BBB were built. Plan C was

[1] Sarah Williams Goldhagen, *Louis Kahn's Situated Modernism* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2001), 19.

an elevated design of two (C) or four (CC) house groupings, with three-bedrooms in each house. Appearing to be on stilts, the living quarters are positioned above carports, porches, and utility/storage rooms. One of plan C was built and six of plan CC were built. In total, there were 29 groupings of houses constructed, containing 88 single-family residences and 12 apartments. In addition to the 29 residential groupings was an administration building constructed in the center of the oval loop, which served as offices for the development's management, a daycare, and a community center; this building was demolished c.1980. One of the B duplexes was destroyed by fire c.1970, and was replaced with a c.1980 single-family split-level (81 Foundry St.).

Overall, the architects used a strong geometric vocabulary (squares and rectangles) to guide the design and layout of each plan type. The houses are set back from the street providing space for a shallow front yard and adjoining driveway. The houses all have driveways or parking pads; the location of these varies by plan. The three building plans were each constructed with a concrete foundation and were framed in wood. On the exterior, each house was finished with beveled wood siding, wood soffits and fascias, a built-up slag low-pitched or flat roof. The roofs were noticeably punctuated with prominent tall brick chimneys. Today, most houses have aluminum, vinyl, or other siding replacing or covering the beveled wood siding. Many of the original flat or almost-flat roofs have been replaced with gable or low-pitched hipped roofs. Some originally-open porches or carports have been enclosed to create three-season porches, permanent living space, or garages.

The Plan A models were two full stories containing four one-bedroom residential units (see figures 11a and b). The overall building footprint resembles a squat T-shaped two-story core with one-story wings on either side, set back from the front facade. These rectangular components expand slightly past the back wall surface of the central box. The individual units were accessed by entrances on the sides of the central box (for the first-floor units) or the side wings (for the second-floor units). The one story wings contained mechanical and storage rooms for each unit. Three Plan A models were constructed. Each retains their original flat roofs and overall shape and plan, though the exterior materials have been replaced or covered, and in some instances the second floor fenestration pattern has changed. (See Photos 9 and 13)

Plan B models featured three different variations of a one-story, two-bedroom house (see figures 12a). The basic version (B) was a duplex, each house a square box with smaller entrance "vestibules" at either end of the duplex. The plan was expanded by adding a second or third duplex at the vestibule ends to create a line of four (BB) or six (BBB) houses. The single-story Plan B homes had very notable chimneys for the heating systems that rose prominently above the shallow-pitched flat roofs. (see Photo 2) Today, these houses often have replacement gable or hipped roofs. The original siding has been covered or replaced. In a few instances, the vestibule porch areas have been enclosed.

The two-story Plan C came in two versions, for either two (C) or four (CC) residences, each with three bedrooms (see figures 13a and b). This plan features a distinctive elevated appearance, almost as if on stilts. The living areas occupy the second floor, with two bays underneath, one containing mechanical and storage rooms and an inset front porch, and one containing a carport. The overall form of this plan is a rectangular box. A character-defining feature is the integrated carport below one-half of the living quarters. Evidently, the "carports" were not solely intended for automobile use, but were intended to also serve as sheltered play areas for children, outdoor living spaces, or areas that could be converted for indoor spaces in the future. The walls defining the carport and porch space were constructed with exposed concrete masonry units painted with a cement coating. The porch provides sheltered space when entering a vestibule with stairs to the upper living areas. Behind the entry stairs vestibule is a utility and storage room also accessible directly from the carport side. The interior staircase terminates in the middle of the second floor's layout, and the rooms pinwheel around the stair landing. In the original plans, the living room, dining area, and an adjacent kitchen span the front of the house, and along the back wall are the three bedrooms. The bathroom is flanked by one of the bedrooms and the kitchen. Some of the Plan C front porches have been enclosed, and almost half the houses have had the original flat roof replaced with a gable or hipped roof. Many carports remain open, but some have been enclosed as garages or as living space. (See Photos 3, 11, and 14)

The architects were committed to designing houses that were intended to be functional and comfortable, as opposed to many other government housing plans that sought only to provide the bare essentials without much further consideration. The houses found in Carver Court were strategically laid out so as to provide efficient space that met the needs of the occupants; these included extras like storage space and well-defined outdoor areas for recreation and leisure.

Initially the residences were managed by the federal government as rental units. When the government sold the units, some units were sold individually, and some adjacent units were sold together to a single buyer. In many cases the buyer lived in one unit and rented the others, while others may have combined adjacent units to create a larger home. These ownership trends are often evident by studying the exteriors of the homes. For example, the exterior appearance of 3 and 5 Foundry Street (Photo 2) suggests that the duplex units were owned separately. The siding is different, and one side of the duplex has a gable roof while the other retains the original flat roof line. The exterior appearance of 22 and 24 Foundry Street (Photo 8), with its distinctive pink-upper and permastone-lower siding, continuous roof shingles, and front-lawn fencing suggests that two units were combined into a single residence (which is supported by tax records and neighbor recollections).

Integrity Assessment

There are three non-contributing buildings and one non-contributing site in Carver Court. One of the original Plan B duplexes, located at the eastern end of the development, was demolished following a c.1970 fire. A new single-family split-level type of house has been constructed in that spot that respects the size, scale, and siting of the original and neighboring houses. The administration building/community center constructed in the central area of the development, with a slightly deeper setback than the houses, was demolished c.1980, and the former site is now lawn is open space. West of the administration building's site is a 1969 one-story brick house that also respects the size and scale of the existing houses. This house was built as the parsonage for the neighboring New Hope Glad Tidings Church of God, a modest brick gable-roofed building also constructed in 1969, located west of the house. (see Photo 16) Paved parking areas flank the church building. The loss of the administration building is especially unfortunate, but the new construction does not diminish a visitor's ability to understand the original site design or intent. The Church has maintained the open space formerly associated with the administration building as communal recreational space.

Over the years, homeowners in Carver Court have made alterations to their houses. None of the original exterior beveled wood siding remains; almost all of the houses have installed vinyl siding or in a few cases aluminum, permastone, or stucco. Additionally, most of the flat built-up slag roofs have been replaced with gable roofs, impacting the original design, which intended to convey International style or Modern sensibilities. Of the three Plan A buildings, all three retain their flat (very slightly sloped) roof, however, it is unknown whether or not the original built-up slag roof survives. The original double-hung window fenestration patterns largely remain, but there have been a number of alterations. Decorative shutters have been installed on many of the houses. A few of the Planc C carports have been enclosed to create additional interior space or garages. In some cases open porches on the front or rear of Plan B's entry vestibules have been enclosed.

Despite the alterations to the houses, the integrity of Carver Court remains sufficiently intact to convey its significance. The geometric forms that created visual coherence remain evident. The standardization achieved through the repeating square and rectangular forms organize both the interior and exterior appearance. The presence of these forms and their importance in conveying the architects' intent is more important than the replacement vinyl siding and new gable roofs. The original configuration of the houses and their relationships to one another has remained intact. The alternating and distinct building plans remain easily discernable. Plan C's character-defining carports remain in most cases.

Especially important to this district's integrity are the aspects of setting, feeling, and association. The location and siting of the development created an insular setting, close to but visually apart

from neighboring transportation systems, businesses, and the later school campus. This contributed to a strong sense of community identity. The homes provided individual private entrances, individual parking spaces, modern amenities, and adequate storage, an improvement from many federally-designed developments, but shared lawns and open spaces, again reinforcing community. While some fencing now often defines private yards, the intent for communal space remains evident, especially inside the Foundry Street oval. The hillside north of the district was also undeveloped open space at the time of construction. Once relatively clear of trees the hill is now largely wooded, but the buffer effect remains intact.

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.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)
Community Planning & Development
Ethnic Heritage
Social History

Period of Significance
1942-c.1957

Significant Dates
1944

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
NA

Cultural Affiliation
African American

Architect/Builder
Louis Kahn
Oskar Stonorov
Daniel Urban Kiley, landscape architect
Nathan Cronheim, structural engineer

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.)

Carver Court is nominated under Criterion A, for Ethnic Heritage and Social History, and for Criterion C, Community Planning and Development. This development is important locally for its contribution to our understanding of the African American experience in Coatesville, for its association with the efforts of the federal government to support the defense industry during WWII, and as an example of the work of prominent architects George Howe, Louis Kahn, and Oskar Stonorov and their promotion of quality affordable, modern, and equitable public housing. The period of significance begins with construction of the homes during 1942-44, and extends to include the period when the homes were then sold to former tenants and/or military veterans in the later 1950s (1942-c.1957).

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

An Overview of the Steel Industry and African American Labor in Coatesville
Coatesville is a small city in central Chester County, roughly halfway between the cities of Lancaster and Philadelphia, on the banks of the Brandywine Creek. In 1810, an ironworks that became known as Lukens Steel began operating here, and the steel industry came to dominate the town and the adjacent borough of South Coatesville. Midvale Steel and Ordnance, originally known as Worth Brothers Company, was another important local steel manufacturer.

An African American community was established in or near Coatesville by at least 1860. By 1900, census data suggests 433 African Americans lived in Coatesville as part of a thriving community of business owners, artisans, and laborers. Only a few worked in the region's nascent steel mills. This changed with the onset of the Great Migration, as the steel plants increased their production and more African Americans moved to the Coatesville area seeking employment. A context including African American labor trends in Pennsylvania is in development by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. The context and associated survey show that there was a significant increase in the employment of African American men in Pennsylvania's steel, coal, and brick industries through the late-1800s and into the mid-1900s (although fluctuations in employment practices varied depending upon geography, company, or decade). By 1910, according to the Pennsylvania Negro Business Directory, among Coatesville's population of 1,800 African Americans there were 172 "employed in Lukens Steel and Iron Company."[2]

Historically, Lukens and Worth Brothers-Midvale drove the physical development and population increase of Coatesville. The growth and expansion of the mills necessitated the need for more workers and consequently more housing. The local steel companies were actively promoting the migration of southern and eastern European immigrants as well as black laborers from southern states. They were recruiting these workers in an effort to keep wages low as demand increased. Both companies used contractors and labor agents tasked with locating available workers.[3] Laborers would be recruited from seaports as European immigrants arrived in the US, as well as recruited from southern states. Coatesville's position not far from Philadelphia, approximately 20 miles north of Pennsylvania's border with Maryland and Delaware, and the ease of access provided by rail, made relocating here attractive for African Americans emigrating from the southern US. Additionally, some workers and their families were relocating from Philadelphia, as well.

Both Lukens and Midvale provided company-sponsored housing for their workforces. These accommodations were generally cheaply built, poorly maintained, and either adjacent to smoky and noisy plants or located off the beaten path.[4] A clear pattern of residential separation developed early on. By the nineteen-teens, racially segregated neighborhoods existed adjacent to one another, but the boundaries were distinct and understood among residents. Foreigners sought housing outside the center of town, and in some cases created shanty-like developments on the outskirts of both the town and mills. These segregated housing patterns were the "result of custom and reinforced long-standing practice of restricted social contacts between the

[2] *Pennsylvania Negro Business Directory*, *Illustrated*, *1910: Industrial and Material Growth of The Negroes of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Jas. H.W. Howard & Son, 1910, 65.
[3] Dennis B. Downey, *No Crooked Death* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1991), 129.
[4] Ibid, 135.

races."[5] Newly-arrived southern blacks were often subjected to the strongest discrimination, and overall community relations were poor. Many of the new workers and their families lived in the "Boxtown" area of South Coatesville, adjacent to the mills, and often African American men lived in temporary quarters known as "camps" away from traditional family ties and without adequate sanitary and social facilities. Conditions remained inadequate for the increasing number of laborers coming to Coatesville. In 1923 W.E.B. DuBois commented on the nature of Coatesville's housing situation, writing "well-bred pigs ought not to be housed as colored steelworkers were housed in and around Coatesville."[6]

Working at a steel plant was always physically difficult and often dangerous, and in many cases African American workers were relegated to the most-difficult and most-dangerous positions. Facilities were often segregated, promotions almost impossible to get. Regardless of the substandard housing situation around the Coatesville-area mills, difficult and frustrating work, and ongoing tensions between the African American and white communities, the African American workforce at area steel plants continued to grow through the 1920s.

Leading up to the United States' involvement in and throughout World War II the federal government bolstered or operated airfields, shipyards, supply centers, ammunition plants and other facilities. The government partnered with private industries, such as steel mills, to expand production for war-related materials. This government involvement resulted in the application of non-discrimination rules, attempting to support equality in employment. The extreme tightness of the labor supply during WWII opened up jobs for African Americans. Between 1940 and 1944, over one and one-half million black Americans entered civilian jobs; the number of black skilled workers doubled.[7] This national trend was evident in the Coatesville area, and the need for adequate housing remained an issue. At the Coatesville area steel mills, workers with special skills were recruited to fill specific needs to meet wartime demands. In some cases the federal government directed these men—including African Americans—to relocate for work at certain companies instead of serving in the military.

The Mutual Ownership Defense Housing Division of the Federal Works Agency targeted Lukens Steel for wartime production, as the company was a leader in plate production for shipbuilding. Coatesville was identified as a "defense area" during World War II. Defense areas were geographic areas where local businesses were producing large quantities of war-related materials. They were identified following the addition of Title VI to the National Housing Act (enacted in 1934) on March 28, 1941. The demand for housing to serve these defense areas

[5] Ibid.
[6] W.E.B. Du Bois, "The Segregated World" in *World Tomorrow*, vol. 6, no. 5, 136.
[7] Robert C. Weaver, Negro Labor Since 1929," *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol 35, No 1(January 1950), 20-38.

resulted in the government strategizing how to provide adequate housing.[8]

Federal Defense Housing and Carver Court's Origins

Responding to wartime increases in production and a demand for workers, a large number of people from the southern US and Philadelphia continued emigrating to Coatesville, putting a strain on the city's already inadequate housing stock. This proved to be an issue across the country in similar areas with defense industries, and sparked a need for additional housing to be rapidly built. The United States government largely took responsibility for implementing such widespread construction by creating numerous departments under the Federal Works Agency.

Following the passing of the New Deal's National Industrial Recovery Act in 1933, public housing projects created employment opportunities while simultaneously revitalizing blighted areas. Numerous affordable housing initiatives coalesced into the passing of the Housing Act, or the Wagner Act, in 1935. This formed the United States Housing Authority, which administered and managed such projects. As World War II approached, housing efforts shifted focus from addressing ongoing urban housing issues towards wartime housing needs, specifically to supply housing for new workers at plants manufacturing items to support military efforts. The National Register nomination for the Mooncrest Historic District near Pittsburgh, PA, is the source of much of the defense housing history presented below.

The federal government began addressing the housing shortage in locations critical to wartime production as early as 1940, and Coatesville was identified as one of those locations due to the local steel mills. Although the US was officially still neutral in the crisis expanding throughout Europe, it was taking defensive precautions to ensure national security, as well as assisting allies such as Great Britain already engaged in conflict. In June, 1940, Congress passed the National Defense Bill and amended the United States Housing Act of 1937 to waive income requirements for public housing, thus opening public housing projects to defense workers, and redirected remaining monies to housing those workers. Also in 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Federal Works Agency (FWA) by consolidating several Depression-era New Deal agencies, including the Public Works Administration, the Public Buildings Administration, and the United States Housing Authority, and Congress assigned the FWA responsibility for alleviating housing shortages created by industrial workers seeking employment in local defense plants.[9]

Funding for defense housing was allocated through the National Defense Housing Act of 1940, also known as the Lanham Act because it was introduced by Representative Fritz G. Lanham.

[8] Ruth G. Weintraub and Rosalind Tough, "Federal Housing and World War II," *The Journal of Land & Public Utility Economics* 18, no. 2 (May 1942): 160.
[9] Bamberg, *Mooncrest Historic District* National Register nomination.

The Act continued to provide funding for federally-built housing for war workers after 1942, when responsibility transferred from the FWA to the newly-created National Housing Agency (NHA). John B. Blandford was named administrator of the NHA. Within this agency, war housing programs were consolidated within a subagency, the Federal Public Housing Authority (FPHA), under Commissioner Herbert Emmerich.[10] The names of these men and agencies appear on the plans for the Foundry Street Defense Housing (Carver Court), dated October 28, 1942. (See Figure 10.)

Between 1940 and 1945, Lanham Act funds were used for over 546,000 family dwellings, 94,000 dormitory rooms, and 74,000 trailers and other types of stopgap housing for defense workers at a cost of more than $2 billion. This massive investment in war worker housing was the US government's largest investment and experiment in public housing.[11] Of these units, 62% were temporary apartment and dormitory projects, including most built between 1942 and 1945, when the combined pressures of the war effort and worker migration demanded the production of mass housing quickly and cheaply.[12] But approximately 197,000 units (including those in Carver Court and nearby Brandywine Homes) were intended to be permanent. These projects were designed to serve as more than basic shelter for workers during wartime. They were to serve as models for working- and middle-class family housing.

Most of the permanent housing was built in the first year of the defense housing program, 1940-1941, under FWA administrator John Carmody, who hired some of the era's foremost architects, including Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Louis Kahn, Richard Neutra, Walter Gropius, and Frank Lloyd Wright to design experimental prototypes for low-cost, often prefabricated housing for defense workers and their successors, post-war moderate-income wage earners. In 1942 and afterward, NHA administrator Blandford adopted a more pragmatic, businesslike approach to housing, favoring minimalist temporary dwellings over permanent, master-planned communities. His approach was supported by the construction, real estate, and banking industries and their allies in Congress, who feared that construction of high-quality federal housing would compete with the private home-building market.[13] Housing constructed under Blandford between 1942 and 1945 is usually referred to as war housing to distinguish it from the more utopian defense housing designed earlier under Carmody.

In the fall of 1940 the United Steel Workers of America collaborated with the FPHA, in Washington, DC, to address the Coatesville area's housing needs for WWII-related defense

[10] Ibid.
[11] D. Bradford Hunt, "War Housing: Its Growth and Legacy in the San Francisco Bay Area," Unpublished paper, University of California, Berkeley, 1993: 3.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Kristin Szilvian, "The Federal Housing Program During World War II," in *From Tenements to the Taylor Homes*, ed. John F. Bauman, Roger Biles, and Kristin Szylvian (Pennsylvania State Press, 2000), 130.

workers. A team of architects from Philadelphia, PA, were tasked with designing 400 units of federally-funded housing for defense workers and their families. This team consisted of architects George Howe, Louis Kahn, and Oskar Stonorov, with additional design by landscape architect Daniel Urban Kiley and Nathan Cronheim, a structural engineer. The goal of the project was to relieve the overcrowded housing situation in Coatesville, where many defense workers and their families were living in a single room or two. The initial proposal was for 100 units for colored families and 300 for white families.

The unfortunate reality of Coatesville's race relations raised immediate objections to a new community for African Americans; the option of an integrated development was also instantly problematic. There had long been tensions between the African American and white communities in the Coatesville area, and the lynching of Coatesville resident Zachariah Walker in 1911 by a white mob drew national attention to the situation. The issues of discrimination and segregation did not disappear as the years passed.

Either to reduce the expense of having two separate developments, or to resolve the objections to the Foundry Street Defense Housing development (later known as Carver Court), the FPHA considered eliminating Carver Court and having the Lincoln Highway Defense Housing (later Brandywine Homes) development serve as an integrated development. The FPHA, however, was apparently not fully aware of the long-standing racial issues in Coatesville.

In a letter written by Oskar Stonorov to Arthur Johnson dated July 1, 1942, Stonorov expressed discontent for proposed plans to cancel the construction of Carver Court. He advises Johnson, who was with the Steel Workers Organizing Committee in Coatesville, to clarify any misunderstandings with the FPHA and to "straighten out the whole affair."[14] Stonorov's support for the development was clear: "Not wishing to butt into your own affairs, I might suggest that you point out how stupid such a policy would be to create a racial issue for a mere hundred housing units, the colored situation being notoriously bad in Chester County, as everybody knows."[15]

Racial segregation within wartime housing was endorsed under the Federal Housing Administration, but was not as common under the Federal Public Housing Authority.[16] While both operated under the National Housing Agency, the FHA was a separate entity from the FPHA. Research to date suggests that Carver Court and Brandywine Homes were built as separate segregated housing developments due to the long-standing history of racial tension that existed in the Coatesville area. It is unclear if there were any published procedures or overt

[14] Louis Kahn Collection, box AA:DBB.3, folder 0110, Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Gwendolyn Wright, *USA* (London: Reaktion, 2008), 125.

restrictions in place to reinforce the segregation between these two developments.

Segregation in housing built for the wartime workers was a continuation of the segregation in low-income public housing, which became established before World War II. Prior to the defense housing program in 1940, 43 of 49 public housing projects supported by the Public Works Administration and 236 of 261 projects supported by the US Housing Authority were segregated by race.[17] The defense housing program advanced progressive design, construction techniques, and materials, but when it came to social progressivism, neither Carmody nor Blandford attempted to alter the prevailing pattern of segregation in public housing already in place. Under Blandford, the NHA increased the number of war housing units available to African American workers, but most of them were in segregated projects.[18]

Segregation in public housing (including defense and war housing) echoed larger national patterns of segregation in the private residential landscape during the early- to mid-20th century. Like the federal government, many private landlords restricted units to white residents, severely limiting the housing choices available to racial minorities. Discriminatory lending practices contributed to a homeownership rate among African Americans that was only half that of whites in 1940, while practices such as redlining and steering largely prevented African Americans who could afford to buy homes from doing so in areas established as "white."[19] Beginning in 1934, the FHA strove to assist low-income households achieve the goal of homeownership through loan insurance programs, but African American borrowers did not benefit from these programs in large numbers until after the enactment of civil rights legislation in the 1960s.[20] A gap of more than 20 percentage points between homeownership rates among white and African American households persisted during the post-World War II period (the late 1940s and 1950s), generally viewed as the first major homeownership boom in American history, and continued through the 20th century.[21]

As the design team lobbied to retain the planned Carver Court development, members of the local community were working to ensure adequate housing was provided for African American defense workers as well. Two prominent African American physicians from the Coatesville area served on the City's housing council—Dr. Louis C. Stokes and Dr. Whittier Clement Atkinson,

[17] Modulo Coulibaly, Rodney Green, and David James, "Segregation in Federally Subsidized Low-income Housing in the United States." Westport, CT: Praeger, 1998.
[18] Szylvian, "The Federal Housing Program During World War II," 129-131.
[19] Wilhelmina A. Leigh and Danielle Huff, "African Americans and Homeownership: Separate and Unequal, 1940-2006." Washington, D.C: Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, November 2007, 2-3.
[20] Leigh and Huff, 7.
[21] E.M. Gramlich, "Subprime Mortgages: American's Latest Boom and Bust." Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Press. Cited in Leigh and Huff, 1.

founder of the Progressive League in Coatesville, a civic organization aimed at improving the economic, educational, and social status of Coatesville's black population. This organization was instrumental in securing housing for the colored defense steel workers. (The Coatesville hospital Dr. Atkinson founded in 1932 was listed in the National Register in 2011).

In August, 1942, after a few years of delays, a resolution was finally passed by the Coatesville City Council to forward a recommendation to authorities in the Federal Housing Agency urging that defense housing projects for both colored families and white families be erected at two different locations east of the City of Coatesville, in Caln Township. The defense housing project for whites, known as Brandywine Homes, would be built on the former Hatfield farm along East Lincoln Highway, and defense housing for colored families would be immediately north of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks, near the Welded Steel Shapes plant on the former Scott family farm.

Unlike some other federal housing provided for defense workers, which was temporary, Carver Court and Brandywine Homes were always intended to be permanent. Features such as the attached housing units, similar to urban rowhomes; single or two-story design instead of a single high-rise type of apartment building; curving central street, communal open space, and the self-contained site plan are all reflections of a specific approach and mindset to create a liveable neighborhood.

Carver Court's design as clusters of attached or multi-unit dwellings was an economic decision, but also reflects the social theories promoted by housing reformers of the 1930s, who argued that the alarmingly high foreclosure rates during the Great Depression demonstrated the perils of single-family home ownership for mid-level American workers. Reformers advocated that multi-unit rental dwellings provided flexible and suitable housing options for the working and even middle-classes. Carver Court was designed to serve the immediate needs of defense industry workers and their families, as well as their presumed successors, the working-class families of the future. The multi-family design and site plan also emphasized the importance of the community over the individual.

The houses were modern but architecturally modest, typical of defense housing and war housing, which were forms of public housing and the administrative and legislative cost restrictions dictated no-frills building styles. Carver Court's houses were intended to be comfortable and modern, however, with features like designated storage spaces so often lacking in low and mid-level rental housing. The design of the overall community was equally important. Permanent defense and war housing projects featured comprehensive site plans and facilities designed to encourage social interaction and create a strong sense of community and shared identity among workers and their families often new to the area. The curvilinear street layout and communal open space surrounding the central Administration Building and the

single access into the community fostered a self-contained identity and encouraged strong connections within the community.

Housing scholar Kristin Szylvian contends that the FWA under Carmody considered the defense housing program to be an opportunity to continue experimenting with the low-cost architecture, construction techniques, and building materials, combined with communitarian residential planning, that had built the Greenbelt towns during the New Deal.[22] Although Blandford later shifted the focus of federally-constructed housing from permanent housing that would guide post-war revitalization to minimalist temporary housing that would be torn down when the war ended, he directed the FPHA to work with local governments to build permanent housing in communities that demonstrated an ongoing need.[23] Coatesville clearly demonstrated such a need. Carver Court was intended to be a permanent contribution to the area's housing stock, designed by accomplished and progressive architects with quality materials and a site-specific plan.

Initially, the units were rented and the development was managed by the federal government. The Administration Building near the center of Carver Court served as the manager's office, a day care for young children, and an adult gathering center in the evenings. After the end of WWII, the future of developments such as Carver Court was varied. The Lanham Act contained only a "vague provision" that at the end of the war, the housing was to be disposed of "in the public interest."[24] In many cases the surrounding communities wanted temporary war housing to be demolished; there was a strong concern that if it remained, it would become slum housing. For the defense housing built at a "permanent" quality level, two main possibilities emerged: transition to low-income public housing, or sale to residents, veterans, or private investors. Some developments ended up as cooperatives, continuing the practice of shared space and maintaining a cohesive community identity. The option for selling to residents, veterans, or private investors was an important opportunity for moderate-income residents, including African Americans, to build security through home ownership.

Conversion to low-income public housing was difficult to achieve. In order for this to take place, a local housing authority had to request title of a project, and the transfer had to be authorized by an act of Congress. Since Congress often opposed such conversions, as did many local government officials who questioned the desirability of low-income public housing in

[22] Kristin Szylvian, "Bauhaus on Trial: Aluminum City Terrace and Federal Defense Housing Policy During World War II," *Planning Perspectives* 9 (1994), 230.
[23] Szylvian, "The Federal Housing Program During World War II," 131.
[24] U.S. National Housing Agency, Fourth Annual Report (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1945), 196. In Szylvian, "The Federal Housing Program During World War II," 132.

their communities, only about 1.9 percent of permanent units were converted in this way nationwide.[25]

The federal government sold some defense housing to their residents under the Mutual Home Ownership Plan (MHOP). Under this plan, residents of defense housing communities formed not-for-profit housing associations to purchase their development from the government and manage it as a cooperative. However, the disposition of these communities was often complicated and protracted, with many factions, including federal housing agencies, local governments, veterans' organizations, tenant groups, organized labor, and home-building and real estate interests, disputing the desired outcome.[26] A severe post-war housing shortage nationwide added to the challenges of finalizing fair disposition plans. If sold privately or to a cooperative, the federal housing officials may have to evict workers whose labor had contributed to victory. Vacant units were often made available to veterans and their families. In 1950, President Truman temporarily halted all dispositions due to the Korean War.[27]

Carver Court's housing stock ended up being offered for purchase to individuals, not sold as a cooperative. Residents could buy a single housing unit for their own household, or could become real estate investors by purchasing duplexes, entire rows, or the multi-tenant Plan A buildings. Purchase of the buildings provided an opportunity not only for home ownership, but for the building of wealth through property equity and the rental of additional units. Some original purchasers or their children remain residents of Carver Court. Others used the wealth they built through property ownership in Carver Court to purchase larger, newer homes in the surrounding area while maintaining their Carver Court units as rental housing.

The Architects

George Howe may be best known as the co-designer (with William Lescaze) of the 1932 Philadelphia Savings Funds Society (PSFS) Building in Philadelphia, considered to be the first International style skyscraper in the US (designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976). By the late 1930s he was collaborating with Louis Kahn for the Philadelphia Housing Authority, which led to his association with Kahn and Oskar Stonorov on federal defense housing projects. In 1941, he began consulting for the Public Buildings Administration in Washington DC, and from 1942 to 1945 served as the Supervising Architect for the Administration, under the Federal Works Agency, after which he returned to private practice.

The most celebrated and well-known of the Carver Court design team, Louis Kahn emigrated to Philadelphia as a young boy. He was a student of and strongly influenced by Paul Phillipe Cret at the University of Pennsylvania. Public and "group" housing would be a focus of Kahn's from

[25] Szylvian, ibid.
[26] Szylvian, "The Federal Housing Program During World War II," 133.
[27] Szylvian, "The Federal Housing Program During World War II," 133.

the early 1930s through the 1950s. Kahn went on to become highly influential in the modern architecture of the later 20th century and had tremendous impact as a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania's school of architecture. In the 1950s his work broke from the International Style and branched into a form of modernism known as the Philadelphia School. Kahn's important later large works include the Salk Institute in California and the capital in Bangladesh, India. He continued to do very site-specific smaller projects, as well. His home for Norman and Doris Fisher, in Montgomery County, PA (completed in 1967), was listed in the National Register in 2014.

German-born Oskar (alternately "Oscar") Stonorov emigrated to the US in 1929 having studied architecture and sculpture in France, Italy, and Switzerland. He moved to the Philadelphia area where he would form partnerships or collaborate with other prominent architects and activists, including Howe, Kahn, and Edmund Bacon. Stonorov was strongly influenced by Swiss architect Le Corbusier. In 1935, Stonorov and then-partner Alfred Kastner designed the Carl Mackley Houses in Juniata Park in Philadelphia (listed in the National Register in 1998). Commissioned under the Public Works Administration, this was the first public housing project sponsored by the federal government.[28] These houses served a local branch of the hosiery-maker's union—represented by Catherine Bauer, a housing reform activist—and reflects Stonorov's longtime involvement with labor rights and affordable housing. A later example of Stonorov's commitment to equitable housing is also in Philadelphia, the Friends Housing Cooperative (listed in 2015). In this case, Stonorov adapted former single-family, three-story, 19th century townhouses into modern 1950s apartments for a cooperative housing initiative.

Howe, Kahn and Stonorov came together in 1940 to proposed plans for Carver Court, Brandywine Homes, and other federal housing initiatives. With Howe, Stonorov, and Kahn all previously involved in efforts to create improved and equitable housing standards, their commission for Carver Court and Brandywine Homes presented an opportunity to implement ideas they believed would adequately respond to wartime housing needs. Other defense-era housing developments that were designed by some combination of the Howe, Kahn, and Stonorov team include:

- Pine Ford Acres, Middletown, PA, 1942; Kahn and Howe
- Pennypack Woods, Philadelphia, PA, 1943; Howe, Kahn and Stonorov
- Lily Pond Houses, Washington, D.C., 1943; Kahn and Stonorov
- Stanton Road Dwellings, Washington, D.C., 1945; Kahn and Howe

Pine Ford Acres, a Howe & Kahn project near Harrisburg, PA, and Pennypack Woods, a Howe, Stonorov & Kahn project in Philadelphia (both defense housing projects for the Federal Public Housing Authority) both shared similarities with Carver Court, though do not appear to feature

[28] Robert A. M. Stern, *George Howe: Toward a Modern American Architecture* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1975), 196.

the same house plans. Plans for Stonorov & Kahn's Willow Run Neighborhood III development proposed (but never built) for the Union of Automobile Workers and the Federal Public Housing Authority for a project in Michigan feature a house type that appears *very* similar to the "C" plan used in Carver Court. The Willow Run project was designed in 1942 and 1943. Period images and plans of all three projects can be found at the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings website, www.philadelphiabuildings.org, and additional documentation is available at the University of Pennsylvania Archives.

Both Stonorov and Kahn belonged to the Citizen's Council on City Planning in Philadelphia and together they published two pamphlets in response to the city's housing issues. These were titled *Why City Planning is Your Responsibility* (1943) and *You and Your Neighborhood* (1944). This literature promoted the idea that citizen participation should be increased and advocacy of community interests become a logical extension of community-centered designs.[29] Prior to publishing these pamphlets, Stonorov and Kahn implemented their ideas in the design for Carver Court and earlier projects. The pamphlets encouraged individuals to identify with and take responsibility for their community, as well as to participate directly with the city planning process through the creation of planning councils.[30] The inclusion of a multi-purpose administration building that served as a community gathering center illustrates some of the concepts promoted in these pamphlets. Kahn and Stonorov's formal partnership lasted from 1942 to 1947.

Landscape architect Daniel Urban Kiley's name is associated with Carver Court, but it is unclear exactly what role he played in the design of the development. (Similarly, it is unclear exactly what role the three primary architects each played. Kahn is sometimes noted as the "design architect" for some of the projects that also identify Howe and Stonorov as "architects;" in other cases there is no "design architect" noted, or a combination of the men are credited as "design architects.") Kiley met Louis Kahn c.1940 through work for the United States Housing Authority. The Carver Court project would have been relatively early in his long career. Kiley is also associated with other public housing projects with Howe, Kahn, and/or Stonorov, including Mill Creek for the Philadelphia Housing Authority (1950s), and Pennypack Woods and Pine Ford Acres, both 1940s defense housing projects for the Federal Public Housing Authority. He went on to become a highly influential designer of modern landscapes. Prominent projects included the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial with Eero Saarinen (1947) and the National Gallery of Art with I.M. Pei (1977). Kiley continued to design for private residences, public parks, and institutions into the late 20th century, with one of his last designs being the Katz Plaza in Pittsburgh (1998).

[29] Goldhagen, *Louis Kahn's Situated Modernism,* 22.
[30] Ibid., 22, 20.

Nathan Cronheim, an architectural engineer, is also associated with the Carver Court development. Cronheim worked in the office of Howe & Lescaze and in the office of Kastner & Stonorov in the early 1930s at the start of his career. He later established his own firms, first with Leonard Weger and then with Joseph Kuo. He worked with Kahn on the designs for at least one other 1940s Federal Public Housing Authority Project, Stanton Road Dwellings, which was unbuilt, and with Kahn and Kiley (among others) on the 1950s Mill Creek Project. Additional information about Cronheim's role in Carver Court or its sister development, Brandywine Homes, may be found in Temple University's Special Collections, which houses some of Cronheim's papers.

The novel concepts of "essential space" and "ground-freed" design served as the backbone for the Carver Court development, and would also inspire their future projects.[31] The architects touted these concepts as promoting a more economical house in both design and construction. Residents living in Carver Court were given houses that provided up-to-date, fully functional (and in some plans flexible) spaces as opposed to simply providing the bare essentials. According to David Brownlee, the focus of the project was to build houses for steelworkers that were aesthetically pleasing as well as functional.[32] Brownlee explains that in the Carver Court plans for house type C, they raised all of the living quarters to the second floor, freeing the ground floor to provide ample storage and a carport that could be adapted by future owners into one or more extra rooms. Carver Court gained national recognition when it was featured in the 1944 exhibit, "Built in the USA: 1932-1944," at the Museum of Modern Art.

Brandywine Homes

Carver Court was designed and developed simultaneously with the nearby Lincoln Highway Defense Housing project, renamed Brandywine Homes soon after construction. (See Figures 8 and 9) The development is very similar in general appearance, with comparable house plans and groupings. The Brandywine community was intended to house white steelworkers, as the concept of a single integrated development was not an option in Coatesville. Brandywine Homes retains its administration building, though at the time of this nomination's preparation it is vacant and in deteriorating condition. Overall, the neighborhood appears to retain integrity, with the houses experiencing many of the same types of changes as those in Carver Court.

[31] George Howe, Oskar Stonorov and Louis I. Kahn, "'Standards' Versus Essential Space," *Architectural Forum* 76 (May 1942): 310.

[32] David B. Brownlee, *Louis I. Kahn: In The Realm of Architecture*, New York: Rizzoli, 2005, 30.

Life in Carver Court

Personal Reflections and Remembrances of Current and Former Residents, by Jane Kennedy

It was January, 1943, when the sound of bulldozers and heavy earth moving equipment began filling the air, following delays for the holiday season and bad weather, under the direction of Louis Azzerone. According to contract the project must be completed in 120 days.

Originally designated the Foundry Street development, the community was soon renamed Carver Court, after an English teacher at the local James Adams School hosted a contest for students to name the new colored housing project. Mr. Wastell McNeil, a former Carver Court resident, shared the history of the renaming of the housing project and noted that a student by the name of Russell Devault of Coates Street won the contest by suggesting it be named in memory of Dr. George Washington Carver, a famous Black Scientist. (See Addendum, below) The sign that welcomes you into the Carver Court housing development was designed by Joseph Bradford, Jr., after collecting scraps from Lukens Steel Mill, and then later the mill workers welded the sign together. It still in its original location today. (see Photo 1)

The reflections shared here about family life and memories of the former Administration Building/Community Center, by both past and present residents, tell of the unity and pride that families shared as they created a common place to express themselves. Although there were 100 dwellings in the community, there was only one family. An organized Tenants League led by President Joseph Bradford, Jr. functioned as a self-governing organization for all families living in the housing project. There was always a common spirit of cooperation and mutual support towards one another that was a common thread, as families shared experiences, cultivating the community, by instilling life-long values and respect in their children, as they shared one another's burdens and celebrated in their successes. The level of pride, to have been given an opportunity to live in the new housing project, was described as a dream come true for many who had never experienced the conveniences and privileges of modern day living facilities, with indoor bathrooms, coal heating stoves, electricity and running water. The focus of the Tenants League was to promote social and educational activities for all tenants. The excitement of Friday night dances, as music flowed from the juke box at the community center, was the highlight of the week for many adults.

Current resident Jane Kennedy was impressed when she learned that the Community Center opened its doors for all citizens of neighboring communities, as a resource to have fun and fellowship. The Carver Court development was known as one of the most prominent African American communities in Chester County. The profile of professionals and educators that lived in the Carver Court included Professor Thomas C. Anderson, who was the Principal of the local James Adams School, a segregated school attended by the children of the defense housing

community, and his wife Mrs. Anita Anderson, a school teacher; Mr. Ransom, an industrial art teacher and physical education teacher, and Mr. Paul Palmer.

On April 16, 2014, a small group of family members from Carver Court had the opportunity to visit the Architectural Archives' exhibit "The Houses of Louis Kahn" at the University of Pennsylvania, where they were given a guided tour of the original blueprints of the Foundry Street Defense Housing project. The first glimpse of the blueprints gave them an overwhelming sense of pride. As white-gloved hands touched the prints the hidden secrets and plans for the housing project began to come alive, and it was especially touching when the remnants of an old farmhouse on the topography blueprint (see Figure 10) revealed the evidence of family life that preceded the construction of the Carver Court Defense Housing project. The plans designed by the team for Carver Court's housing units reflects in part Kahn's vision for the creation of a life of freedom and expression, for the residents to use their creativity to design unique living spaces. The original prints of the various housing units are on file at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

In 1944, as an outstanding example of American architecture, the Carver Court development was selected by the Museum of Modern Art to be shown in its big fiftieth anniversary during an exhibition curated by Elizabeth Mock, "Art in Progress" in New York, New York. The Carver Court housing project was one of forty-seven building groups throughout the country designated by the museum as representative of progress in design and construction. Photographs of the project were shown in the architecture section of the exhibition and reproduced in a book, entitled *Built in U.S.A. 1932-1944*, published by the museum and the exhibit was sent on a country wide tour. Elizabeth Mock commented that the scale of the architectural design of Carver Court housing project is very intimate, and that in every part of the community, one is pleasantly aware of the shape and substance of the whole, and the reflection of how the buildings are skillfully arranged to preserve and enhance the natural character of the site. This remains true today.

On January 25, 1944, the Carver Court Coatesville housing defense project was officially opened to local war workers. Resident Manager Thomas McDougal of South Coatesville journeyed each day to the community center office, with great pride and professionalism, to manage the responsibilities of placing eligible tenants into housing units. His daughter, Rev. Rachael McDougal, shared memories of her father's enthusiasm in serving as resident manager of the defense housing project. Although the McDougal family never lived in Carver Court, they shared in the pride of the community. It's worth noting that a community park stands today in the Borough of South Coatesville in his memory. Mr. McDougal made a public announcement in the Coatesville *Record* that potential tenants had to present him with a signed certificate from a personnel manager of the war plant where they were employed in order to be considered for housing.

There was a ruling by the War Manpower Commission that specified that defense housing projects must be open from 60 to 90 days after completion for immigrant war workers who moved to Coatesville after October of 1941, or who commuted from Philadelphia, thus giving them first opportunity to occupy the Carver Court defense housing, and then remaining units would be available to all local war workers. The first tenant moved into the housing project on November 1, 1944.

A formal dedication of the Carver Court defense housing project was held on Monday, September 4, 1944, and many City of Coatesville dignitaries shared in the ceremony. The event was organized by the Carver Court Tenant's League. On hand to provide remarks were Mayor Richard Scully, Jr., Dr. Louis C. Stokes, Dr. W.C. Atkinson, and Professor Thomas A. Anderson, Principal of James Adams School. Also on the agenda were Mr. Thomas McDougal, Resident Manager; Dr. Thomas D. Clayton; Dr. C.P. Howard, an African American dentist in the community; Leon K. Prout, a local mortician; and Mr. Harold Vogel, housing manager of the Carver Court housing project. Many community friends, both blacks and whites celebrated together followed by remarks from community pastors, and entertainment and fellowship hosted by the Tenants League.

In 1946, Theodore Robinson, a resident, organized a Safety Council at the Carver Court housing project. He was assisted by, J. Russell Devault, who was the James Adams School's Safety Director to safeguard both children and adults. The council was responsible for erecting safety signs throughout the community, and visited all families in the community, educating them on safety regulations and precautions. The Pennsylvania State Police, and the Keystone and West Chester Automobile clubs were instrumental in providing the Safety Council with literature.

Many residents of Carver Court shared with Jane Kennedy reflections and their memories of a beautiful community, one that was safe and secure, where families never locked their doors, and described the community as a keyless society. The pride and privilege to have lived in the Carver Court housing project, was one of great honor and respect. The community was fortunate to have had many prominent African Americans as neighbors and leaders. Parents shared stories of the pride and interest they invested as they prepared their children for life's many challenges and the importance of acquiring an education, as a means to better life in the future. The cooperation of families in the community, to reach out in helping each other, was part of a common fabric and a way of life for many. The stories of working together, whether it was in sharing the responsibility in raising children, gardening, building or taking care of a sick neighbor provided families with a strong family bond towards one another. The free courses offered at the community center, under the direction of Mrs. Anita Anderson, provided workshops for woman in the community on budgeting, nutrition, child care, clothing renovation and home nursing, all essential in providing a higher quality of family life.

The visions of the life during the 1940s in the Carver Court community were full of life and excitement. Ms. Kennedy listened to many beautiful stories, about the "good ole days," growing up and living in Carver Court. One memory was of the innovative ways in which the children made sleds out of old wooden crates from Dunleavy's, a local oil distributor, that provided them with the enjoyment and memories of winter fun, as they sledded on the back sloping hills of the housing project. The ritual of an annual hill burning would prime the hill for perfect sledding, and served as a security measure, to create a buffer around the houses to protect them from any potential fire in the woods. A duplex at 81 and 83 Foundry Street owned by the Faust family did catch fire in 1970, and was later replaced by the Fausts so they could remain in the community they loved. There were endless hours of baseball games in the open field behind the community center was a highlight for many of the young men, who were affectionately known as the Carver Court Pals, who competed with other boys in the area. There were also beautiful stories shared about Thompson's field, which was located along the boundary of Brook Lane and Coates Street. This field was used to play baseball, swim in the creek, or just enjoy a cool place to hang out on a hot summer day. The joy of picking watercress for dinner brought back vivid memories of the natural brook that flowed along the boundary of the housing project. The sloping hill behind Carver Court was an adventurous natural playground for the children, using their imagination to play and acting like real cowboys and Indians on the slopes of the hillside. More memories included enjoyment of hayrides on Halloween and picking berries for pies to be baked by Mom Moore. The current and former residents shared these and other beautiful reflections of a life filled with vivid memories of Carver Court. The support of neighbors was phenomenal as they banded together to defeat obstacles of segregation, racial tensions and social injustices.

The Federal Housing Administration announced in May of 1950 its intent to sell the Carver Court defense housing project. When the housing development was built, it was understood that under federal laws, the government would have to dispose of the housing project to private owners within five years after the end of the war. Carver Court by law was first offered to Caln Township to take over management. Yet, after more than three years, with no activity on the sale of the defense housing project due to litigation regarding the control of sewage and water line maintenance, the Federal Housing Administration released a statement of its plans to move forward with the disposition program. They announced that all veterans who occupied the defense housing units would be given the first opportunity to buy the dwellings, and then the remainder would be offered to other veterans. Many of the men who lived in Carver Court had been directed by the federal government to work at the steel plants in essential positions, instead of enlisting in the military during the war. Therefore, as non-veterans many of the men and their families would not be able to buy homes in the development where they currently lived.

On January 7, 1954, in a meeting held at the Carver Court Community Center presided by Theodore Robinson of the Tenant's League and Kathryn Stoneback, President of the Brandywine Homes Tenant Council (the sister development), concerns of families were addressed. They were opposed to the sale of buildings as rows or multiple units, and not as individual homes, as well as the long term effect on families being displaced by the sale of the defense housing projects to non-residents.

Finally, on December 15, 1955, the two developments were subdivided and offered for sale on a house and lot basis to those current occupants interested in becoming property owners. The announcements (See Figure 18) were posted on the bulletin boards at both administrative offices. The potential buyers would be granted a 30-day period to secure financing for their purchase, as stated by congressional laws. Mrs. Naomi B. Anthony was also the first Carver Court resident to purchase a home from the Public Housing Administration. (See Figure 19)

Ms. Kennedy was really touched when Amelia Burgess Yarbarough, the niece of the late Naomi Burgess Anthony, who was a resident of Carver Court and Secretary at the Administration Building, shared with her that the Carver Court house she resides in and owns today, at 113 Foundry Street, once served as a kindergarten school, under the direction of Mrs. Gidney, a teacher and resident of Carver Court in the late 1940s. She has had the opportunity to meet many of the students. The adjacent property at 111 Foundry Street was the home of Mrs. Naomi Anthony, and after generations in Anthony's family lineage was later purchased by Jane Kennedy and today serves as a PA licensed child care facility.

The land at the housing development was rich and fertile, allowing for families to plant beautiful flower and vegetable gardens that flowed, year after year, with crops of corn, green beans, tomatoes, peppers and more. There were many men in Carver Court who raised and smoked pigs in self-made tinned houses. The memories of preparing homemade sausage and chitterlings, made Kennedy's nose wiggled in amazement as Mrs. Geraldine Bradford Proctor, who was an original resident at 97 Foundry Street and still owns the property today, shared her memories of her husband, as he made preparations for the annual December 15th hog killing day, when he butchered and packed pork packages to share with neighbors, and to freeze at the local egg auction, in preparation of the winter months ahead.

The stories of Carver Court as a utopia and a place that was unique and special in so many ways are endless, and will continued to be shared, for generations to come. The unity in the community of Carver Court continued to thrive, well after the sale of the Community Center to the late Bishop George L. Eggleston and his wife, Pauline, who in 1969 built The New Hope Glad Tidings Church of God and later a family home. Bishop Eggleston converted the community center into residential housing units. After demolition in the late 1980s , the property today sits as an open field, with a community basketball court constructed, by a

member of the Eggleston family, and is utilized for community events, such as Carver Court day, which encourages all past and present residents of the community to come together for fellowship and reflection of their rich historical legacy, as original families, homeowners and pioneers, that have been trailblazer in preserving the life of a community that survived the test of integrity within its original family roots.

Carver Court stands as one of Modern Architecture's forgotten landmarks. The many memories that were shared of its rich heritage and the culture of a self-made community, where today original WWII defense steel worker families still live, for more than 70 years, with third and fourth generations living in original family homes. Today, Carver Court reflects a true humanistic concept of what Kahn and the others created in their architectural vision of a community connected together, not only by a foundation of connected concrete, but by a design and desire to connect families together, built on the foundation of wholeness.

Additional interviews are being conducted with current and former Carver Court residents. Excerpts from some of the interviews are included in this nomination as an addendum. An additional conversation among Carver Court current and former residents has been recorded by Chester County Community TV and is archived in the PA SHPO office and Caln Township.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bauman, Jeff, Roger Biles and Kristin Szylvian. *From Tenements to the Taylor Homes: In Search of an Urban Housing Policy in Twentieth-Century America.* University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000.

Brody, Susannah Wilson. *Remembering Chester County: Stories from Valley Forge to Coatesville* (2010)

Brownlee, David Bruce. *Louis I. Kahn: In the Realm of Architecture.* New York: Rizzoli; Los Angeles: Museum of Contemporary Art, 1991.

Dickinson, Harold E. *A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings.* State College, PA: Bald Eagle Press, 1954.

Downey, Dennis B. *No Crooked Death.* Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1991.

Howe, George, Oscar Stonorov, Louis I. Kahn, "Standards Versus Essential Space: Comments on Unit Plans for War Housing," *Architectural Forum 76* (May 1942): 308-11.

Lee, Bradford A. "The New Deal Reconsidered." *The Wilson Quarterly* 6, no. 2 (Spring 1982): 62-76.

Lyons, Daniel. "Unionism under the New Deal." *The Irish Monthly* 68, no. 923 (May 1950): 228-233.

Manza, Jeff. "Political Sociological Models of the U.S. New Deal." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26 (2000): 297-322.

Mock, Elizabeth. *Built in the U.S.A.: 1932-1944* (1944), pages 66-67.

Stern, Robert A.M. *George Howe: Toward a Modern American Architecture* (1975), pages 195-196.

Swett, Richard N. and Colleen M Thornton. *Leadership by Design: Creating an Architecture of Trust.* Atlanta, GA: Greenway Communications: 2005.

Weintraub, Ruth G. and Rosalind Tough. "Federal Housing and World War II." *The Journal of Land & Public Utility Economics* 18, no. 2 (May 1942): 155-162.

Weintraub, Ruth G. and Rosalind Tough. "Housing War America." *Social Service Review* 17, no. 1 (March 1943): 38-49.

Wright, Gwendolyn. *USA.* London: Reaktion, 2008.

Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania, Box: AA:DBB.3 (Louis Kahn's early works)
Folder: 0110, Foundry St. Defense Hsg. Carver Court / (Coatesville) W. Brandywine Twp., 12/41 – 11/43

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
X__ University
X__ Other
Name(s) of repository: University of Pennsylvania Architectural Archives, Philadelphia; Chester County Historical Society, West Chester

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 66

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

	Latitude/Longitude
A=	39.9925/-75.8000
B=	39.9900/-75.7991
C=	39.9896/-75.8010
D=	39.9913/-75.8044

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary corresponds closely to the mid-twentieth century development presented by the federal government in 1942, as shown in Figure 10, which has been only slightly adjusted as reflected in the current (2015) tax parcel map shown in Figure 2. The boundary nominated is shown as the outer edges of the parcels within the dashed line of Figure 2.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary corresponds closely to the historic boundary of the defense housing development project of 1942. Formerly a single property, individual tax parcels were created as the buildings were

sold by the federal government, and subdivided further later by private owners. The nominated boundary is defined by the current tax parcels, shown in Figure 2. No known resources formerly associated with the federal development have been excluded, nor or any later non-related resources included.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jane Kennedy, Allee Berger, and PA SHPO Staff organization: NA
street & number: c/o PA SHPO
city or town: Harrisburg state: PA zip code: 17120
e-mail: afrantz@pa.gov telephone: 717-783-8947
date: April 8, 2016

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Carver Court
City or Vicinity: Caln Township, Chester County, PA
Photographer: April Frantz
Photographed: September 14, 2015

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

1. "Welcome to Carver Court" sign at entrance to development. Camera facing NE. Made by Joseph Bradford, Jr., of materials from Lukens Steel Plant, erected soon after development was renamed following a school contest (pre-1953).
2. Plan B, north end (3) of 1-3 Foundry Street, Camera facing SW. Windows and siding replaced but prominent chimneys and flat roofline intact.
3. Plan C duplex, 2 and 4 Foundry Street. Camera facing E.

4. Looking NE from the intersection of Foundry St. and Brook Lane, at houses on the N side of Foundry St. (street sign is turned); Plan B (25-27 Foundry) in foreground; two Plan CCs in background
5. Houses on N side of Brook Lane; camera facing NW. Carport at E end has been enclosed as garage; some former porches enclosed. House at W end has a faux mansard roof. Plan CC.
6. Row of Plan BB houses, with 12 Foundry in the foreground. Camera facing S.
7. Three groups of CC houses on N side of Foundry St., camera facing NE. The first grouping (only partially visible, showing 37 and 35 in foreground) retains early low-pitch roof line.
8. Houses 24 and 22 Foundry St. were combined into one residence. Half of a BB Plan. Camera facing SW.
9. Plan A 4-plex (two units up and down). 61-67 Foundry Street. Addition to second level of East half. Camera facing NE.
10. Rear elevation of 42 (left) and 44 Foundry Street, which retain original flower planter shelves with various size holes cut into shelf for pots. Original flat roof line. Plan B. Camera facing SE.
11. Plan CC; 73-79 Foundry Street. Photo shows 77 and 79; both porches enclosed, carports open. Camera facing N.
12. Streetscape facing 93-95 Foundry (B plan) and 97-107 Foundry (BBB Plan). Camera facing SW.
13. The most intact exterior of the A Plans (4-plex), 50-56 Foundry Street. Camera facing N.
14. CC Plan 58-64 Foundry Street. One porch enclosed, all others and carports open. Camera facing W.
15. Detail of 64 Foundry St., end of a CC Plan, with basketball court visible in rear yard; rear open space was formerly part of Community Center, now associated with church property. Camera facing N.
16. Non-contributing Church (1969, New Hope Glad Tidings Church of God) and Parsonage (1969). Camera facing W.

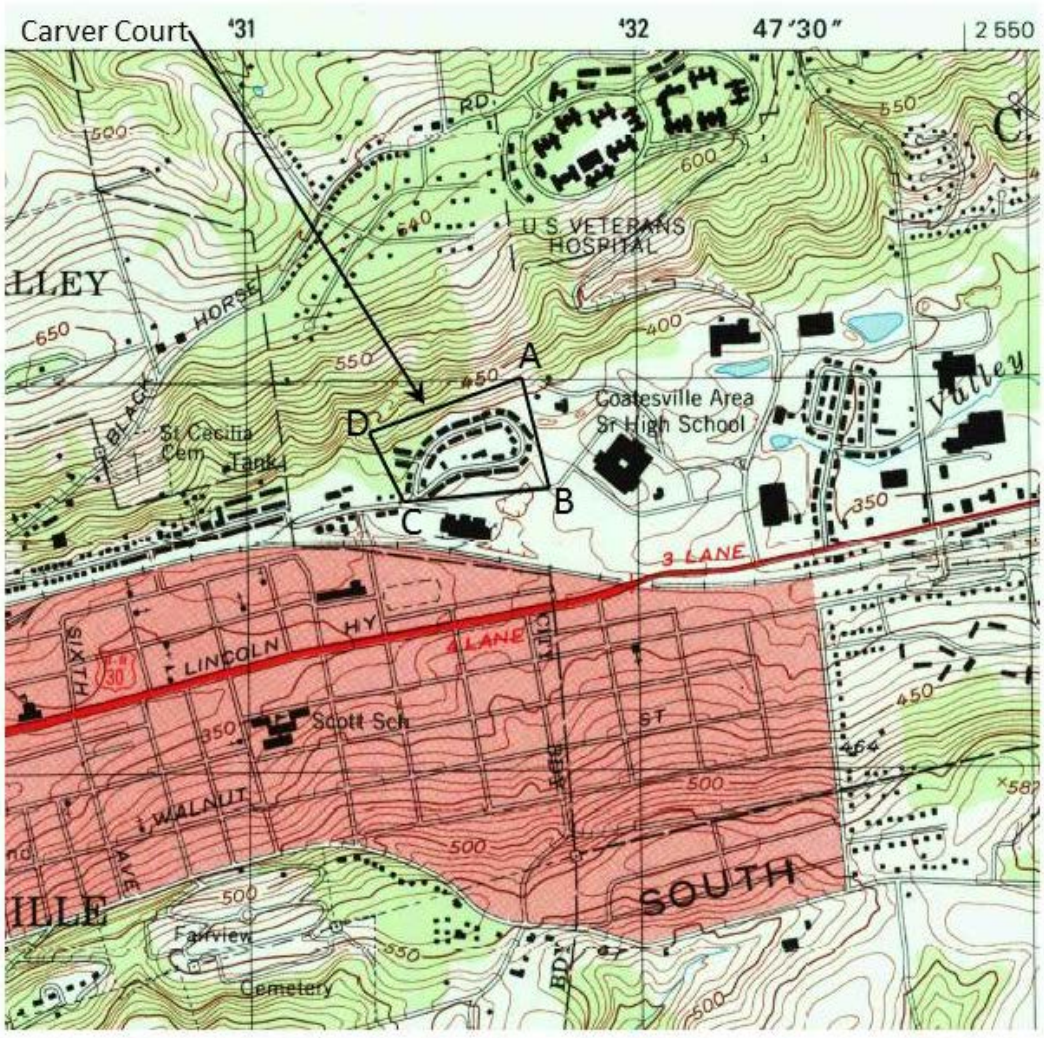


Figure 1: Coatesville Quadrangle USGS map showing boundary.

Latitude/Longitude coordinates:

A= 39.9925/-75.8000
B= 39.9900/-75.7991
C= 39.9896/-75.8010
D= 39.9913/-75.8044

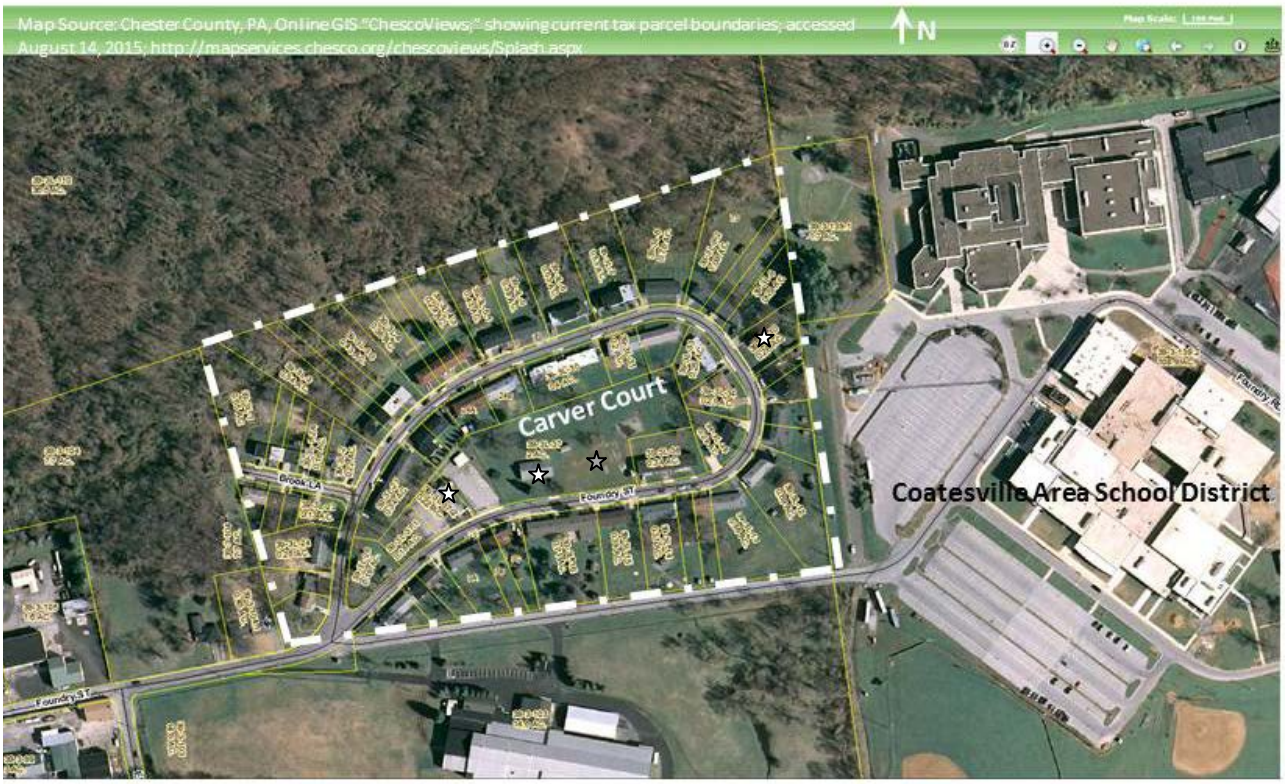


Figure 2: Current aerial view with boundary, showing current tax parcels. (Boundary follows the outer/rear tax parcel lines.) Non-contributing buildings marked with star shape (buildings = white, site = grey). From Chester County, PA, GIS program "ChescoViews" accessed 8/14/2015 from http://mapservices.chesco.org/chescoviews/ .

Figure 4: Current birds-eye aerial view of Carver Court development, showing non-contributing buildings (white stars) and site (grey star). Accessed 8/14/2015 from www.bing.com/maps .

Figure 5: Photo Key

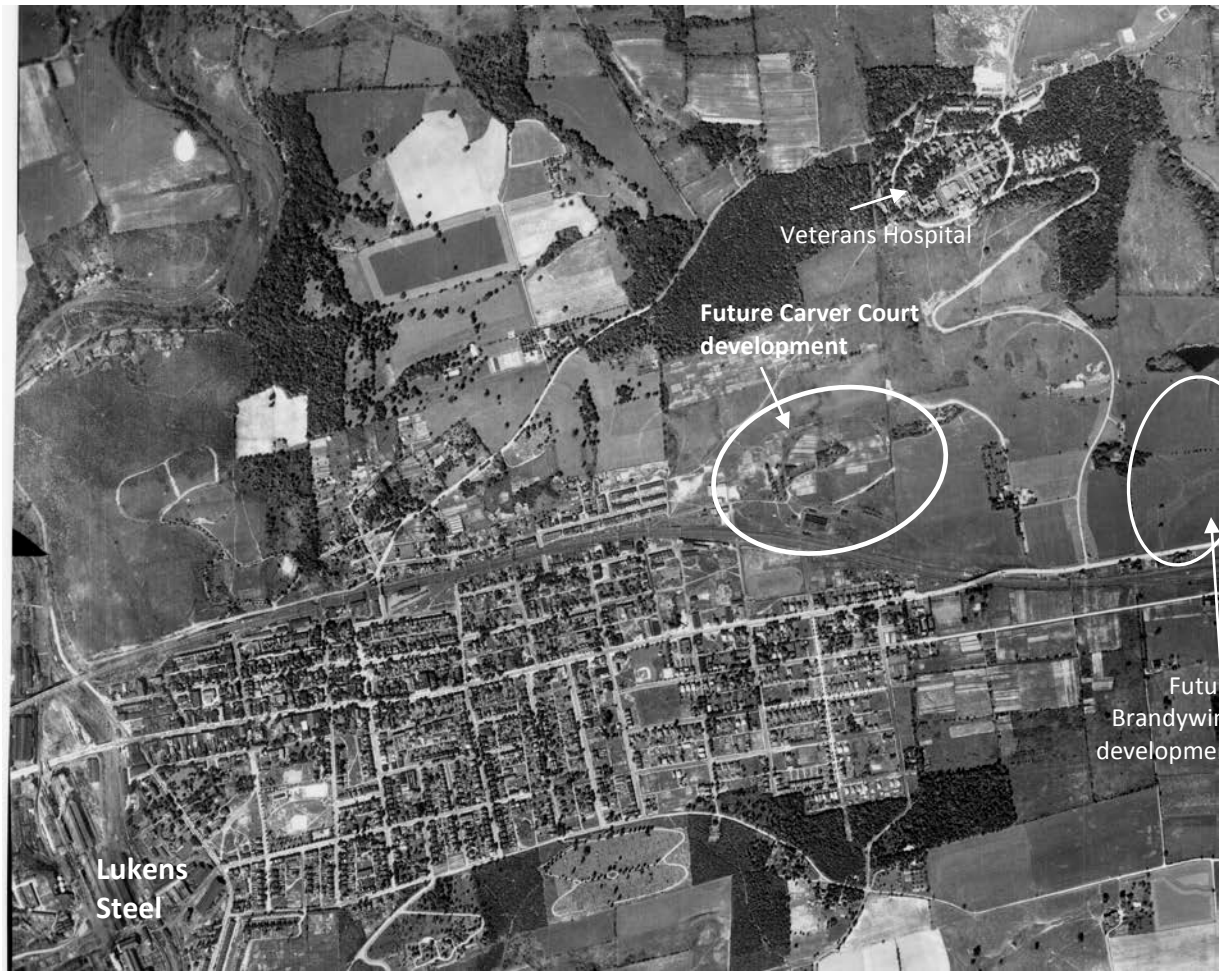


Figure 6: 1937 aerial view, from pennpilot.psu.edu. Photographed September 15, 1937, id#AHK-43-18. The future site of the Carver Court development was at the base of a hillside largely owned by the Veterans Hospital. The sister development, Brandywine Homes, was constructed east of the drive leading up to the Hospital. The Lukens Steel plant, which was one employer of the men whose families would live at Carver Court or Brandywine, is southwest of the developments, shown in the lower left corner of the image.

Figure 7: Detail view of previous 1937 image, showing general area to be developed for Carver Court (left) and Brandywine Homes (right) developments.

Figure 8: Historic aerial view, from pennpilot.psu.edu; photographed October 14, 1957; id# AHK-4R-69. Carver Court and Brandywine developments fully constructed.

Figure 9: Historic aerial view from pennpilot.psu.edu; photographed July 5, 1971, id#AHK-6MM-167. Coatesville Area School District complex now completed between Carver Court and Brandywine.

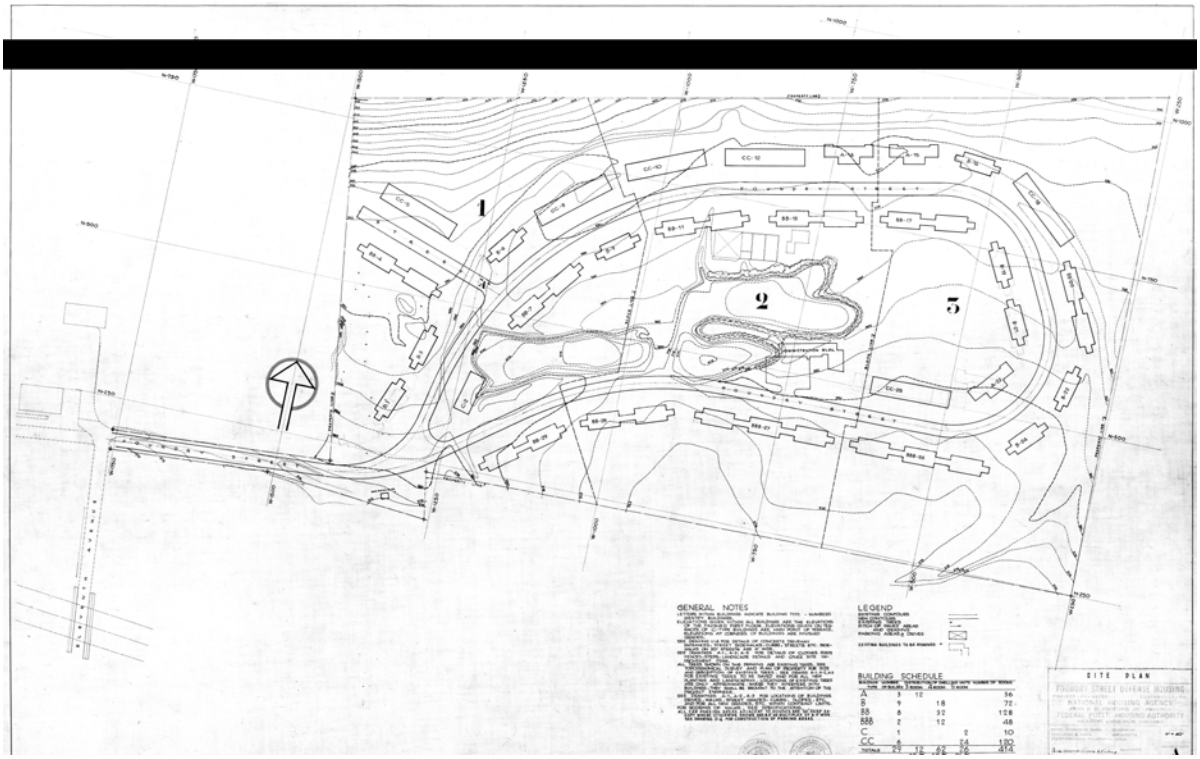


Figure 10: Site Plan, 1942. For the National Housing Agency, Federal Public Housing Authority. Architects noted as Stonorov and Kahn. Includes breakdown of houses by plan and room number. This and all historic plans and construction photos that follow are from the Louis Kahn Collection, University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, housed in the University of Pennsylvania's Architectural Archives, Philadelphia.

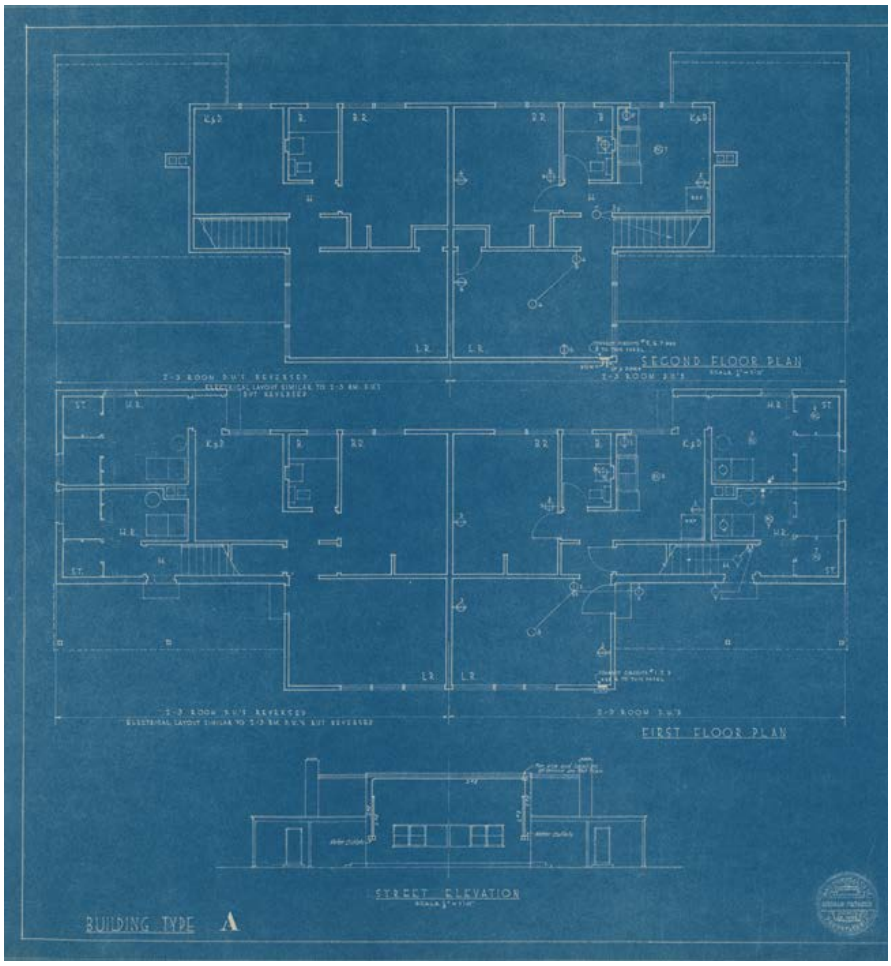


Figure 11a and 11b: Excerpt of plan showing one-bedroom Building Plan A (two units upstairs, two downstairs), and photo showing a completed version (believed to be 53-59 Foundry Street).

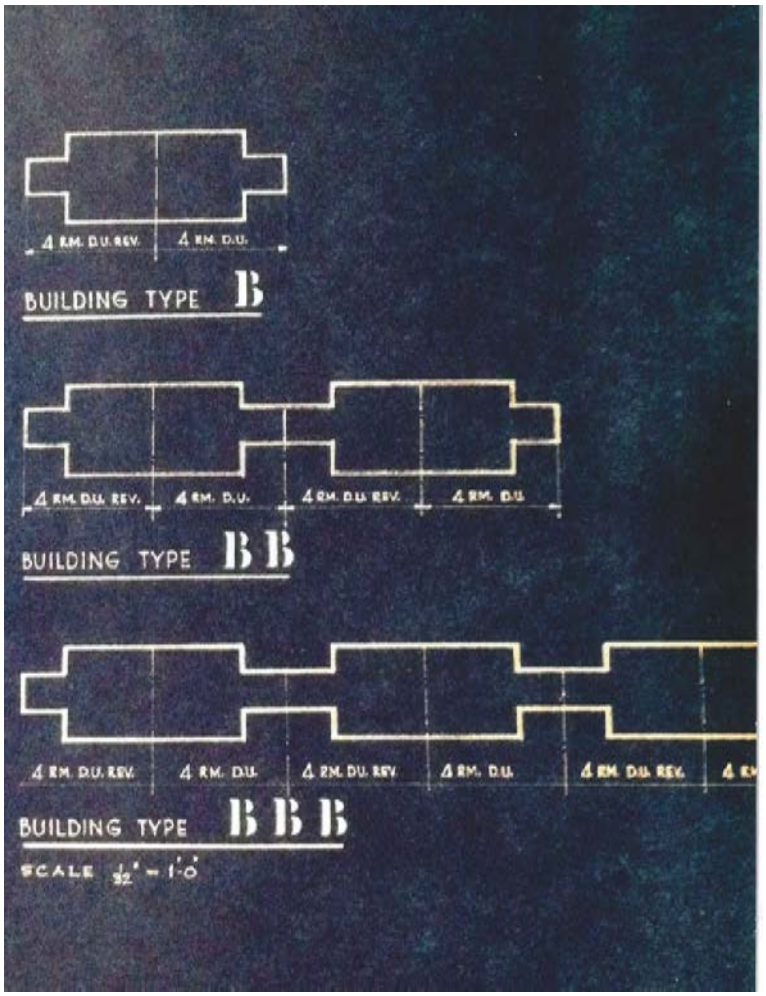


Figure 12a and 12b and c: Arrangement for Plans B, BB, and BBB above, and entry details for newly-completed Plan B houses.

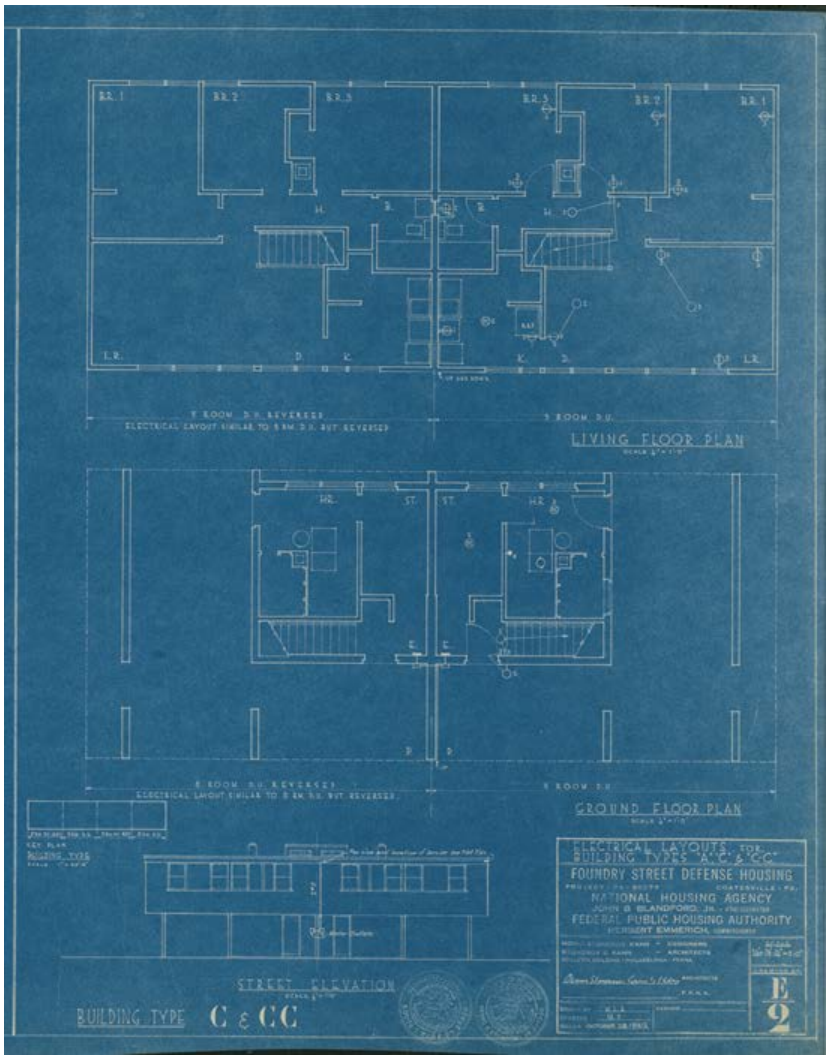


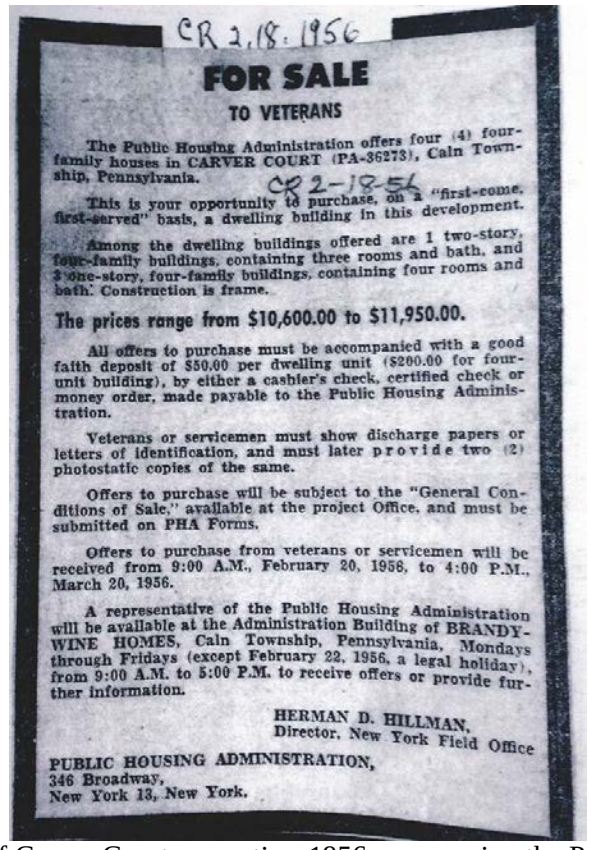
Figure 13a and 13b: Excerpt of plan showing Building Plan C (and CC), and a photo showing a completed version (believed to be version C, 2-4 Foundry Street).

Figure 14: Standing in front of 89-91 Foundry Street, facing N. The Veterans Administration hospital is visible at the top of the hill to the right (east). The open hillside behind Carver Court later became heavily wooded. The Plan B house in the center of the photo may be the one destroyed by fire c.1970 (81-83 Foundry St.).

Figure 15: Facing Brook Lane, from the rear yard of 2-4 Foundry Street. The rear entrances to the B plan houses had pergola-like structures overhead, which were later replaced by other roof structures. (Barely visible in far right house and house in left-center.)

Figure 16: Facing west from inside the dining area of 73-79 Foundry Street, a Plan CC house.

Figure 17: The former Administration Building (aka Community Center), demolished c.1980, formerly adjacent to 58-64 Foundry Street. Some of the former open space associated with the Administration Building now contains a non-contributing house and church.



CR 2,18,1956

FOR SALE

TO VETERANS

The Public Housing Administration offers four (4) four-family houses in CARVER COURT (PA-36273), Caln Township, Pennsylvania.

CR 2-18-56

This is your opportunity to purchase, on a "first-come, first-served" basis, a dwelling building in this development.

Among the dwelling buildings offered are 1 two-story, four-family buildings, containing three rooms and bath, and 3 one-story, four-family buildings, containing four rooms and bath. Construction is frame.

The prices range from $10,600.00 to $11,950.00.

All offers to purchase must be accompanied with a good faith deposit of $50.00 per dwelling unit ($200.00 for four-unit building), by either a cashier's check, certified check or money order, made payable to the Public Housing Administration.

Veterans or servicemen must show discharge papers or letters of identification, and must later provide two (2) photostatic copies of the same.

Offers to purchase will be subject to the "General Conditions of Sale," available at the project Office, and must be submitted on PHA Forms.

Offers to purchase from veterans or servicemen will be received from 9:00 A.M., February 20, 1956, to 4:00 P.M., March 20, 1956.

A representative of the Public Housing Administration will be available at the Administration Building of BRANDYWINE HOMES, Caln Township, Pennsylvania, Mondays through Fridays (except February 22, 1956, a legal holiday), from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. to receive offers or provide further information.

HERMAN D. HILLMAN,
Director, New York Field Office

PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION,
346 Broadway,
New York 13, New York.

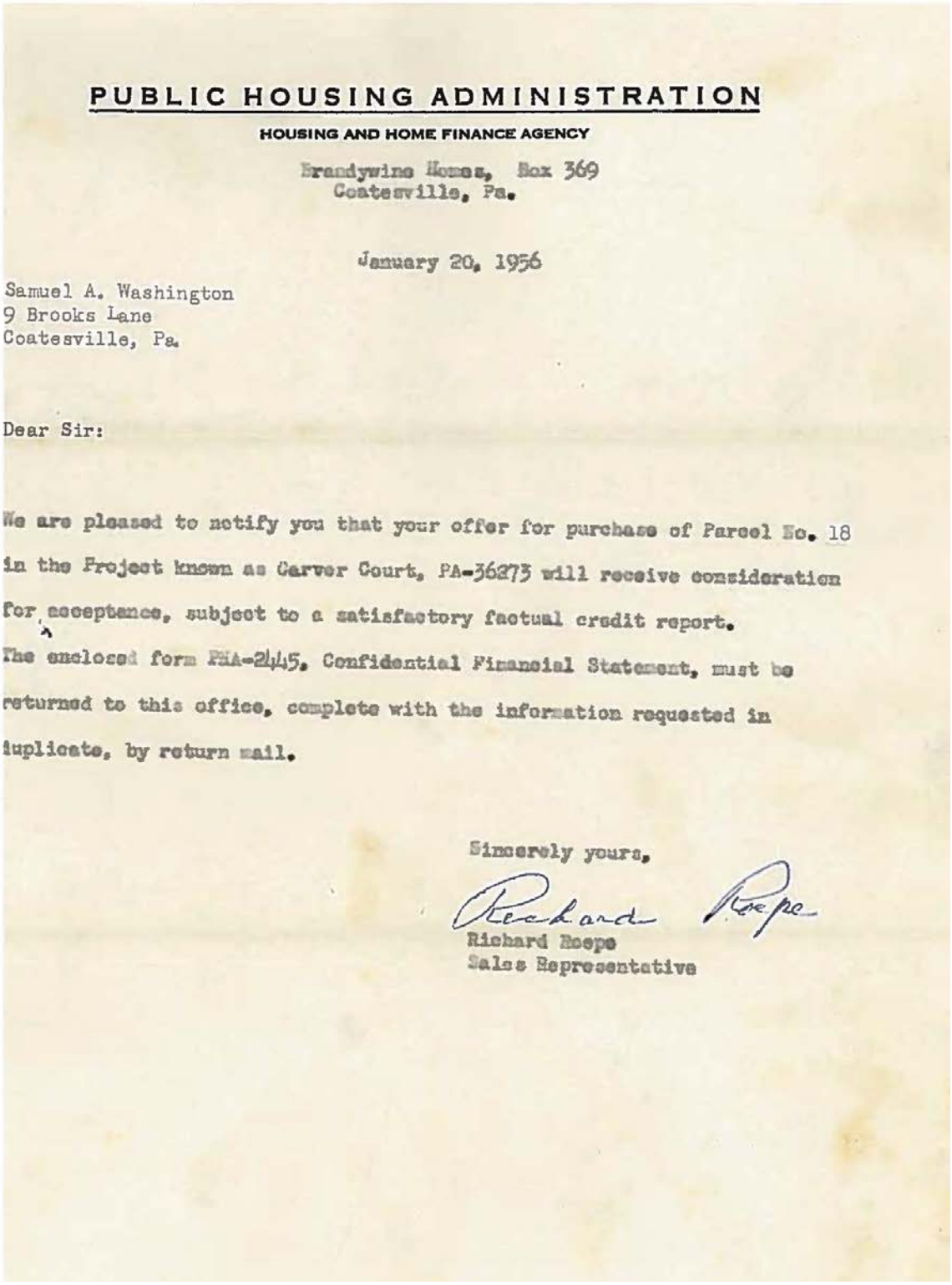
Figure 18: Advertisement of Carver Court properties, 1956, announcing the Public Housing Administration's sale of one Plan A building and three Plan BB four-family dwellings. Some of the properties were sold as multi-family buildings—as in this case—while others were sold individually, with each of the houses within a B, BB, or BBB, and C or CC plan sold to separate buyers.

houses are
ngs. They
$10,600 to
plumbing
randywine
buildings
units are
tenants

CR 9.26.56

MRS. NAOMI B. ANTHONY, 111 Foundry st., was the first Carver Court resident to purchase a home from the Public Housing Administration yesterday. The 31 buildings containing 100 dwelling units at Carver Court will be sold by the PHA to tenants of the local housing development, built during World War II days, this week. Richard Roepe, PHA sales representative, is shown handing final settlement papers to Mrs. Anthony while four of the Caln township commissioners look on. The commissioners are (left to right)—Kenneth Roussey, Frank Glading, Raymond Pyle, and William Mitchell. Buildings at Brandywine Homes, also located in Caln township and owned by the PHA, are scheduled to be sold in the near future.—(Record Photo)

Figure 19: Newspaper clipping noting Naomi Anthony's purchase of 111 Foundry Street; Mrs. Anthony was the first Carver Court resident to purchase one of the homes from the Public Housing Administration.



PUBLIC HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

HOUSING AND HOME FINANCE AGENCY

Brandywine Homes, Box 369
Coatesville, Pa.

January 20, 1956

Samuel A. Washington
9 Brooks Lane
Coatesville, Pa.

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to notify you that your offer for purchase of Parcel No. 18 in the Project known as Carver Court, PA-36273 will receive consideration for acceptance, subject to a satisfactory factual credit report.

The enclosed form PHA-2445, Confidential Financial Statement, must be returned to this office, complete with the information requested in duplicate, by return mail.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Roepe

Richard Roepe
Sales Representative

Figure 20: Approval letter (1956) for purchase of Parcel 18 by Samuel Washington, known in Carver Court as “Sarge,” who served in the US Army from 1917 until 1947.

Figure 21: Watercolor, c.1943, shared with nomination preparers by the Trammell family, one of the original families to live in Carver Court. View from hillside behind the development, facing SW.

ADDENDUM—Excerpts of interviews with former residents conducted by Cynthia Haynes Eshelman on behalf of Representative Harry Lewis's office and Caln Township's Historical Commission. Interviews conducted September, 2015: Harvel Brown, Blanche Smith, Jim "Scoogie" Smith, Alice "Chick" Brown Lewis, Valerie Hunt, James "Buster" Bradley.

Harvel Brown:

What I remember most about Carver Court is the community center and there was a place for all the kids to play. We had ball games all the time and kids were always out playing. I also fondly remember the pig roasts twice a year in the neighborhood. We looked forward to the roasts. One thing that sticks out in my mind about Carver Court was the annual hill burning they would have to burn off the brush and grass that would grow on the hill to prevent fires. My understanding is that Dauphus Worthy and Donnie Lawrence were the original boys who set the hill on fire and after that happened the men just began burning the hill off annually to try to prevent possible fires in the development. This made for a great sledding hill in the winter.

Every year, every so often there would be a farmers market where vendors would bring their vegetables; ice truck; and fish trucks around for the community to buy food. Everyone would go out to purchase whatever they needed for food from the trucks.

Carver Court had a lot of springs in it and in fact many people would get fresh water from one of the springs. There was so much water there in the development that when it would rain heavy there would be flooding. So, in order to combat the flooding the men built a trench around the homes and the water would drain off onto the property where the fabricating plant was located.

Blanche Smith, age 92:

I remember when we first applied to move into Carver Court from Coates Street; we were told by the manager, Thomas McDougal, that there was a waiting list. We had to wait to get into the development, but Mr. McDougal did help us get in. We moved into Carver Court in 1948 and I can best describe Carver Court as the village of love and togetherness. The whole community was love. Everyone was one big family and everyone knew everybody. You could leave your doors unlocked and your windows open and nobody ever bothered you. There were prominent people in Carver Court from the teachers at the school, to community leaders, and so on. I remember that Ms. Vaughn lived in the neighborhood and she was our community activist. In fact, she was the first black member to be elected to the Caln Board of Commissioners. There were a lot of prominent blacks who lived in the community. In 1956, my husband and I purchased a home in Brandywine Homes because he was a navy veteran. I still live there today.

Jim "Scoogie" Smith:

I moved to Carver Court when I was about 3 or 4 years of age. My parents had lived on Coates Street until they could get into the development. I remember when Hurricane Hazel came through the area and sitting in the living room and watched as a bolt of lightning struck a tree in the neighborhood and split it down the middle. We found a way to have fun swinging on that tree the next day. We in fact would put some of the neighborhood girls on the tree and launch them of the tree. In 1958, I will never forget when we got what was known as the blue snow. This was such a big snow that my best friend and I dug a tunnel between our houses because we could not go a day without seeing each other. The blizzard was so severe that they brought food in for the community by helicopter because the men could not get out to work or to the stores to buy food for several days. When we had big snow storms,

we had a lot of work to do but also had lots of fun. Since we were the last to be plowed on the plowing list and the men had to get out to work, the neighborhood boys would have to go out with shovels and shovel the neighborhood out. After the shoveling was done we would have a blast sledding down the hill.

I remember we would go over to the Medford and Dunleavy which was located across from Scott Field and sold appliances. We would go and ask them for their boxes. We would carry those back to the neighborhood and make little houses out of them, cutting out windows and doors. We would play with those boxes until they were ragged and then we would keep the cardboard for winter sledding.

I also remember the air raid sirens for practice drills in case of a nuclear incident. When the air raid sirens would go off we were required to get into the house as soon as possible. The adults told us stories that the air raid sirens were a notice that a patient had escaped from the VA hospital and they were looking for him. This was not true but as kids we had no idea and we believe them and were afraid not to get into the house.

As a child I remember, we never had much but in Carver Court we used our imaginations and made games and had fun out of nothing. I remember we would walk everywhere from Carver Court. There was one swimming pool we were allowed to swim in and it was on 9th Avenue, but we had to pay 5 cents to swim. I remember this like yesterday, one day one of the kids pushed me into the pool and I was not a good swimmer so I was sinking to the bottom and I knew I was going to drown. The next thing I remember is Harry and Glenn Lewis pulling me up out of the water. They both saved my life and I will never forget that day for as long as I live.

We also had one movie theatre we could attend during segregation; it was called the Silver movie theatre. When we were finally permitted to sit in the auditorium we were permitted to sit in the balcony only in the section for blacks. I remember to this day walking all the way from Carver Court and as soon as you would approach the theatre I could smell the sweet popcorn in the air and my mouth would water.

There were a lot of prominent people that lived in Carver Court—members of the Coatesville Sports Hall of Fame; Pop Ransom; John Joe who played for the NY Jets and NY Giants; the Lewis brothers; Billy Abel; Paul Palmer. Paul Palmer is the reason that I went to college. As a coach at Coatesville, I was the first black high school basketball coach to take Coatesville to its first state championship.

Alice "Chick" Brown Lewis, age 92:

I moved to Coatesville in 1945. In fact, I was married there at Carver Court in the Lewis home to my husband Dan at No. 35 Carver Court. I remember living there it was a wonderful place to live. Everyone was like family. I have a lot of fond memories of there. I was originally from North Carolina and met my husband Dan in New York.

Valerie Hunt:

I moved into Carver Court in 1948 when I was about 3 years old. I lived in several different places in Carver Court. When we first moved there I lived at 18 Carver Court and later moved to 2 Carver Court. When I was older I lived in several different places in Carver Court. Today, I live in Florida but still make it back to visit the neighborhood 2 to 3 times a year.

What I remember about Carver Court is that it was a village where the older people in the neighborhood watched out for the younger people and everyone took care of everyone. I fondly

remember the block parties. If you ran out of sugar and were baking you could go ask a neighbor and they would gladly share some sugar with you.

My father had the first television in the neighborhood and I remember everyone coming over to watch it. In fact, my Father (referred to as Gumpf) had a film he would put over the screen to make the TV appear in color. My Father repaired televisions and everybody seemed to know him. If somebody saw me out in town they would ask me if Gumpf knew where I was. My Father worked at the VA hospital which is how we were able to move to Carver Court. In fact, all the families that lived in Carver Court had a Father who worked at the VA Hospital; Embreeville Hospital; Coatesville Hospital or Lukens Steel.

I remember we had a baseball field where the church is now and I remember going sledding there and everyone playing ball there. I also remember the spring back off Brook Lane and we would all go over there and get spring water to drink. We were not allowed to go past Brook Lane as children or somebody would tell our parents.

The administration building and nursery were there where the church is now located. The administration building and nursery later became apartments before they were torn down and replaced with the church and church grounds.

When we first moved to Carver Court, there were homes right there near the development which were later torn down for a factory which was built right outside the neighborhood. The homes in Carver Court all had wood siding which many people have since fixed up and put up vinyl siding. I always heard that our houses were not supposed to have flat roofs, but rather the V shaped roofs and that the roofs we were supposed to have got shipped to the wrong place.

Today, I am still connected to Carver Court. Although I live in Florida, people in the neighborhood always keep me informed of what is going on. If someone from the community passes away or is ill, someone always calls me to let me know. I try to make it home for funerals of those who pass away. Always at the funerals everyone from Carver Court sits together and often they recognize us at the funerals as being from Carver Court. We are still like one big family.

James "Buster" Bradley, age 82:

I moved into Carver Court in 1944 at the age of 11. My family was permitted to live there because my Father worked at the VA hospital. When we moved to Carver Court there were only about 5 or so families there. The development had dirt roads and street lights. The street lights had to be turned on at the poles by switches. The original families were provided housing near each of the light poles so that they could turn the lights on in the evenings by the switch.

The house had indoor plumbing, stove and ice boxes. I remember the ice man, Mr. Palmer, delivered ice to the homes 3 times a week. Brook Lane was named after the Brook that ran along the property. People who lived there called it "Brook's Lane" but it is really called Brook Lane.

Before Carver Court was built on the property, there were 2 large tanks for trucks to fill up their tanks during the gas rationing. I also recall tennis courts being on the site near the brook. After the development was built and we moved in, I recall a swimming hole being built from the spring that ran through the property. The men built stones up around the hole still letting the water flow through. However, that water was so cold; you could not stay in it too long.

I also remember the community center. Mrs. Burgess was over the community center events. I remember the dances there and also the war movies that were shown there. One of the veterans had all these black and white films of the Russians fighting the Nazis. The movies were gruesome.

Carver Court
Caln Township, Chester County
Photo Key

Photo 1: "Welcome to Carver Court" sign at entrance to development. Camera facing NE. Made by Joseph Bradford, Jr., of materials from Lukens Steel Plant, erected soon after development was renamed following a school contest (pre-1953).

Photo 2: Plan B, north end (3) of 1-3 Foundry Street, Camera facing SW. Windows and siding replaced but prominent chimneys and flat roofline intact.

Photo 3: Plan C duplex, 2 and 4 Foundry Street. Camera facing E.

Photo 4: Looking NE from the intersection of Foundry St. and Brook Lane, at houses on the N side of Foundry St. (street sign is turned); Plan B (25-27 Foundry) in foreground; two Plan CCs in background.

Photo 5: Houses on N side of Brook Lane; camera facing NW. Carport at E end has been enclosed as garage; some former porches enclosed. House at W end has a faux mansard roof. Plan CC.

Photo 6: Row of Plan BB houses, with 12 Foundry in the foreground. Camera facing S.

Photo 7: Three groups of CC houses on N side of Foundry St., camera facing NE. The first grouping (only partially visible, showing 37 and 35 in foreground) retains early low-pitch roof line.

Photo 8: Houses 24 and 22 Foundry St. were combined into one residence. Half of a BB Plan. Camera facing SW.

Photo 9: Plan A 4-plex (two units up and down). 61-67 Foundry Street. Addition to second level of East half. Camera facing NE.

Photo 10: Rear elevation of 42 (left) and 44 Foundry Street, which retain original flower planter shelves with various size holes cut into shelf for pots. Original flat roof line. Plan B. Camera facing SE.

Photo 11: Plan CC; 73-79 Foundry Street. Photo shows 77 and 79; both porches enclosed, carports open. Camera facing N.

Photo 12: Streetscape facing 93-95 Foundry (B plan) and 97-107 Foundry (BBB Plan). Camera facing SW.

Photo 13: The most intact exterior of the A Plans (4-plex), 50-56 Foundry Street. Camera facing N.

Photo 14: CC Plan 58-64 Foundry Street. One porch enclosed, all others and carports open. Camera facing W.

Photo 15: Detail of 64 Foundry St., end of a CC Plan, with basketball court visible in rear yard; rear open space was formerly part of Community Center, now associated with church property. Camera facing N.

Photo 16: Non-contributing Church (1969, New Hope Glad Tidings Church of God) and Parsonage (1969). Camera facing W.

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
1 Foundry St 39-3L-25	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch
3 Foundry St 39-3L-25.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Flat roof; retains original or early roof line and prominent chimneys; open porch
5 Foundry St 39-3L-24	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch; stucco siding (matches 7)
7 Foundry St 39-3L-24	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch; stucco siding (matches 5)
25 Foundry St 39-3L-2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Gable roof; open porch; rear wing along Brook Lane; unified appearance with 27
27 Foundry St 39-3L-2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Gable roof; open porch; unified appearance with 25
29 Foundry St 39-3L-3	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Flat/low pitch roof, original or similar roof line; carport and porch open
31 Foundry St 39-3L-3.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Flat/low pitch roof, original or similar roof line; carport and porch open
33 Foundry St 39-3L-3.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Flat/low pitch roof, original or similar roof line; carport and porch open
35 Foundry St 39-3L-3.3	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Flat/low pitch roof, original or similar roof line; carport and porch open
37 Foundry St 39-3L-4	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hip roof, low pitch; carport and porch open; 37-43 have same shutters, door numbers, similar flagstone sidewalks along driveway, etc. suggesting single ownership or joint renovation
39 Foundry St 39-3L-4.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hip roof, low pitch; carport and porch open; 37-43 have same shutters, door numbers, similar flagstone sidewalks along driveway, etc. suggesting single ownership or joint renovation
41 Foundry St 39-3L-4.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hip roof, low pitch; carport and porch open; 37-43 have same shutters, door numbers, similar flagstone sidewalks along driveway, etc. suggesting single ownership or joint renovation
43 Foundry St 39-3L-4.3	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hip roof; low pitch carport and porch open; 37-43 have same shutters, door numbers, similar flagstone sidewalks along driveway, etc. suggesting single ownership or joint renovation

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
45 Foundry St 39-3L-5.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Gable roof; carport open, porch open; 45 and 47 share siding, window, shutter similarities
47 Foundry St 39-3L-5.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Gable roof; carport enclosed, porch open; 45 and 47 share siding, window, shutter similarities
49 Foundry St 39-3L-5	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Gable roof; carport enclosed, porch open; 49 and 51 share siding, shutters, similarities
51 Foundry St 39-3L-5	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Gable roof; carport enclosed, porch open; 49 and 51 share siding, shutters, similarities
53-59 Foundry St 39-3L-6	Building	Domestic multi-dwelling	1942-44	A	Contributing	4-plex, 2 units up and down; flat roof; exterior window surrounds added; hipped roof over 57-59 porch; flat roof over 53-55 porch
61-67 Foundry St 39-3L-7	Building	Domestic multi-dwelling	1942-44	A	Contributing	4-plex, 2 units up and down; flat roof; second-story portion of east end (65-67 end) has been extended over the porch, and a screened-in porch added along east end of original porch
69 Foundry St 39-3L-8	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Low-pitch gable roof; open porch, shares unified appearance with 71
71 Foundry 39-3L-8	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Low-pitch gable roof; open porch, shares unified appearance with 69
73 Foundry St 39-3L-9.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hipped roof; carport and porch open, siding and shutters for 73-79 uniform
75 Foundry St 39-3L-9.2A	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hipped roof; carport and porch open; siding and shutters for 73-79 uniform
77 Foundry St 39-3L-9.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hipped roof; carport open; porch enclosed, matches 79; siding and shutters for 73-79 uniform
79 Foundry St 39-3L-9	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Hipped roof; carport open; porch enclosed, matches 77; siding and shutters for 73-79 uniform
81 Foundry St 39-3L-10	Building	Domestic single dwelling	c.1975	NA	Non- contributing	Contemporary split-level, replaced original B plan duplex destroyed by fire; duplex replaced by single detached house. (Second duplex address was 83)

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
85 Foundry St 39-3L-10.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Flat roof, orig or similar roof line, prominent tall chimneys; large contemporary wooden deck extends from 85 entry porch. 85 and 87 have unified siding and windows. Duplex has angled placement on lot.
87 Foundry St 39-3L-10.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Flat roof, prominent tall chimneys; 85 and 87 have unified siding and windows. Duplex has angled placement on lot.
89 Foundry St 39-3L-11.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof; entry porch enclosed; brick paved drive/parking space.
91 Foundry St 39-3L-11	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof; entry porch enclosed and configured for angled entry
93 Foundry St 39-3L-12	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof, open entry porch. Uniform appearance with 95. Duplex slightly angled on lot.
95 Foundry St 39-3L-12	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof, open entry porch. Uniform appearance with 93. Duplex slightly angled on lot.
97 Foundry St 39-3L-13	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Hipped roof; open entry porch; 97 and 99 share same siding, windows, landscape; share a hipped-end roof
99 Foundry St 39-3L-13	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Shares hipped-end roof with 97; open entry porch; 97 and 99 share same siding, windows, landscape
101 Foundry St 39-3L-13.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof; enclosed entry porch; gable roof joins 103's hipped roof but different shingles suggest independent/individual ownership, landscape also suggests independence
103 Foundry St 39-3L-13.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Hipped roof; enclosed entry porch; low brick wall along front parking pad; hipped roof abuts 105's hipped roof—not continuous; landscape also suggests independence
105 Foundry St 39-3L-14	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Hipped roof (with 107); enclosed entry porch; hipped roof abuts 103's hipped roof—not continuous; newer vertical siding matches 107's siding for uniform appearance
107 Foundry St 39-3L-14	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Hipped roof (with 105); enclosed entry porch; newer vertical siding matches 105's for uniform appearance; small garage added to end, set-back

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
109 Foundry St 39-3L-15	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch entry; new vertical siding on street façade of 109-119, similar landscaping, presents unified appearance
111 Foundry St 39-3L-15	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch entry; new vertical siding on street façade of 109-119, similar landscaping, presents unified appearance
113 Foundry St 39-3L-16	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof; enclosed entry porch; new vertical siding on street façade of 109-119, similar landscaping, presents unified appearance
115 Foundry St 39-3L-16	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch; new vertical siding on street façade of 109-119, similar landscaping, presents unified appearance
117 Foundry St 39-3L-16	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch; new vertical siding on street façade of 109-119, similar landscaping, presents unified appearance
119 Foundry St 39-3L-16	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BBB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch; new vertical siding on street façade of 109-119, similar landscaping, presents unified appearance
121 Foundry St 39-3L-17.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch
123 Foundry St 39-3L-17.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch
125 Foundry St 39-3L-17	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch; shares unified appearance with 127
127 Foundry St 39-3L-17	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof; open entry porch; shares unified appearance with 125
129 Foundry St 39-3L-18.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, steep; original entry porch enclosed and end reconfigured so that entrance is from gable end, not street façade
131 Foundry St 39-3L-18	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Flat roof, original or similar roof line, prominent chimneys; open entry porch
133 Foundry St 39-3L-18.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, steep; open entry porch; presents unified appearance with 135
135 Foundry St 39-3L-18.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, steep; open entry porch; presents unified appearance with 133; roof extended to create carport on west end;
2 Foundry St 39-3L-26	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	C	Contributing	Gable roof; carport open; open porch appears framed for storm windows
4 Foundry St 39-3L-26	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	C	Contributing	Gable roof; carport open

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
6 Foundry St 39-3L-27	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch, similar siding and porch trim for 6-12 suggest single ownership or simultaneous renovation
8 Foundry St 39-3L-27	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch, similar siding and porch trim for 6-12 suggest single ownership or simultaneous renovation
10 Foundry St 39-3L-27	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch, similar siding and porch trim for 6-12 suggest single ownership or simultaneous renovation
12 Foundry St 39-3L-27	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch, similar siding and porch trim for 6-12 suggest single ownership or simultaneous renovation
14 Foundry St 39-3L-28.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof; open porch; faux stone veneer on street elevation, stucco on end elevation; rear wing
16 Foundry St 39-3L-28	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof; open porch; stucco exterior, front and side
18 Foundry St 39-3L-29	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Hipped roof; open porch; Permastone exterior below window sill-level, siding above. 18 and 20 now appear to be one dwellling
20 Foundry St 39-3L-29	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Hipped roof; open porch; Permastone exterior below window sill-level, siding above. 18 and 20 now appear to be one dwellling
22 Foundry St 39-3L-29.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Hipped roof; open porch; Permastone exterior below window sill-level, siding above. 22 and 24 now appear to be one dwellling
24 Foundry St 39-3L-29.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Hipped roof; open porch; Permastone exterior below window sill-level, siding above. 22 and 24 now appear to be one dwellling
26 Foundry St 39-3L-30	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Flat roof, original or early roof line, prominent chimneys, open porch; unified appearance suggests single 26-32 ownership but separate residences.
28Foundry St 39-3L-30	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Flat roof, original or early roof line, prominent chimneys, open porch; unified appearance suggests single 26-32 ownership but separate residences.
30Foundry St 39-3L-30	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Flat roof, original or early roof line, prominent chimneys, open porch; unified appearance suggests single 26-32 ownership but separate residences.
32Foundry St 39-3L-30	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Flat roof, original or early roof line, prominent chimneys, open porch; unified appearance suggests single 26-32 ownership but separate residences.

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
34 Foundry St 39-3L-31	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof; open porch
36 Foundry St 39-3L-31	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof; open porch
38 Foundry St 39-3L-32	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch; uniform appearance with 40 suggests same ownership, may be combined into one residence
40 Foundry St 39-3L-32	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open porch; uniform appearance with 38 suggests same ownership, may be combined into one residence
42 Foundry St 39-3L-33	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Flat/low-pitch roof, original or early roof line; original flower pot shelf on rear elevation; appearance suggests single ownership with 44
44 Foundry St 39-3L-33	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Flat/low-pitch roof, original or early roof line; original flower pot shelf on rear elevation; appearance suggests single ownership with 42
46 Foundry St 39-3L-34	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof, open porch; unified appearance suggests 46 and 48 under same ownership
48 Foundry St 39-3L-34	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	B	Contributing	Hipped roof, open porch; unified appearance suggests 46 and 48 under same ownership
50-56 Foundry St 39-3L-35	Building	Domestic multi-dwelling	1942-44	A	Contributing	4-plex, two units up and down; flat roof; open porches; most intact original appearance of the A plans
58 Foundry St 39-3L-36	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Low-pitch gable roof; carport open; porch enclosed; uniform appearance (windows, color, etc.) suggest same owner for 58-64
60 Foundry St 39-3L-36	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Low-pitch gable roof; Carport and porch open; uniform appearance (windows, color, etc.) suggest same owner for 58-64
62 Foundry St 39-3L-36	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Low-pitch gable roof; Carport and porch open; uniform appearance (windows, color, etc.) suggest same owner for 58-64
64 Foundry St 39-3L-36	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Low-pitch gable roof; carport open; rear yard basketball court formerly part of original Community Center/Administration Building's open space; uniform appearance (windows, color, etc.) suggest same owner for 58-64
68-70 Foundry St 39-3L-37	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1969	NA	Non-contributing building/site	Brick ranch house constructed on location of former community center, former shared open space now privately owned; parcel includes parking lot on east side of adjacent church. Constructed as parsonage. Includes much of the open space formerly associated with Community Center.

Address/UPI	Resource Type	Function	Date	Plan	Contributing Status	Comments
80 Foundry St 39-3L-37.2-E	Building	Religious church	1969	NA	Non-contributing	New Hope Glad Tidings Church of God. Built on former open space associated with community center; paved parking on either side of brick church, one-story on raised basement level. Temporary carport/pavilion at rear of east-side parking lot. Datestone notes George L. Eggleston as founder, elder, pastor.
9 Brook Lane 39-3L-23	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Very low-pitched hipped roof extends beyond building end.
11 Brook Lane 39-3L-22	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, open entry porch
13 Brook Lane 39-3L-21	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Gable roof, enclosed porch vestibule
15 Brook Lane 39-3L-20	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	BB	Contributing	Hipped roof; one-car garage attached to end, roof extends to cover garage
17 Brook Lane 39-3L-1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Mansard roof effect applied to façade; stucco over siding; carport enclosed with garage door; porch open
19 Brook Lane 39-3L-1.1	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Carport enclosed; porch open; low pitch/flat roof, original or similar roof line
21 Brook Lane 39-3L-1.2	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Carport and porch open; low pitch/flat roof, original or similar roof line
23 Brook Lane 39-3L-1.2A	Building	Domestic single dwelling	1942-44	CC	Contributing	Carport enclosed with garage door; porch enclosed; low pitch/flat roof, original or similar roof line

Unless otherwise noted, buildings are frame construction with aluminum, vinyl, or other replacement siding covering original wood siding. C and CC plan types have concrete block ground floors. The plan type—A; B, BB, BBB; C or CC—is described in the nomination.


WELCOME
CARVER COURT
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
OF
DR. GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER
WORLD FAMED SCIENTIST
ONE WAY
TOWN WATCH
COMMUNITY
CALN
TOWNSHIP


FOUNDRY ST
DO NOT
ENTER


79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Carver Court

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Chester

DATE RECEIVED: 4/15/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000310

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 5.31.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

HARRY LEWIS, JR., MEMBER
74TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

PO BOX 202074
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2074
PHONE: (717) 787-1806
FAX: (717) 782-2947

131 WALLACE AVENUE, UNIT 14
DOWNINGTOWN, PA 19335
PHONE: (610) 269-1289
FAX: (610) 269-1082

House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

315 WEST FIRST AVENUE
BUILDING 1, GROUND FLOOR
PARKESBURG, PA 19365
PHONE: (610) 857-2145
FAX: (610) 857-2148

COMMITTEES
EDUCATION
URBAN AFFAIRS
HEALTH
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

E-MAIL: hlewis@pahousegop.com
RepLewis.com
www.facebook.com/RepHarryLewis

September 11, 2015

Ms. April Frantz
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA

RE: Carver Court Historical Registry

Dear Ms. Frantz :

I am writing to you in support of the Carver Court development being placed on the Historical Registry. I grew up living in Carver Court. My parents moved there in 1945 as my Father was a defense worker who worked in the Lukens Steel Mill. He was considered by Lukens Steel to be an essential defense worker because he was one of few men who could mix the chemicals correctly to make the steel plates which were essential to the war effort. The community of Carver Court was originally known as the Foundry Street Defense Housing Project and was undertaken the Lukens Steel Company, the Federal Housing Agency and the City of Coatesville. The community was like no other community in this area at the time. It was built in response to the housing shortage amongst the defense workers living in the City of Coatesville. Many of the African American defense workers were living within the City in the area of Coates Street where they did not have indoor plumbing. When my family moved into Carver Court, along with the other defense worker families, we thought we had moved into luxury housing. Carver Court was built as segregated housing with Brandywine Homes being the defense housing built for whites. My fondest childhood memories were of life in Carver Court which received its name from a student contest at the John Adams School (the school for black students in the area). It is believed that Mrs. Anderson was the teacher who sponsored the name contest and the student, Russell Devault, who won the contest, thought the neighborhood should be named after George Washington Carver.

Living in Carver Court, we never knew we were poor because we were having so much fun living there amongst neighbors and relatives. It was a community with a real sense of family. The community had its own baseball team and many of the teachers at John Adams lived right there in the community. There were many big families in the neighborhood and everyone knew everybody. In fact, there were several families who lived in the community with 8 or more children; they were the Fausts, Robinsons, Mayos, Morris's, Williams and my family, the Lewis's. The community had a thriving community center which had many events for families, including, offering classes for the ladies in the community to learn about canning, etc.; Friday night dances for the whole family; and even included a tool rental program for those who needed to borrow a garden tool.

My parents originally lived in No. 16, but as my parents' family kept expanding, I recall my Father going to inquire about whether we could move into one of the 3 bedroom models and he was told that there were other families ahead of him for the bigger houses and they could not accommodate his request. He went back to Lukens Steel management and told them that he could not get into a bigger house although the family needed additional space. Lukens Steel management informed him that there was no one ahead of him and the Lewis family moved to their new, larger home.

I have fond memories of the pig roasts that were held twice a year in the community by Mr. Flamer. The pigs were raised on the hill behind Carver Court by the Brickhouse family and everyone would be involved in the community pig slaughter. There was so much meat that there was enough to share with everyone in the community. I also have fond memories of the ball games that Mr. Cabbage Burch and some of the other men in the community would put together. There was a community swimming pool built by some of the men in the community so that the children could have a place to swim. This was fed by one of the many natural springs in the neighborhood.

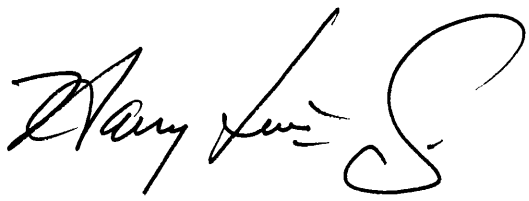
The community is said to have been built on fertile ground because everyone had small vegetable gardens and even some had fruit trees. We also had a mulberry tree and hundreds of blackberry bushes on the hill above the development. The kids would be sent out to pick the berries and bring them back for their Mothers to make delicious cobblers and pies.

Due to the fact that the development is built along the railroad tracks, the children were often tasked with helping their Mothers grab the clothes off the line before the steam engines came by. This is because the engines would leave a layer of black soot as they steamed by. So, all the parents in the neighborhood knew the times the trains would travel through and would hang their clothes on the line between the train schedules in the hopes they would dry before the next train came through.

In Carver Court, if there was ever anyone in need, the community came together and provided the need. No one ever wanted for food, firewood, or coal because the members of the community saw fit to take care of everyone. If someone was sick, there would be meals provided and if the kids needed to be taken care of, other families would step in and help. Every holiday was a special time. At Halloween we would have hayrides around Carver Court, at Christmas Daddy King (as he was affectionately called) would make sure to spread Christmas Cheer from house to house, and during other such holidays we were getting together.

The housing was originally intended to be rental housing. I remember as a boy carrying the rent check over to the administration building in Carver Court to pay for the monthly rent of $35.00. After the war, the decision was made to give priority to veterans in buying homes and with desegregation taking place many of the families had the opportunity to purchase in either Carver Court or Brandywine Homes. My father never had the opportunity to own a home in Carver Court because he was not a veteran, although he was kept from going to war because he was considered an essential worker due to his knowledge of the chemical mixing to make steel plates. However, many of my relatives were able to purchase homes in Carver Court and Brandywine Homes. In fact, I still have relatives who live in the developments today. This development is certainly an integral part of the history of Caln Township, the steel industry of Chester County and African American history. I believe this important piece of history merits being placed on the National Historical Registry to preserve its importance for future generations to come. Thank you for your consideration in this important decision.

Sincerely,



Harry Lewis, Jr.

Pennsylvania State Representative

74th District

HL: clhe

Cc: Ms. Jane Kennedy

THE COUNTY OF CHESTER

COMMISSIONERS
Terence Farrell
Kathi Cozzone
Michelle Kichline

Ronald T. Bailey, AICP
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION
Government Services Center, Suite 270
601 Westtown Road
P. O. Box 2747
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
(610) 344-6285 Fax (610) 344-6515

September 29, 2015

Ms. Andrea L. MacDonald
Preservation Services Division Manager
PHMC Historic Preservation Office
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Letter of Support: Foundry Street Defense Housing

Dear Ms. MacDonald;

On October 5th, the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board is meeting to consider the nomination of Foundry Street Defense Housing, later named Carver Court in honor of George Washington Carver, in Caln Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania to the National Register of Historic Places. As Heritage Preservation Coordinator, I want to call particular attention to this unusual and exciting opportunity to acknowledge and preserve a complex and truly American story. I am giving this important nomination my full support.

I use the word complex with care. Having attended the field review with April Franz, I realize that the committee will be faced with analyzing the integrity of the community on several levels. The first, I assume, will be the ability of the Carver Court neighborhood to still convey the1942 design intent of its highly regarded architects – Louis Kahn, Oskar Stonorov and George Howe. Walking through the neighborhood it was evident to me that despite the alternations, the integrity of Carver Court is still largely seen through the geometric forms that create the visual coherence of the architects' overall design. The common areas, yards, decorative features, and citing – all speak to interpretation of community.

To me, however, as exciting as it is to analyze, understand and preserve this vision of mid-twentieth century architects, I keep returning to Criterion A. What does a carefully designed, government sponsored, segregated (separate but equal with a twin development for whites) housing project in 1942 inform us of our heritage and culture? I have pondered the ramifications of this nomination since the field view. What are the implications for 21st century America as we continue to respond to issues of race and diversity? What can we learn from the experiences of the African American families that came to Coatesville, largely from the south, and settled into the thoughtful and humanistic design intentions of the architects? How does this help us better understand America's response to World War II and the ramifications for men and women of all races. What is a neighborhood? What constitutes family?

I urge the Board to listen to the stories, and feel the excitement of the residents (past and present) who have moved this nomination from its inception. I deeply hope they too will share the excitement!

Sincerely,

Karen S. Marshall
Heritage Preservation Coordinator

Caln Township

Board of Commissioners
John D.Contento, President, Cynthia L. Haynes Eshleman, Vice President
Joshua Young, Jim Kruse, Lorraine Tindaro
Gregory E. Prowant, Township Manager

www.calntownship.org

610-384-0600 fax: 610-384-0617 Email: board@calntownship.org
Municipal Building, 253 Municipal Drive, P.O. Box 72149, Thorndale, Pa. 19372

September 10, 2015

April E. Frantz
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Re: Application for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places
Carver Court, Caln Township, Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Frantz:

The Board of Commissioners of Caln Township would like to forward this letter of support for the nomination of Carver Court to the National Register of Places.

Carver Court was designed by three famous architects, Louis I. Kahn, George Howe and Oskar Stonorov during World War 2 as housing for African American steelworkers at the Lukens Steel factory. After the war Carver Court has continued as a stable, working class, mostly African American community for 70 years in Caln Township.

Built on the old Scott farm and purportedly a former race track, Carver Court was converted into a landscaped cul-de-sac of international style homes surrounding a common open space area. Until now it has not been properly recognized for its architectural and social importance. The Board of Commissioners recognize the Carver Court site as an important part of our community's historic heritage from the past and is pleased that it will be recognized in the future by this process.

On behalf of all of the residents of our community and especially for those past and present residents of Carver Court, the Board of Commissioners of Caln Township are pleased to forward this letter of support to the Bureau for Historic Preservation for the application for nomination of Carver Court to the National Register of Historic Places.

We look forward to seeing this important historic community added to the national register.

Sincerely,

Caln Township Board of Commissioners

John D. Contento, President

Cynthia L. Haynes Eshleman, Vice President

Joshua B. Young, Commissioner

Lorraine M. Tindaro, Commissioner

Caln Township
Historical Commission

Thomas DeFroscia, Co-Chair, Lois E. Demchak, Co-Chair
Joyce Smith, Secretary

www.calntownship.org

610-384-0600 fax: 610-384-0617
Municipal Building, 253 Municipal Drive, P.O. Box 72149 Thorndale, Pa. 19372-0149

September 11, 2015

State Representative Harry Lewis
131 Wallace Avenue, Unit #14
Downingtown, PA 19335

Dear Representative Lewis,

On behalf of the members of the Caln Township Historical Commission, it has been requested of me to write a letter in full support of the proposed Carver Court National Historical District. So please consider this as our commission's nomination.

Growing up in Caln Township, attending nearby schools, and living in a diverse community have been a great experience in my life. This request has caused me to reflect on what was going on in the times of the early 1940's. In spite of the US participation in WWII, life was stable for most of the local Coatesville area residents, one-third of whom worked at Lukens Steel Company. Caln Township became a "spill-over" area of housing opportunities for the influx of new millworkers. This created a need for even more affordable housing. So the Federal Public Housing Authority came up with a plan to create two new developments in Caln Township, one for black families (Carver Court) and another for white families (Brandywine Homes) as segregation was still the norm for this area.

Louis Kahn, an early housing activist, designed the soon-to-be homes for labor union workers. Caln Township is privileged to say many of these homes in Carver Court still stand, several in near original form, as a testament to this new housing style.

Our historical commission is about preserving local history and educating others. It is important to study the past so we can best plan for the future. The Carver Court National Historical District designation will enhance our opportunity to share this unique piece of American history and architectural design.

Thank you for your help in moving this nomination along.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Jacoby
Designated Correspondent

Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

April 8, 2016

Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Carver Court Historic District, Chester County, PA

Dear Ms Toothman:

Enclosed please find a National Register nomination for your review. Included is a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination and correspondence, and a CD with tif images.

The proposed action for the nomination is listing in the National Register, and the recommended level of significance is "local." Our staff and Historic Preservation Board members support this nomination. If you have any questions regarding the nomination please contact April Frantz at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of this property.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. MacDonald, Deputy Director
State Historic Preservation Office

enc.

Historic Preservation Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120–0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us
The Commonwealth's Official History Agency