

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sperling Building

other names/site number Sperling Apartments, Mercantile Building

2. Location

street & number 1007-1013 Penn Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Wilkinsburg vicinity N/A
state Pennsylvania code PA county Allegheny code 003
zip code 15221

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 nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Andrew J. Macdonald

3/29/05

Signature of certifying official

Date

PA Historical & Museum Commission

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 5/19/05

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part

of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Store</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>Vacant</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Asphalt
walls Brick

other Wood
Glass

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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				county and State

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Physical Description

Built circa 1902, the Sperling Building is a four-story, Late Victorian style, brick commercial building with three storefronts and a lobby entrance at street level, and nine multi-family residential units above. The building stands roughly forty-feet above grade and is sixty-six-feet wide. A frame residence is located behind it. The Sperling Building is situated in a central location on the north side of Wilkinsburg's main commercial thoroughfare. Though originally located among other commercial buildings of the same style and scale, few others have survived. However, at the Sperling Building, features such as the wood windows, interior moldings, cornice brickwork, and terra cotta detailing remain in good condition. The building has retained its integrity because so few changes have been made to the building, and those that have did not harm any adjacent historic materials or the interior floor plan.

The building plan is primarily a rectangle with a small wing that extends north at the northwest corner. For the purposes of a physical description, it will be described as an "L"-shaped plan. The building has a sub-grade stone foundation and basement, load-bearing masonry exterior walls, a flat asphalt roof with brick chimneys, and a rear framed egress stair. The building stands roughly forty-feet above grade. There are ten bays of one-over-one, wood sash, double-hung windows at the second, third and fourth stories of the entrance facade facing south onto Penn Avenue (Photos #1 & 2.) Penn Avenue, though once an active main street, now is punctuated by open abandoned lots (Photos #6,7, & 12). To the east of the Sperling building is one of these lots, and to the west is a single-story auto repair shop. Exterior decorative features of the Sperling Building include a patterned masonry cornice with projecting brick dentils, arched window openings, window hoods, masonry quoins as the building corners, and original wood-framed storefront entrances separated by pilasters (Photos #17 & 18.) Interior walls are wood framed with a plaster finish for both walls and ceilings throughout the upper story apartments. All floors are hardwood (Photos #32 & 33.) Decorative interior features include a pressed metal ceiling at the ground level commercial spaces and lobby entrance (Photos #23 & 24), as well as decorative newell posts, and egg-and-dart chair rails (Photo #30.)

The Borough of Wilkinsburg is located in the eastern central portion of Allegheny County, approximately eight miles east of downtown Pittsburgh. It is bounded on the north by Penn Hills Township and the City of Pittsburgh, on the west by Pittsburgh, on the south by the Borough of Edgewood, Braddock Hills and Forest Hills, and on the east by Churchill Borough. Wilkinsburg measures 2.1 square miles. Topographically the terrain rises from about 860 feet in the southwest corner of the Borough of Wilkinsburg, west of the Penn Central Railroad tracks, to an altitude of over 1,200 feet at the highest point in the northeast section of the Borough. The Sperling Building is located east of the tracks, and is centrally situated in the Borough. This topographical change creates some notable vistas, especially the view from the top of Penn Avenue

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at the eastern end of town facing west, towards the Sperling Building.¹ Streets are laid out in a regular grid pattern, with exceptions found in the newer development areas to the north and southeast of commercial Penn Avenue and its residential cross streets.

The Sperling Building sits on a rectangular lot of 8,052 square feet (.184 acres.) This parcel of land is known as Block and Lot 233-A-85 per the Recorder's Office of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. The lot is bound by Penn Avenue to the south, by the exterior walls of the Sperling Building to the east and west, and by Taylor Way at the north. The lot width is sixty-six feet, with a depth of one-hundred-twenty-two feet. Topography is generally level at the site but becomes higher at the rear of the property. Other site improvements include a concrete sidewalk along Penn Avenue and a gravel parking lot in the rear. Penn Avenue is a sixty-foot wide, asphalt paved, public thoroughfare with concrete curbing. Taylor Way is a fifteen-foot wide brick paved alleyway.

At the northwest corner of the property, is a wood-framed, single-family residence built circa 1915. It is built with a gable front and wing massing and a shed-roof porch located within the "L" made by the two wings. This building is identified in this application as a non-contributing building based on the lack of historical and architectural association with the Sperling Building (Photos 8,10,35,36,37,38 & 39) as well as poor condition and loss of detailing. The address of the house is 1008 Taylor Way.

One-thousand-and-eight Taylor Way is sheathed in wood clapboard with a replacement asphalt shingle roof. It has a stone foundation and "L" shaped plan. The house lacks all original ornamentation, save the porch which does retain some decorative porch supports. Alterations to the building include replacement windows, boarding up of windows, loss of ornamentation, and lack of maintenance, resulting in material deterioration and partial dilapidation.

No research effort revealed that there was any historical connection between the Taylor Way house and the Sperling Building. The Sperlings were never registered as living at 1008 Taylor Way. Most likely it was a rental property built by the Sperlings and let to unrelated residents. The existence of the house does not sacrifice the integrity of the Sperling building in any way. Located behind the building by at least fifty feet, it has no impact on the function nor use of the building. The house has remained abandoned for decades.

Built circa 1902, the Sperling Building is a two-part commercial building which was the most common prototype for small and medium sized commercial buildings during the early part of our country's history. A rarity, the three original wood storefronts at the Sperling Building (numbers

¹Creque, Peta. Allegheny County Survey Zone Form. Borough of Wilkinsburg. Survey Code 003-128. Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. March 24, 1981.

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1007, 1011 and 1013 Penn Avenue) have escaped insensitive renovations of the past century (Photos #13, 14 & 16.)

Facing south onto Penn Avenue, a typical storefront entrance is at roughly six inches above sidewalk level. A storefront visitor would step up into the central recessed entry that narrows in toward the door(s). To either side of the door(s), the display windows appear to project like bay windows. The large expanse of glass is supported by thin circular wood columns at the vertical edges, and by a wood head and sill. The painted wood signboard spans the entire length of the storefront above the windows. Applied lettering and numbering is used to identify store names and numbers. Where present, original double entry doors are narrow with upper panel glazing and two lower wooden panels. The single entry door at 1007 Penn Avenue is slightly different. It is a standard width door with an upper glazed panel and four small wooden panels below (Photo#13.) Each storefront is separated from the next by a single rectangular brick banded pilaster that is quoined. Each pilaster sits atop a tall base and has a decorative column capital with an egg and dart design. Square stone rosettes sit atop the egg-and-dart capitals. These rosettes separate signboard spaces. The brick pilasters are painted to match the wood frame of the storefronts.

The door to the entrance lobby that leads to the upper story apartments is located at 1009 Penn Avenue (Photo #15). Situated between two typical quoined brick pilasters with decorative capitals, the entrance to the building is marked by the word "Sperling" at signboard level. To either side of the word "Sperling" are two small circular stone rosettes. The original wood framed arched transom of the opening (located just below the signboard) is decorated with a series of projecting circular modillions. The framed arch is supported by two thin square columns that abut the brick pilasters. The columns are wood and have long recessed panels. Each column capital is decorated with two circular modillions to match those of the arch. The lead muntins of the transom are spaced on a diagonal, resulting in diamond-shaped panes of glass. The opening below the transom and between the two columns has been infilled with plywood and a single, modern, wood-paneled entry door is set into the plywood. Metal

mailboxes are mounted to the left of the door and on both flanking pilasters.

At the south elevation, the upper three stories have a different exterior building vocabulary than the storefronts, as they are private living spaces (Photos #1 & 2.) Brick quoining extends upwards at the southeast and southwest corners of the building to meet the cornice. There are ten bays of one-over-one, wood sash, double-hung windows at each floor. Every window opening on the south elevation is identical. There is a segmental brick arch at the head of the window and a stone sill below. At the fourth story, brick hood moldings cover the segmental arches (Photos #18.) The cornice is the elaborate terminus of the building. Constructed of patterned brick, it is bound at the bottom by a row of dentils. Above are alternate pairs of brick patterned concentric circles separated by squat banded pilasters. The cornice height matches the parapet of the building. The brick of the upper three stories is unpainted. There is little evidence that any alterations have been

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made to the upper stories of the south elevation, hence retaining its full integrity.

The east and west elevations are on the lot lines. The east elevation abuts a parking lot and two centered bays of windows are located at the second, third and fourth stories (Photos #3 & 7.) The windows are identical to the second and third story windows of the south elevation. The east elevation roofline steps down towards the north, with two short brick chimneys located just north and south of the windows. A painted advertisement is located south of the windows at the third and fourth stories. A large swatch of brick at the first story has been used as a patch for testing the paint used at the storefronts.

The west elevation abuts a single-story building on the adjacent lot (Photo#5.) Centered at this elevation is a rectangular recess (tenement-style) at thesecond, third, and fourth stories. The west facing wall of the recess has two windows, and the north and south facing walls each have one window. The roofline is relatively level at this elevation, with two chimneys south of the recess and one chimney north of the recess. There is a single-story building that occupies the adjacent lot and it butts up against the first floor of the Sperling Building at the west elevation.

The east, west and north (rear) elevation are constructed of common brick, which is more porous than the face brick used at the south elevation. The common brick has not fared as well due to weather. The north elevation is "L" shaped. The short leg of the ell is two bays wide, located at the west end of the building, and extends north towards the rear of the lot. The longer leg of the ell is the north elevation and has seven bays (Photo #4). The two legs meet at a single-bay diagonal wall. At the diagonal wall is a framed, emergency access stair that extends from grade to the roof. The stair blocks the western two bays of the long leg, and the entire east elevation of the short leg.

The seven bays of the long leg is a combination of window and door openings. The fenestration occurs in the following vertical pattern: Bay 1 - pair of windows; Bay 2 - nonfunctional door; Bay 3 - typical single window; Bay 4 -typical single window; Bay 5 - narrow window; Bay 6 - typical single window; and Bay 7 - operational door onto emergency stair. This pattern is typical for the second, third and fourth stories. Windows are identical to those found onthe other elevations of the building, except at this façade there are no superfluous decorative features such as segmental arches or window hoods. Paint remnants indicate the location of a full height rear porch that was demolished in 1999. The current smaller framed stair was an emergency access replacement that same year. The diagonal wall has functional doors at second, third and fourth stories that access the emergency stair. The west façade of the rear leg also has a single door that accesses the stair. The north facing side of the rear leg has two bays, each with a single typical window at second, third and fourth stories. At the north elevation, exterior grade meets the building between the first and second story floor level. Hence the rear exit doors of the storefront spaces are below grade. There is one ground level windowbelow the upper story doors of Bay 2, and store exit door

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below the Bay 4 windows. Below the framed emergency stair, some excavation allows rear exit out of the store at 1007 Penn Avenue (Photo #8, blocked by van and overgrowth.) The entire basement is subgrade around the entire building. Nowhere is the stone foundation visible above grade. The roofline is level at the rear, with remnants of a hung gutter remaining. Three brick chimneys are visible at this elevation.

The roof is accessed by the central interior stair that culminates at a roof penthouse. Asphalt shingles sheath the penthouse. The Sperling Building has a built-up asphalt roof. A brick parapet with tile cap is present at the south, east and west elevations. There is a slight northward pitch to the roof so that water would drain to the gutter at that elevation. Metal roof vents and flues also pierce the interior of the roof. The roof of the emergency stair is at the same level as the roof of the building.

The interior spaces of the building have not been altered since their original construction. All three stores have decorative pressed metal ceilings with a quatrefoil pattern (Photo #20.) Otherwise, the rectangular storefront spaces are nondescript, having wood framed party walls separating them, and a plaster wall finish. Modern interventions such as lights, sprinklers and ductwork hang below the metal ceiling, as there is no room above to hide them; metal panels are mounted onto furring strips and then onto the structural joists. Each store is slightly different. 1007 Penn Avenue (the western-most store) is the longest, narrowest space, extending to the rear of the building (Photo #19.) It has a raised floor at the rear half of the store. The store at 1011 Penn Avenue occupies the central bay of the ground floor footprint, and its space extends behind the store at 1013 Penn Avenue, which is the smallest. (Floor Plan E1.11)

Two separate basements exist below the Sperling Building. There are two means of access to the eastern basement from 1011 Penn Avenue, one stairwell at 1007 Penn Avenue to the western basement, and no means of access to either basement from 1013 Penn Avenue. Both basements are unoccupied and are used for storage. Access stairs are framed. Water and sewer pipes run along the basement ceiling at the underside of the structural members. The hot water heater is located in the basement of 1007 Penn Avenue. That same basement has a compacted dirt floor and the stone foundation walls are unfinished (Photo #34.) The other basement space has a poured concrete floor and similar walls.

There is hatch access to the Penn Avenue sidewalk from both basements, but the hatch has been blocked off at 1011 Penn Avenue. The basement stair at 1007 Penn Avenue can also be arrived at through the door at the rear of the apartment entrance lobby. (Floor Plan E1.10)

The entrance lobby to the apartments is mainly occupied by a framed stair at its eastern half (Photos #22, 25 & 26.) To the west of the stair is a short hallway leading to a rear door that provides access to the basement, as noted above (Photo #21.) There is a pressed metal ceiling at this short hallway. The metal pattern at this ceiling differs from that at the storefronts; in this case, a series of squares and diamonds on each panel (Photo #24.) The ceiling then has a metal rounded cove at the edge where it meets the sidewalls, also covered with pressed metal (Photo #23.) The pressed

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metal wall finish extends from floor to ceiling, though the patterns differ above and below the egg and dart chair rail. The metal wall panels have suffered from a bit of abuse with the occasional small hole. There is a thick wood base at the bottom of the wall. The stair has its original decorative newell post with floral carvings and turned balusters (Photo #22.)

The floor plan for the second, third, and fourth stories are identical (Floor Plans E1.12, E1.13, E1.14.) The central stair is open to the floors above. Past the lobby, balusters and railings in the upper stories have been replaced with simple wood posts and rails (Photos #27 & 29.) Most newell posts and original treads and risers remain (Photo #28.) The stairwell landings at each floor have decorative egg and dart chair rails and base trim throughout (Photos #28 & 30.) Stairwell landings open into corridors with rounded, rather than cased openings, as found within the individual apartments. The stair that leads from the fourth floor to the roof is enclosed and lacks any detailing whatsoever.

Each floor has three apartments, accessed from the stair landing (Floor Plans E1.12, E1.13, E1.14.) There is also an egress corridor stretching from all landings to the rear emergency stair. Entrances to the apartments are stile rail and panel doors with rectangular translucent glass transoms and mortise locks. Some glass transoms are painted over. Interior doors are also made of multi-panel wood. The typical apartment has a central hallway that provides access to a living room, dining room, bathroom and bedroom. One apartment per floor has two bedrooms. Apartments have hardwood floors, plaster walls and plaster ceilings in the living rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms. Vinyl flooring is found in the kitchen and bathroom. Thick base trim matches the thick window casing (Photo #33.) Decorative features include fireplaces with tiled surrounds and built in kitchen cabinetry (Photo #31.) There is a central hot water boiler in the basement of 1007 Penn Avenue that serves all of the apartments, though separate circuit breaker panels and bulb lighting are provided in each unit.

Overall, the building has retained its integrity. Distinctive interior architectural features at the Sperling Building have been well preserved. In general, most materials are in good condition with no obvious indications of past alterations. The original plan remains throughout the entire building. Other than minor remodeling, the Sperling Building retains a substantial amount of its exterior architectural character as well. At the ground floor, the five basic functions of the storefront and lobby entrance have been maintained: structure, enclosure, entry, identity and display. Original storefronts escaped insensitive remodeling. In fact, there is little evidence that any alterations have been made to the south elevation, which is the façade that is most representative of the late Victorian period. At the exterior, original wood framed windows remain at all elevations. Cornice detailing and quoins are in good shape. At the interior, the ground floor stores have been continuously been occupied and hence less prone to deterioration. One of the most unique features of the building, the metal wall and ceiling panels, are still in place and have been protected by repeated coats of paint. The lobby stairs are in extremely good condition with its

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original newell posts, balustrade, chair rail, trim, metal wall finish, and metal ceiling finish. At the stair landings, decorative woodwork has been retained. Original doors and transoms of the upper story apartments are also original.

This is not to say that there is no deterioration. The painted wood of the storefronts has suffered some decline due to weather and neglect. The original lobby entry door has been removed, the area infilled with plywood, and an inappropriate replacement wood door has been installed (Photo #15.) The interior upper stories of the building have suffered slightly from deterioration due to vacancy, neglect, and vandalism in the past few years. Though the apartments have not fared as well, they still retain integrity of plan and detailing. The rear elevation has shown the most damage over time, and has experienced the most alterations though its defining feature, original fenestration, has remained (Photo #14.) In 1999 the original three-story rear framed fire escape was demolished due to safety measures. A smaller one was rebuilt in its place that same year.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1902

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>595065</u>	<u>4477423</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	<u>See continuation sheet.</u>					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Gordon Lawson, Historic Preservation Specialist

organization _____ date October 31, 2004

street & number 6 Washington Place telephone 518-274-0789

city or town Troy state NY zip code 12180

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Sperling Building at 1007-1013 Penn Avenue is significant under National Register Criterion C as an outstanding example of the brick-front commercial form with decorative features, built in the Late Victorian style. The period of significance has been identified as 1902, the year the building was constructed. Its physical design is a reflection of Wilkinsburg's history as both a lively commercial district and bedroom community to Pittsburgh. Historically the brick front store form was built as a single building or in groups with shared party walls up to a block in length. Three- and four-story structures were designed with ground level stores with storage space below and living spaces above. Access to apartments and stores were separate. The design of the brick front was grid-like with a regular pattern of windows and a panel of brick between floors. Decorative brickwork included a cornice, and pilasters at ground level. Storefronts were conventional, with large expanses of glass and decorative wooden structural framework. Neither the storefronts nor the brickwork have been altered dramatically. The Sperling Building has retained integrity of both form and style.

History of the Property: 1765-1902, preceding the resource

Once known as the "City of Churches" and the "Holy City" because of its diverse collection of houses of worship, Wilkinsburg was originally a booming town. In 1765, the Pennsylvania Land Company opened territory for sale in the western part of the state. The first settlers constructed a log tavern along the Great Road, which is now known as Penn Avenue, where the Sperling Building is located. Colonel Dunning McNair is known as the father of Wilkinsburg. McNair purchased a 266-acre tract in 1789 from the Land Company of Pennsylvania and laid out a village around the Great Road. His initial holdings were roughly the boundaries of the current Borough of Wilkinsburg.

The Pennsylvania Railroad, now Penn Central, brought the first passenger train into town in 1852. As a result, the neighborhood was better connected to its urban parent, Pittsburgh, where jobs were available. McNairstown (later known as Wilkinsburg) became a fashionable suburb. In 1861, its population was 100 people. Twenty years later, the population was 800 as a result of the improvement in transportation.¹ Wilkinsburg is therefore notable because it is a rare example of a city built based on land transportation and not waterways. A new attitude surrounding the benefit of clean country air and improved transportation was the impetus for Pittsburgh's steel workers to move to suburban communities such as Wilkinsburg.

At the close of the Civil War in 1868, 856 acres of Wilkinsburg was sold to Samuel Taylor, a local engineer, and son of a revolutionary soldier. This sale included the lot where the Sperling Building now stands. Samuel Taylor sold some of his land to John Sperling (born c. 1845) in 1871 for \$1650, with no improvements on the site. Thirty-two years later, this site would be occupied by the Sperling Building. Sperling was a shoemaker and shoe merchant

¹ Creque, Peta. Allegheny County Survey Zone Form. Borough of Wilkinsburg. 3/24/81.

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who established his business downtown in 1865.² In fact, John's father Jacob was also a downtown shoemaker, as early as 1857. John was a Republican and charter member of the Trinity Reform Church. His family moved to Wilkinsburg in 1866 and resided at 810 Coal Street, just two blocks south of the lot they purchased from Taylor. Their home was a three-family residence that was occupied by his extended family in future years. John and his wife Philomena had eleven children. By 1876 the family moved into a house built on the lot he purchased. John relocated his shoe business to the new house as well. A second house was built on the same lot, to its east, by 1886 and was presumably rented out, as there is no record of the Sperling family ever having lived there.

Due to renumbering, the first mention of 1011 Penn Avenue as the Sperling residence came in the 1898 Allegheny County Directory when it is listed as the home address of the Sperlings and as the work address of John Sperling. Sons Harry (a winder by profession) and William (who was a clerk/salesman at John's shoe store), have their work addresses listed at 1011 Penn Avenue as well.³

History of the Property: 1902-present

It was under the ownership of John Sperling that the Sperling Building at 1007-1013 was constructed, circa 1902. Sanborn maps show that the original two homes built on the site in the late 1800s were demolished in order to build the apartment building. The 1903 deed from John Sperling to his son Charles (b. 1871) indicated the existence of a four-story brick apartment building consisting of three storerooms and nine apartments. The deed also indicated two residences at the back of the lot, having Taylor Alley frontage. According to a 1903 Sanborn Map, the western residence was framed and eastern one was masonry. Both were two-stories with frame porches. These two residences are also presumed to be rental properties, as the Sperlings were never listed as living in either house.

Shortly after their son Charles was married in 1902, John and his wife Philomena deeded the property to Charles for \$28,000. After graduating from local public schools, Charles took private instruction in civil engineering and then took his first position in 1889. In 1897 he became a partner in the firm Freese and Sperling where he remained until 1920. In 1921, Charles was appointed the Borough Engineer of Wilkinsburg. Though there is no clear reason why John deeded the building to Charles, John Sperling had previously owned a rental property so perhaps it was a joint business venture with Charles. It would benefit John for this new project to move forward so that his shoe business could have a permanent commercial space. However, as an engineer, it is presumed that Charles had a larger role in the construction of this building, as opposed to his father who had no formal training. At this time John would have been roughly 57 years old, and his son Charles, 31. Though Charles and his wife lived in the Sperling Apartment building, the rest of the

2 Gilchrist, Harry C. History of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh: 1940, p.161.
3 Pittsburgh and Allegheny County Directory. Pittsburgh: R.L. Polk and Company, 1898.

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family is listed as living at 810 Coal Street, a home retained by the family since the 1860s.

It is presumed that the ground floor commercial spaces of the Sperling Building were occupied while the upper story apartments were being finished, as there is no record of anybody living upstairs until 1906. In the 1902 directory, 1007 Penn Avenue was called the Mercantile Building, but by 1906 it was called the Sperling Apartments. Gradually the building was renumbered. In 1904, the three commercial spaces were numbered as 1007, 1011, and 1013 Penn Avenue which are their current designations. The 1009 address was reserved for the upper story apartments. In 1906, when the building was fully listed in the Wilkinsburg Directory, 1007 was occupied by John Sperling's shoe store (where it remained until 1921), 1011 was a dry goods store owned by Mrs. Henrietta Paglin, and 1013 was vacant. Initial apartment renters in 1009 Penn Avenue were Charles Sperling and his wife Anna who occupied Apartment 1 during his entire ownership; Miss Bessie Russell, a nurse; Mr. Raymond Weatherby, a clerk; and Mr. Samuel Wilbur, a salesman.⁴ According to historic plat maps, the framed house was demolished circa 1915, to be replaced by a smaller, two-story frame house which exists today as 1008 Taylor Way.

By 1922, there was a new group of businesses and residents. A tire service, flower shop, and plumbers office then occupied the three stores. A new group of residents were living at 1009 Penn Avenue, but they remained blue-collar workers: scraper, laborer, post office clerk, and carpenter. Another seventeen years later, according to a 1939 directory of Wilkinsburg, one of the commercial spaces was vacant, another was an upholstery store and the last an automatic temperature control store. That same directory indicated that apartment residents were also blue-collar workers: installer, shipping clerk, painter.

In 1925, Charles and his wife Anna sold the Sperling Building and two rear rental properties to Harry Israel of Pittsburgh. Israel sold it to Samuel and Sadye Judd who owned the building from 1927-1942. The Judds occupied Apartment #2 of the Sperling Building during their ownership. Samuel Judd was a pharmacist. The lot then went through a series of frequent hand-offs to members of the Jewish community until it was sold to Joseph and John Totten in 1950. The Sperling building has remained in the Totten family for the past 54 years.

Mrs. Rita Totten, wife of Joseph C. Totten, was deeded the property in 1986. During her ownership, the rear porch, a three-story framed fire escape was demolished in 1999 and a new smaller framed fire escape was built in its place. Also, the eastern rental property, a two-story brick residence, was demolished between 1951 and 1985. Currently, the commercial spaces on the ground floor of the Sperling building are still neighborhood stores run by working-class citizens, just as they always have been: a hardware store, antique shop and a bookstore. The apartments upstairs are recently vacant. A sale of the property from Rita Totten to Tot-Props, LLC occurred in April 2004. Tot-Props LLC is co-owned by Timothy Bradley Totten and Terry Totten,

⁴ Ibid, 1906.

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sons of Joseph and Rita Totten. It is the intention of Tot-Props, LLC to rehabilitate the building and rent apartments beginning in the spring of 2005. By doing this, the Tottens intend on returning the building to its earlier state of worth to residents, storeowners and the community at large.

Architectural Significance and Context

The town name was changed from McNairstown to Wilkinsburg circa 1887, and was named for prominent local citizen and county judge, William Wilkins (b. 1779 - d. 1865.) In that same year Wilkinsburg was officially designated as its own borough and the first elections took place there in 1888. Newcomers to Wilkinsburg were surprised at the lack of municipal intervention such as streetlights and a water system. Eventually conditions improved and the need for local services surfaced. A surge in population accompanied the borough status. By this time, the city's population was 2,500.⁵ From the date of its incorporation, the community rapidly advanced in both numbers and accomplishments. In due time street lighting was installed and fire and police companies were organized.

Penn Avenue, once a pastoral village main street, had become a commercial thoroughfare. The street was paved in 1890, sewer pipes were laid in 1892 and running water provided in 1899. The People's Gas Company had already anticipated the need for the growing town in 1885. In 1896, a group of businessmen subscribed to the first telephone on Penn Avenue and organized what became the Wilkinsburg Bank. These businessmen are familiar names to us today: A.W. Mellon, R.B. Mellon, H.C. Frick, J.A. Strickler, J.A. Patterson, and others. The horseless carriage as well as streetcars arrived in Wilkinsburg which better connected it to Pittsburgh.

Times were changing. However, architecturally there is no sharp dividing line between periods of history; they slip into one another while the older times begin to fade and merge into the newer times. The growth of a small settlement into a borough brought architectural change. This is reflected in the buildings constructed at the turn of the century. On Penn Avenue, nineteenth century framed two-story Victorian homes with large farming lots were replaced by brick buildings that shared bearing walls and were built against the street. The switch from frame structure to masonry was an effort to stall the growing fire hazard that wood buildings created. The new brick buildings had commercial space on the ground floor and residential space above. These buildings were three or four stories tall thanks to the introduction of new building technologies. Businesses were moved out of the home, and into the Penn Avenue commercial district. The Sperling Apartment building is an example of the new architecture that emerged as a result of the historical development of Wilkinsburg.

Businesses were always important in Wilkinsburg. The paving of Penn Avenue meant that merchants no longer had to wade through mud and soggy cinders to reach their stores. The Westinghouse Air Brake Company, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Mine Safety Appliances Company, Union Switch

5 Ibid.

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and Signal, and Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing companies were but some of the well-known businesses established in Wilkinsburg at the turn of the century. Though less well-known, the small businesses on Penn Avenue were the ones that allowed the town to flourish and made urban living possible in Wilkinsburg. The first dry goods store opened in Wilkinsburg at 812 Penn Avenue a few blocks away, the Sperling Building held many small businesses. As noted earlier, John Sperling's shoe store, the Sperling Shoe Company, was located in the building from its construction until the early 1920s. Other businesses located in the building during the early 1900s were a tire service company, flower shop, upholstery store, and plumbers office.

Most buildings on Penn Avenue were built using the same masonry prototype as the Sperling Building: commercial spaces on the ground floor and residential above. Other Penn Avenue businesses housed in these commercial blocks along Penn Avenue were Caldwell and Graham, Faller's Furniture, First Federal Savings and Loan, Bukes Grill, Dan S. Heep Meats, Kregar & Company Foods, and Stephens Florist. The First National Bank of Wilkinsburg (1892) and the Caldwell and Graham Building (1908) are examples of the same commercial block prototype in Wilkinsburg. (See historic photographs included on a continuation sheet.) These buildings are comparable to the Sperling Building in that they also were of brick construction, located on Penn Avenue, and built within a decade of each other. The Bank building still stands, but the Caldwell & Graham Building has been demolished.

The introduction of the train to Wilkinsburg was a mixed blessing. Multiple at-grade elevations caused many deaths and the community rallied for the elevation of the crossings. Victory finally came in 1916 and the community had a three-day celebration including a parade, barbeque, and dedication of a life-size copper statue of Abraham Lincoln that still stands today. The elevated crossings brought about a city renewal, including the leveling of street grades, installation of additional sanitary sewer lines, and paving of all of its roads.⁶

Today, Wilkinsburg is a small bedroom community of 19,000 residents just eight miles east of Pittsburgh in Allegheny County. When the steel industry left the region in the 1980s, the loss of jobs resulted in a population decrease of 23% and an increase in crime and property neglect, all which have had a negative effect on the buildings of Wilkinsburg. Many of them, such as the Sperling Building, remain vacant. The Sperling Building is the only surviving original building on its block. Its neighboring lots are occupied by a modern single story automotive store to the west and a parking lot to the east. Unfortunately, Wilkinsburg has yet to recover from the 1980s economic downswing. Redevelopment efforts have been stymied by high taxes.⁷ This neighborhood decline is ironically a benefit for historic preservation causes. Without funding available for alterations, the Sperling Building has escaped insensitive renovations of the past century and as a result, it retains its

6 Walkinshaw, Lewis Clark. Annals of Southwestern Pennsylvania. NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc. 1939, p. 413
7 Kelly-Rielly-Nell-Barina, Appraisal of 1007 Penn Ave. n.p.: n.p., August 2002.

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historical integrity, both in terms of architectural detailing, and functionality.

Wilkesburg has been affected by economic difficulties, urban renewal, and city-wide demolition. Hence, only some of its early nineteenth century vernacular architecture has been preserved. Most of these remaining buildings are single-family residences and churches. For this reason, it is significant that the Sperling Building, a commercial/multi-family structure has been preserved. The Sperling building is one of the only multi-family residential and commercial buildings remaining on Penn Avenue, at the eastern end of the city's central business district.

Anyone who travels down Penn Avenue in Wilkesburg notices the effect of urban renewal; most lots are empty, or have been infilled with windowless box buildings. Those that remain are survivors of vandalism, inappropriate rehabilitations, and economic recession. Most of these remaining buildings were designed as mixed-use structures, with commercial space at the street level and residential space above. Most now are vacant or underutilized. Few of these buildings continue to fulfill their original purpose. Even fewer go beyond that fulfillment and have retained their design integrity, both on the interior and exterior.

Under National Register Criterion C, the Sperling Building is significant for its physical design, embodying distinctive characteristics of an architectural style during the period of significance of the year 1902. The design and function of the building is a reflection of Wilkesburg's history as a lively commercial district. Built in the Victorian style as a two-part commercial block with residential floors above, the Sperling Building clearly illustrates through distinctive characteristics, the pattern of features common to a particular class of resources that comprised Penn Avenue during its period of significance. Research efforts were made to identify potential local architects and builders, but unfortunately they remain unknown. However it is most likely that Charles Sperling, as an engineer, was involved with the design or execution of this project. Also seeing that John Sperling built two homes on the lot during the years of his ownership, he may have acted as the builder.

Architecturally, the building is especially notable because the storefronts have survived intact. Wood is the least durable storefront construction material, but all three storefronts remain relatively unchanged and are almost identical. The single exception is 1007 Penn Avenue, which is narrower and has a single entry door instead of double doors. The typical late nineteenth century wood storefront carried on the post and lintel tradition in a somewhat lighter form. They featured recessed entryways, wood panels beneath windows, column supports, decorative signboard entablatures for name display, and large expanses of glass in doors, transoms and windows to give an open, welcoming appearance and to showcase merchandise. Nineteenth century storefronts are notable for their attention to decorative details, which are still present at the Sperling Building.

The Sperling Building is a rarity on Penn Avenue, having outlived other neighboring buildings of a similar class. The building retains distinctive characteristics that are original to the design. Its form, proportions and

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structural system remain unchanged. Exterior detailing, storefronts and windows are original. Interior trim, newell posts and circulation stair have been unaffected by modernization.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) The lot line boundaries for the Sperling Building are indicated on the accompanying base map, "Plan of Survey, 2003." The boundary conforms to county tax parcel 233-A-85.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) The boundaries are of the city lot, retaining its original property lines. The nominated boundary is the historic boundary and no associated historic resources have been excluded.

=====

Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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Description of View and Direction of Camera

Photograph 1: South elevation (front façade) of Sperling Building. Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 2: South elevation (front facade) of Sperling Building. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 3: East elevation of Sperling Building. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 4: North (rear elevation) of Sperling Building. Camera facing south.

Photograph 5: Southwest corner of Sperling Building. South and west elevations showing. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 6: Penn Avenue Streetscape. Sperling Building on north side of road. South elevation showing. Camera facing west.

Photograph 7: Penn Avenue Streetscape. Sperling Building on north side of road. South and East elevations showing. Camera facing west.

Photograph 8: Taylor Way House, situated north of Sperling Building. North and East elevations showing. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 9: West elevation of Sperling Building hidden behind trees. Camera facing southeast.

Photograph 10: Taylor Way. North elevation of Taylor Way House on right side of photograph. Camera facing east.

Photograph 11: View of Coal Street. Camera facing north.

Photograph 12: View of Penn Avenue from Coal Street intersection. Camera facing west.

Photograph 13: Storefront entry at 1007 Penn Avenue on south elevation of the Sperling Building. Western-most storefront. Camera facing north.

Photograph 14: Storefront entry at 1011 Penn Avenue near the center of the south elevation of the Sperling Building. Camera facing north.

Photograph 15: Apartment entry door at 1009 Penn Avenue near the center of the south elevation of the Sperling Building. Camera facing north.

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Photograph 16: Storefront entry at 1013 Penn Avenue on south elevation of Sperling Building. Eastern-most storefront. Camera facing north.

Photograph 17: Storefront detail at 1007 Penn Avenue at southwest corner of Sperling Building. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 18: Cornice and window detail on south elevation of Sperling Building. Floors 3 and 4 near west side of façade. Camera facing north.

Photograph 19: Interior shot of store at 1007 Penn Avenue. Camera facing north.

Photograph 20: Ceiling detail in store at 1007 Penn Avenue.

Photograph 21: Interior shot of apartment lobby behind entrance door to 1009 Penn Avenue. Stairwell on right. Camera facing north.

Photograph 22: Interior shot of apartment lobby behind entrance door to 1009 Penn Avenue. Stairwell on left. Camera facing south.

Photograph 23: Ceiling detail in apartment lobby.

Photograph 24: Ceiling detail in apartment lobby.

Photograph 25: Interior circulation stair connecting second to third floor. Camera facing south.

Photograph 26: Looking down stair from second floor into apartment lobby. Camera facing south.

Photograph 27: Looking up stair from apartment lobby to second floor. Camera facing north.

Photograph 28: Typical common circulation space at central stair. Camera facing southeast.

Photograph 29: Stair connecting second to third to fourth floor. Camera facing west.

Photograph 30: Stair rail detail at third floor common circulation space. Camera facing west.

Photograph 31: Built in cabinetry in living room of second floor apartment. Camera facing north.

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Photograph 32: Hallway in second floor apartment. Camera facing south.

Photograph 33: Interior shot of second floor apartment. Camera facing south.

Photograph 34: Basement shot under 1007 Penn Avenue store. Camera facing south.

Photographs 35-39: Newly submitted. Photos labeled on back.

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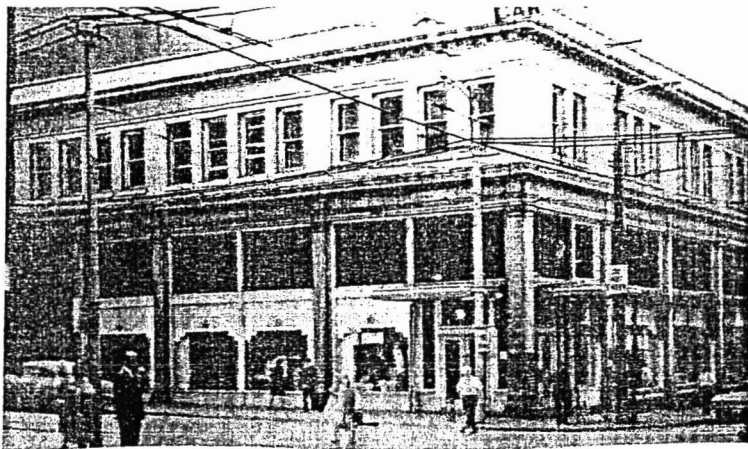
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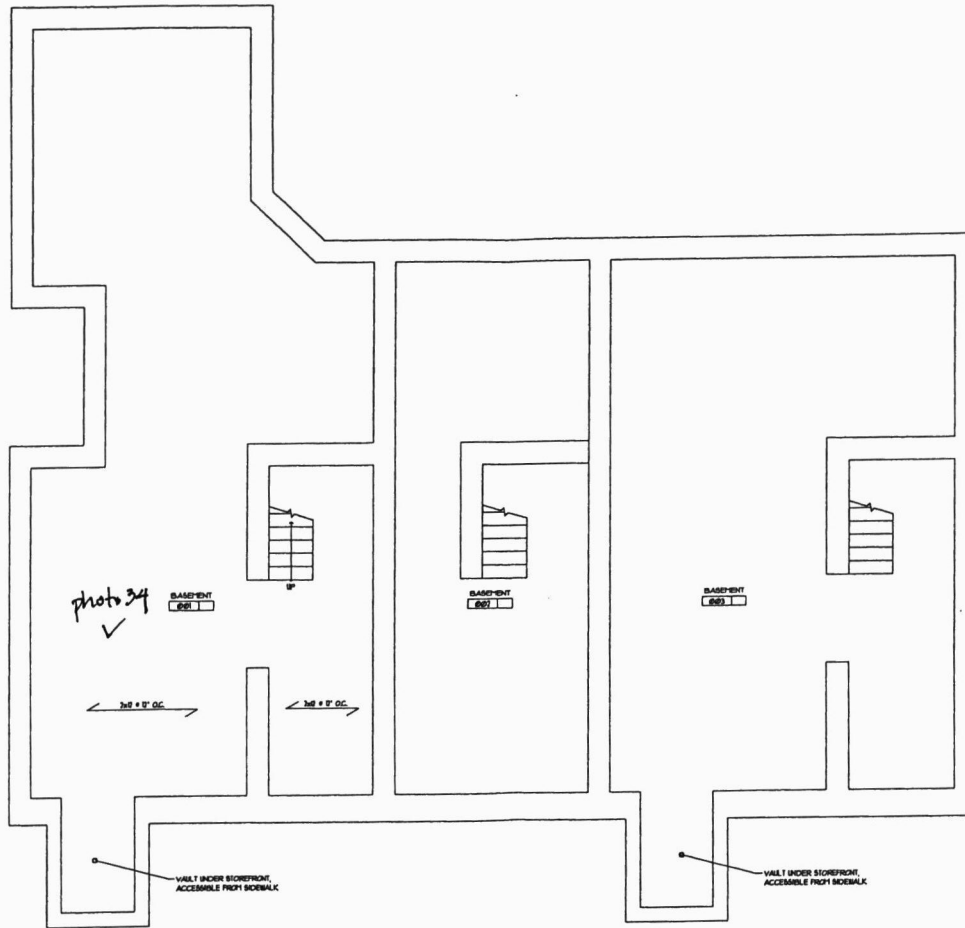
Historic Wilkesburg, 1887 - 1987. n.p.: n.p., 1987. Historical Society of
Western Pennsylvania.



*Pittsburgh National Bank at the corner of Penn and Wood.
Formerly First National Bank of Wilkesburg founded in
1892.*

*Caldwell and Graham Building, as pictured, was erected in
1908 at Penn Avenue and Wood Street and kept generations of
customers supplied with dry goods, clothing and notions.*





1 BASEMENT PLAN
 WITH REDUCTION 1/8"

BOA

BOA ARCHITECTURE P.C.
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 Philadelphia, PA 19102
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 CONSULTANT

Tot-Props, LLC

770 Bristol Court
 Allentown, PA 18101

Sperling Building
 1807-1810 Pine Avenue
 Allentown, PA 18101

Taylor Way Residence
 1828 Taylor Way
 Allentown, PA 18101

ARCHITECTURAL
 SCHEMATIC
 DESIGN

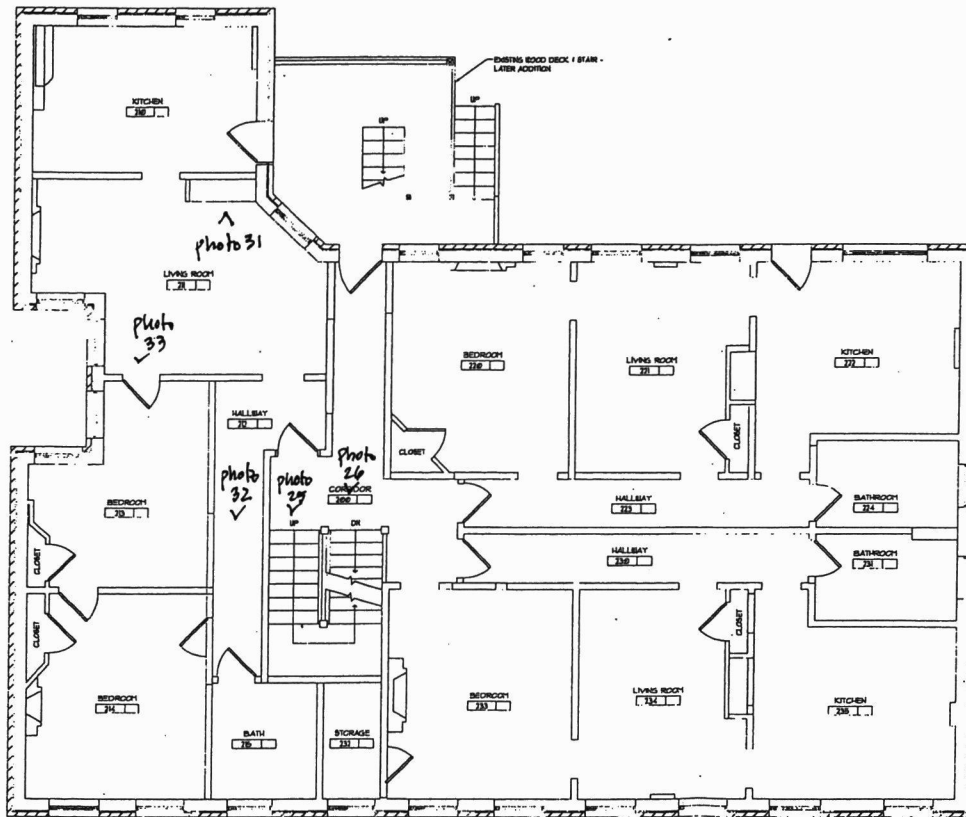
DATE: REVISION

Sperling Building
 Basement
 Existing
 Conditions Plan

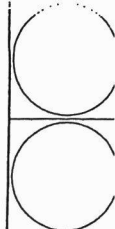
Allentown
 County

BOA PROJECT # 0909

E1.10



1 SECOND FLOOR EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
 8 x 11 REDUCED TO FIT



Reviewed: J. Anderson, P.C.
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CONSULTANT:

Tot-Prope, LLC

710 Ethel Court
 Allentown, PA 18101

Sperling Building

1801-1805 Penn Avenue
 Williamsburg, PA 16780

Taylor Way Residence

1800 Taylor Way
 Williamsburg, PA 16780

ARCHITECTURAL
 SCHEMATIC
 DESIGN

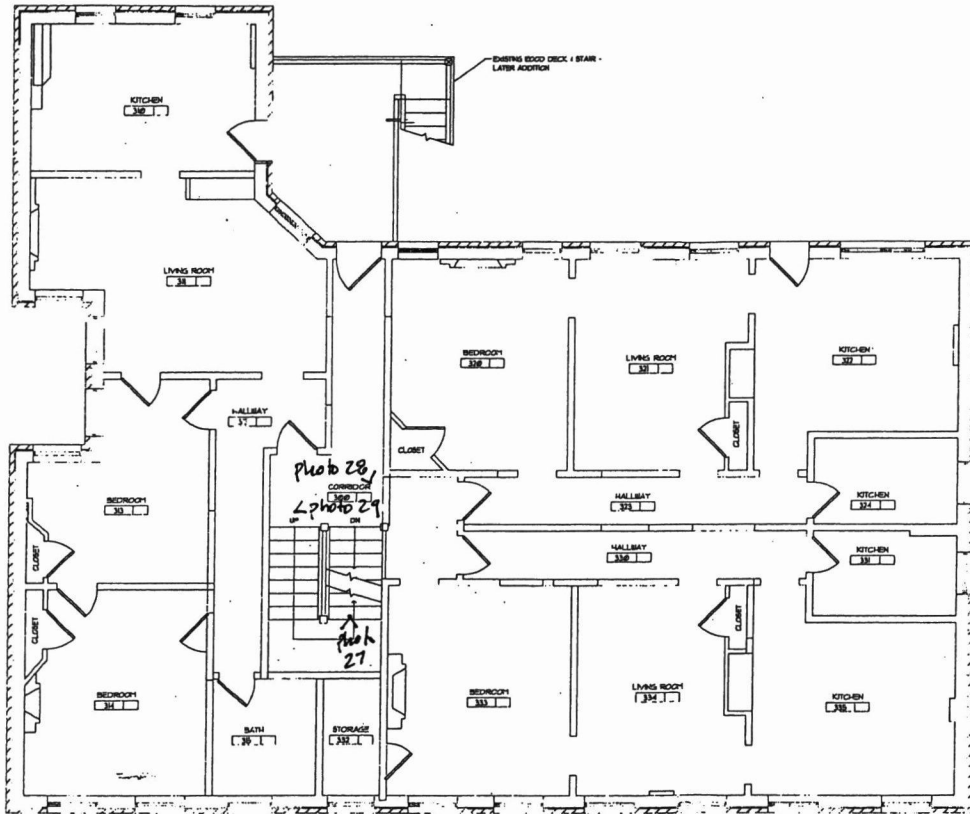
DATE: REVIEW

Sperling Building
 Second Floor
 Existing
 Conditions Plan

Allegheny
 County

RJA PROJECT # 0903

E1.12



1 THIRD FLOOR PLAN
1/4" = 1'-0"



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Architect
Engineer
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CONTRACT NO.

Tot-Props, LLC

780 Birkel Court
Allentown, PA 18101

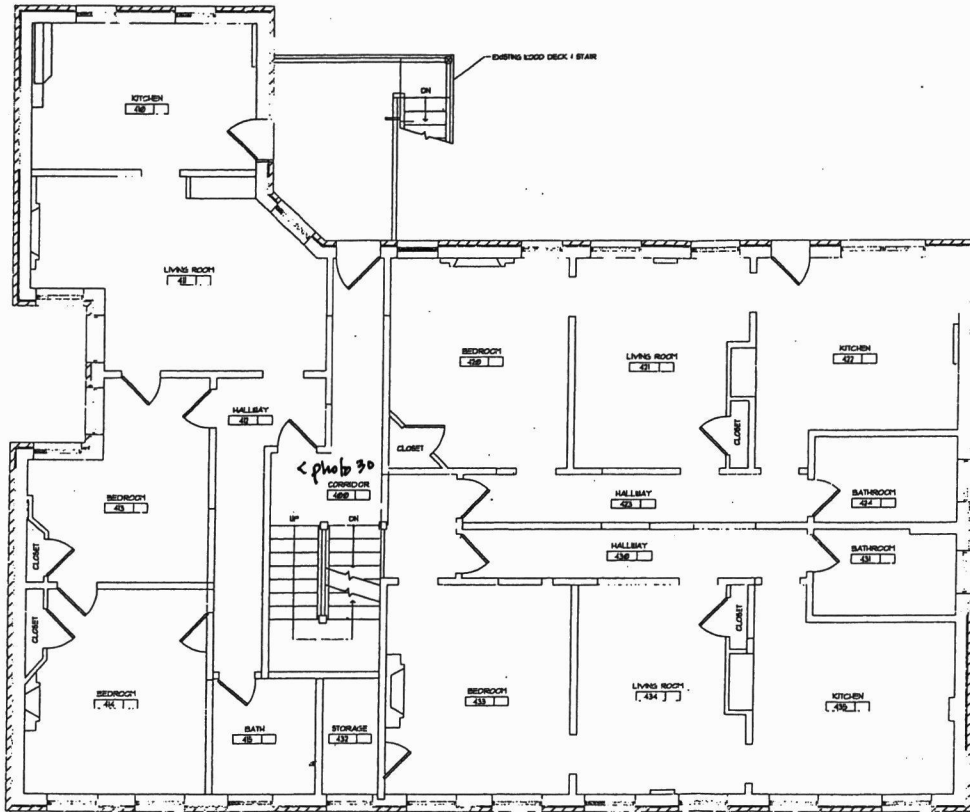
Sperling
Building
3807-609 Penn Avenue
Allentown, PA 18101

Taylor Way
Residence
1808 Taylor Way
Allentown, PA 18101

ARCHITECTURAL
SCHEMATIC
DESIGN
BASED UPON

Sperling Building
Third Floor
Existing
Conditions Plan
Allegheny
County

RJA PROJECT # 0807
E1.13



1 THIRD AND FOURTH FLOOR PLAN
1 x 11 REDUCED SIZE



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OR BY ANY INFORMATION
STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL
SYSTEM, WITHOUT PERMISSION
IN WRITING FROM JSA

CONSULTANT:

Tot-Props, LLC

710 Bristol Court
Allentown, PA 18101

Sperling
Building

1007-1015 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Taylor Way
Residence

1008 Taylor Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

ARCHITECTURAL
SCHEMATIC
DESIGN

ISSUED REVIEW

Sperling
Building-
Third and Fourth
Floors Existing
Conditions Plan

*Atchaferry
Covatta*

JSA PROJECT # 09025

E1.14

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sperling Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Allegheny

DATE RECEIVED: 3/31/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/22/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/07/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/14/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000410

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 5/10/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

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.



1007

VALLEY SALES & SERVICE

SPRING

1011

TOP DOLLAR IS
OFFICE - 30 WEST FRONT ST. - WASH

OFF

Closed

Sperling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #1

WFS<No. 2>637 01** N N N-2 202

12



1007

VALLEY SALES & SERVICE

OSPREY

1011

ANTIQUE CENTER

1013

Sperling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #2

WFS<No. ~~Q~~ >637 01** N N N-3 142

730 PENN AVENUE

- SAVINGS
- CHECKING
- MORTGAGES
- CONSUMER LOANS

NO PARKING



Spelling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #3

26a

REF: 2005 01 10 11: 44 AM N N N-6 282



Spelling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #4

4a

USFSCNo. >584 01** N N N-3 162

Sporling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 5

WFS<No. 5685 81** N N N-5 842
568



Spelling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 6

7088

WFS<No. 01** N N N-2 242



730 PENN AVENUE

SAVINGS
CHECKING
MORTGAGES
CONSUME
LOANS

PENN STATE

Speeling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #7

ole

WFS<No. 01** N N N-5 142



Sperling Building

1007 - 1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 8

JFSC No. 10584 01** N N N-5 122

5a



Sporting Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #9

WFSKNO 5 >585 01** N N N-5 082

2/15



Sporling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #10

339

WFS No. 1585 01** N N 2-7 202



Sperling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #11

328

JFS<No. >585 01** N N N-6 062



Vacuum Co.
VACUUM CO.
DISTRIBUTION OF
PARTS

REPAIRS AND SERVICE
PHONE 441-1100
1000-10-23

QUA

Sporting Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 12

WFS<No. >585 01** N N N-3 NN2

3/10

VICE

1007

VALLEY SALES & SERVICE

• SPERLING. •

WE
BUY
CARS

SALE
VALLEY SALES & SERVICE
1007

1007
OPEN

SALE
VALLEY SALES & SERVICE
1007



Sperling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #13

WFS<No. 585 01** N N N-2 162

WFS

G.

1011

SARRY'S
USED FURNITURE ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES HOME FURNITURE

TOP DOLLAR FOR
ANTIQUES & OLD USED FURNITURE
call 519-4896

CLOSED

CHR
BOOK

Spaulding Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #14

6/10

WFS<No. 585 01** N N N-3 242

SPERLING.

FOR RENT
1-2 B.R.
APTS

E



Spating Building

1017-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 15

JFSCNo. 7585 01** N N N-2 062

75a



CHRIST
BOOKSTORE

BIBLES
BOOKS
GIFTS
& SUPPLIES

Sorry We're
Closed

GREETING CARDS

Sporling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #16

25

WFS<No. 000585 01** N N N-3 102

WE
BUY
CARS



Sporting Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #17

WFSKNO. 585 01 W. N N-6 402

302





Spartan Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 19

WFS-No. 12584 01** N N N-1 182

1A



Sperling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #20

JFSC No. 79 585 01** N N N-4-102



Sparking Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #21

WFS<No. 584 01** N N N N-422



EXIT

Spring Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
418 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 22

WFS<No. 22>584 01** N N N-9 642

72



Sperling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 23

28

WFS&NO. X 585 01** N N 2-5-02 2



Spallins Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 24

2004

15851 N N-3 042



Spaulding Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004
Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 25

JFSC No. 9A 584 01** N N N-3 042



Sporting Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 26

LFSC No. 192 > 585 01** N N N-6 202



Spearing Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh PA 15203

Photo # 27

WFS<No. 1/2 584 01** N N N-5 122



Spaling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004
Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 28

WFS<No. 139
>585 01** N N N-5 022



Sparting Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 29

WFS<No. 4>585 01** N N N-6 02 2

32



Sperling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Photographer: Susan Gordon
June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 4th Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15203

Photo # 30

WFS<No. 142
585 01* N N N-5 042



Spaling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 44th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #31

WFS<No. 595 01** N N N-5 NH2

5a



Sperling Building

1007-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #32

WJFS No. 160
01000 N N N-5 302



Sperling Building

1067-1013 Penn Avenue

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects

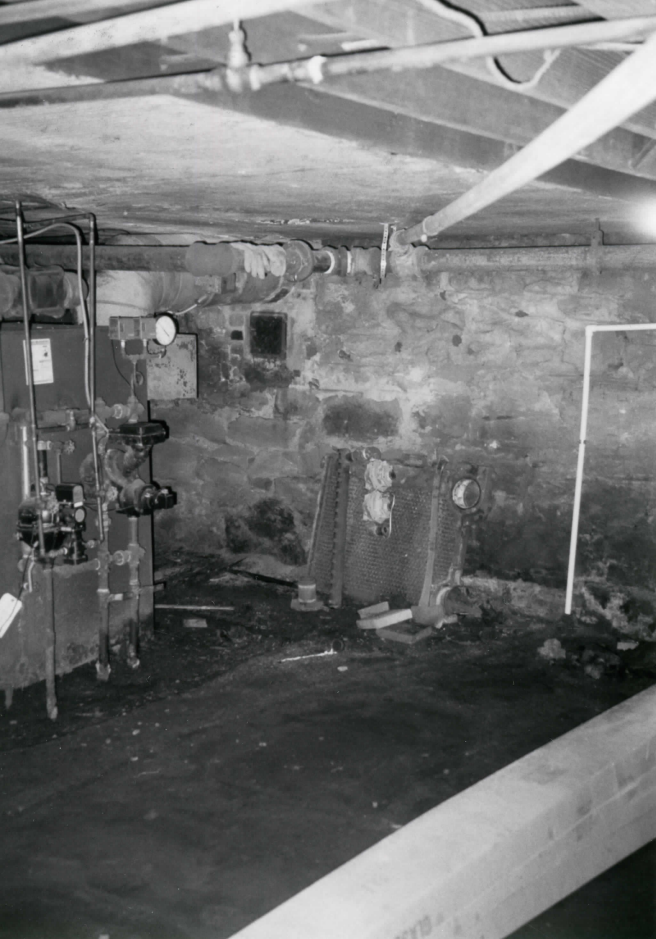
48 South 14th Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo # 33

JFSC No. 17a

01** X 01 N-7 022



Speeling Building
1007-1013 Penn Avenue
Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photographer: Susan Gordon

June 9, 2004

Negative location:

Renaissance III Architects
48 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Photo #34

WFS No. >584 01** Z N N-3 142

34



1008 Taylor Way
Wilkesburg PA
Allegheny County
photo by Jim Sheehan
10/14/04

Negative at Renaissance 3 Architects
18 S. 14th St

039 BA 0ANX1N MIN 10425
Pittsburgh PA 15203

Photo facing northwest
Shows southeast corner of Bldg.

Photo # 35

020

57579



1008 Taylor Way
Wilkes-Barre PA

Allegheny County

photo by Jim Sheehan 10/14/04

Negative at Renaissance 3 Architects

48 S. 14th St

Pittsburgh PA 15203

Photographer facing northwest
Shows southeast corner of Bldg.

Photo #36

57567



1008 Taylor Way
Wilkesburg PA
Allegheny County

Photo by Jim Sheehan

Negative at Renaissance 3 Architects
48 S 14th St
Pittsburgh PA 15203

Photographer facing southwest
Shows northeast corner of building

Photo # 37

019

019 BA QANX IN NIN 1 BADES

57569



1009 Taylor Way
Wilkesburg PA

Allegheny County

Photo by Jim Sheehan

Negative at Renaissance 3 Architects

40 S. 14th St.

Pittsburgh PA 15203

Photographer facing southeast

Shows northwest corner of building

Photo # 33

57570

011

021 BA-QANNA MINI 1 025



1008 Taylor Way
Wilkinsburg PA

004

Allegheny County

Photo by Jim Sheehan

Negative at Renaissance 3 Architects
48 S. 14th St.

Pittsburgh PA 15203

Photographer facing southwest

East elevation of Taylor Way House

North elevation of Sperling Building

Photo # 39

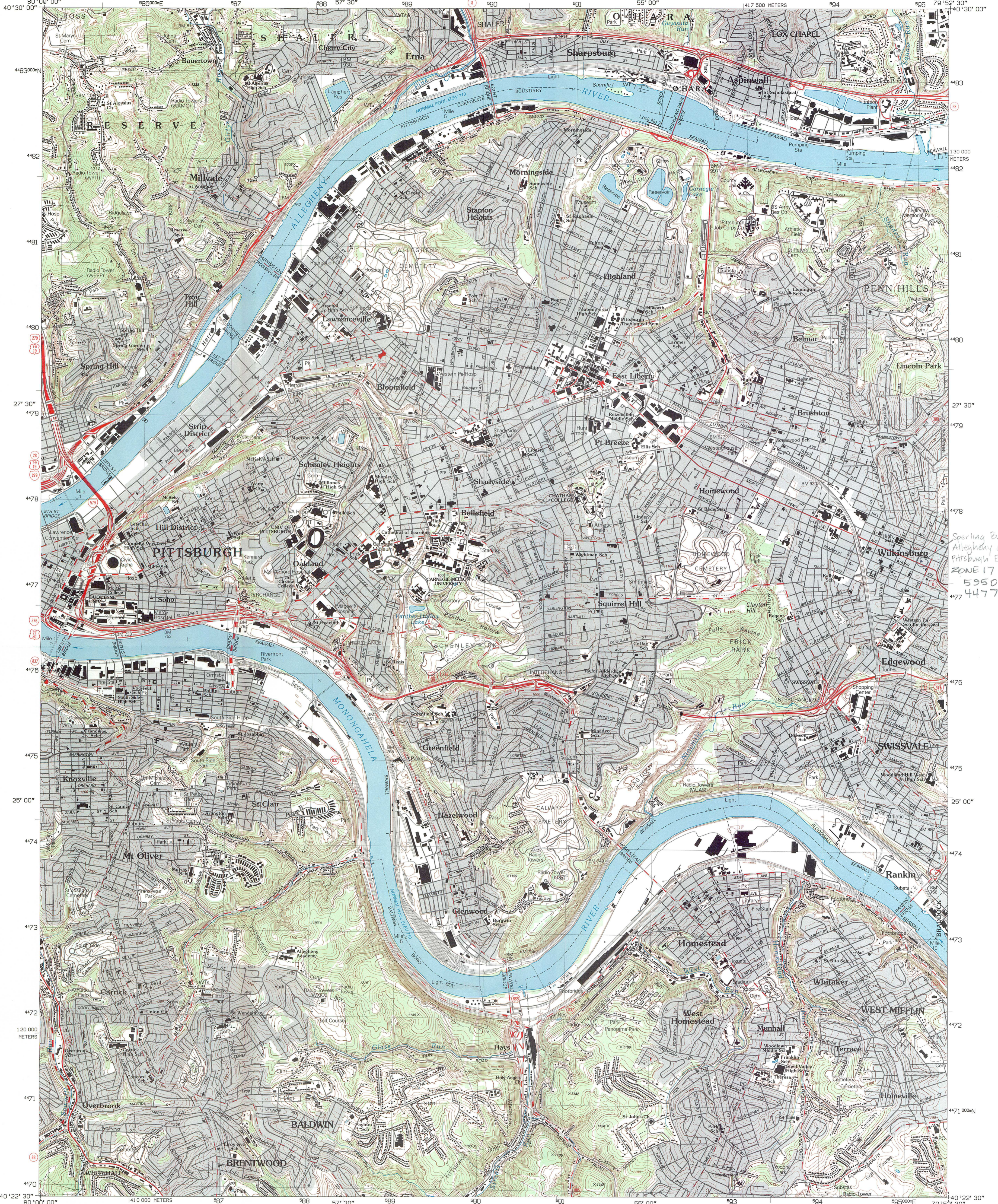
57563

008 BA

04KX IN NY

8495

Fujicolor Crystal Archive



Spring Building Allegheny County, PA Pittsburgh East Quad ZONE 17 595065E 477 4477420N

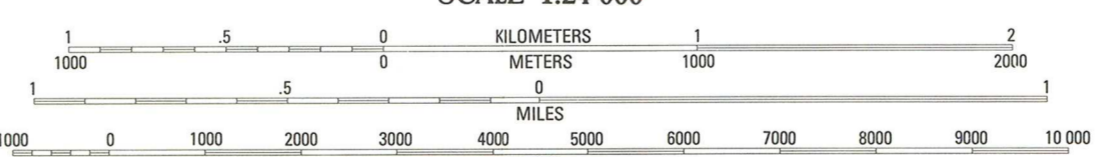
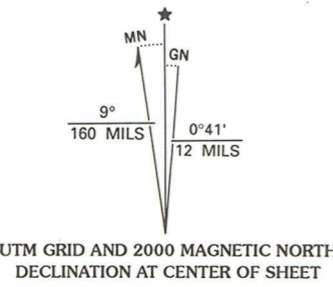
Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey

Derived from imagery taken 1991 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1992. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 2000

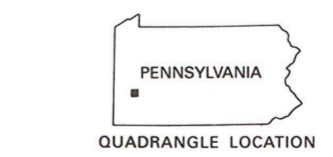
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 17. 2 500-meter ticks. Pennsylvania Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute rectangles are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



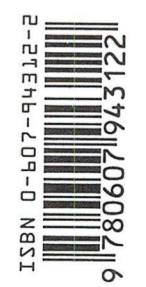
ROAD CLASSIFICATION Primary highway, hard surface... Secondary highway, hard surface... Interstate Route, U.S. Route, State Route, Light-duty road, hard or improved surface, Unimproved road

Table with 3 columns and 8 rows showing adjacent quadrangle names: 1 Emsworth, 2 Glenshaw, 3 New Kensington West, 4 Pittsburgh West, 5 Braddock, 6 Bridgeville, 7 Glassport, 8 McKeesport

PITTSBURGH EAST, PA.

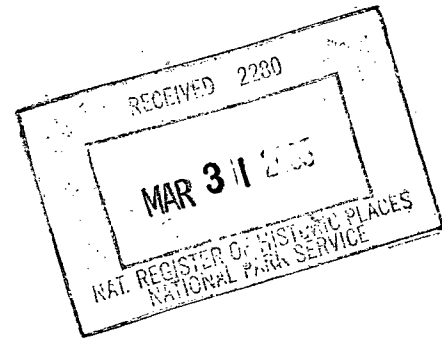
1997

NIMA 5064 1V NW-SERIES V831





Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us



March 29, 2005

Carol Shull, Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
U.S. Department of Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: NR nomination forms

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register form is being submitted for your review:

Sperling Building, Allegheny County, PA

The proposed action is:

- listing in the National Register
 determination of eligibility (owner objection)

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please call us at (717) 783-8947.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. MacDonald, Chief
Division of Preservation Services

Enclosures

ALM/gr