

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0686557

FOR NPS USE ONLY

OCT 28 1978

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

DEC 15 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

PITTSBURGH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4215 Fifth Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14th

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Allegheny

CODE

003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

private club

NAME

Pittsburgh Athletic Association

STREET & NUMBER

4215 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegheny County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

414 Grant Street

CITY, TOWN

Pittsburgh

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1973

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pittsburgh Athletic Association Clubhouse is a five-story, steel frame, rectangular building sheathed in brick, stone, and terra cotta. The building is of the Venetian High Renaissance style. An entablature, and projecting cornice with modillions, divides the facade. The building rests on a low podium and is horizontally divided by an entablature and projecting cornice with modillions. The upper cornice is more elaborate with eyebrow windows; panels with coupled festoons, dentils and modillions. The coupled colossal pilasters and columns are of the ornate composite order. The roof is flat.

The semi-circular ground story windows create an arcade effect common to Italian Renaissance Architecture. The rondels on either side of the crown of the archivolts further enhance the highly ornamented surface texture.

The interior has been altered, but the main lobby and other reception rooms have managed to keep their chief architectural features. The marble and terra cotta swimming pool, with its Guastavino tiles, is a fine Late Victorian period piece. The club is in an excellent state of preservation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909-1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pittsburgh Athletic Association was formed in 1908 by a group of young business men. In 1909 they bought land in Nicola's new Schenley Farms tract. They commissioned the firm of Janssen and Abbott, which had recently been formed, to design the present clubhouse. Benno Janssen (1874-1964) was an outstanding Pittsburgh architect. In his partnership with W.Y. Cocken, he is known for the Mellon Institute for Industrial Research (1931-37), the E.J. Kaufmann House (1924-26), and the Long Vue Country Club (1922-26). The Pittsburgh Athletic Association Clubhouse was opened in April of 1911. The building is an example of the Venetian High Renaissance style. It is basically a variation of Sansovino's Palazzo Corner in Venice (1532); the facade order is reminiscent of the Grimani Palace, Venice (1549); and the frieze with its cupids and garlands recalls Sansovino's Library of St. Mark, Venice (1536). The club is in excellent condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dickson, H. One Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings. Bald Eagle Press, University Park, Pennsylvania 1956.
Schuyler, Montgomery. "The Building of Pittsburgh" Architectural Record September 1911, 30:3.
Van Trump, James D. and Arthur P. Ziegler, Landmark Architectur of Allegheny County. Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, 1967, p. 95.,
"The Stones of Venice in Pittsburgh: The PAA Clubhouse" Charette 39:4,

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA April, 1949, pp. 24-27.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .5
QUADRANGLE NAME Pittsburgh East, Pa.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES 4877-460

A 17 588650 501061400

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

E

G

B 17 588650 501061400

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

It faces Fifth Avenue and extends from Bigelow Boulevard to Lytton Avenue. It is bound on the north by its own parking lot and by the Syria Mosque, an auditorium of the local Masonic Order.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James D. Van Trump, Research Director / Mark Blake

ORGANIZATION

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation / PHMC

STREET & NUMBER

Old Post Office, Allegheny Square West / Box 1026 412-322-1204

CITY OR TOWN

Pittsburgh, / Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

10-16-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12.15.78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

Dec 15, 1978

Property

Pittsburgh Athletic AssociationBuilding

State

PA.

Working Number

10.23.78.432678002358

TECHNICAL

Photos 1Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 10.24.78

HISTORIAN

Would have been improved by discussion of club.
Poor photo for arch'l signif.

Refer to arch. hmr.

Joe Townner
12-15-78

Very fine embodiment of Italian Renaissance Revival, drawn from Venetian sources. Photograph is not of publishable quality, unfortunately. Regrettably there is no discussion of ~~the~~ the historical significance of the club, the force which built such an ornate facility.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
L. Beebe
12.15.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
L. Beebe
12-15-78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back _____

Entered DEC 15 1978

Federal Register Entry

2-6-79

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



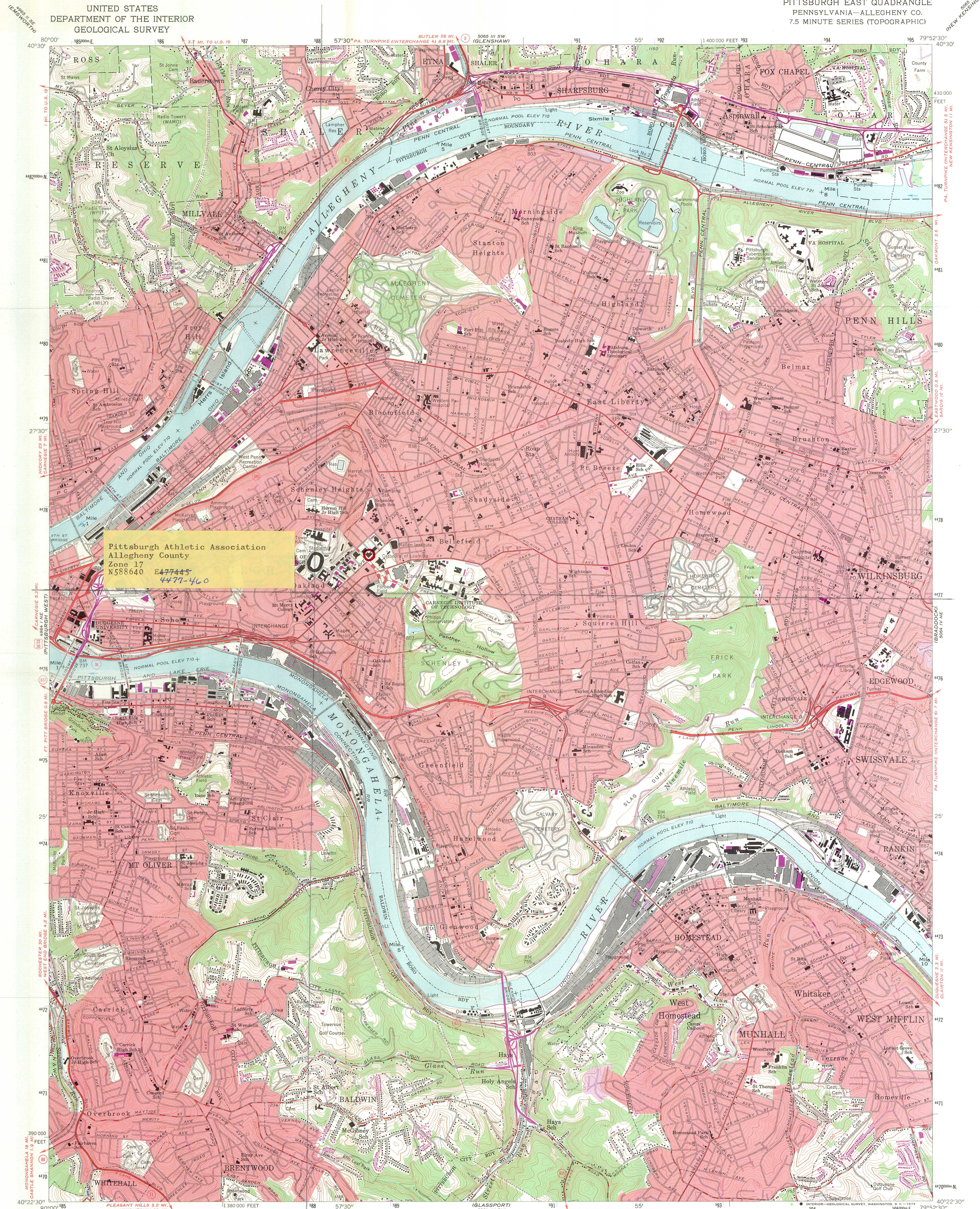
Pitts. Athletic Assoc.

Allegheny Co

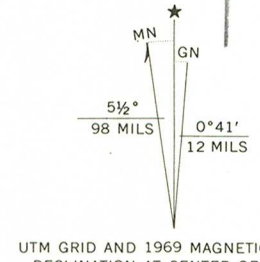
Pittsburgh Athletic Association
Allegheny County
PD: 1977 DEC 15 1978 OCT 23 1978
PC: Pgh. History & Landmarks Assoc
PV: view of front and side
elevation from Fifth Ave.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PITTSBURGH EAST QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA—ALLEGHENY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and the City of Pittsburgh
Topography by planetable surveys 1925-1941, and 1948
Culture revised by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959. Field check 1960
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1969. This information not
field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route
PITTSBURGH EAST, PA.
N4022.5—W7952.5/7.5
1960
PHOTOREVISED 1969
AMS 5064 IV NW—SERIES V831
RECEIVED OCT 23 1970
NATIONAL REGISTER

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered DEC 15 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Weaver, Henry, Farmstead	Terre Hill vicinity Lancaster County
Williams, John, Farm	Phoenixville vicinity Chester County
Sullivan County Courthouse	Laporte Sullivan County
Pittsburgh Athletic Association Building	Pittsburgh Allegheny County
Lawrence County Courthouse	New Castle Lawrence County
Land Title Building	Philadelphia Philadelphia County
Allegheny Baptist Church (Free Methodist Church)	Pleasantville Venango County
Jones, B.F., Memorial Library	Aliquippa Beaver County
Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf	Philadelphia Philadelphia County

Also Notified

Honorable H. John Heinz, III	
Honorable Richard S. Schweiker	State Historic Preservation Officer
Honorable Robert S. Walker	Mr. Ed Weintraub
Honorable Richard T. Schulze	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Honorable Daniel J. Flood	Commission
Honorable William S. Moorhead	P.O. Box 1026
Honorable Eugene V. Atkinson	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
Honorable William H. Gary, III	
Honorable William F. Clinger, Jr.	
Honorable Raymond F. Lederer	

NR Byers/bjr 1/19/79

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Pittsburgh Athletic Association Building
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: DEC 15 1978
 ④ county code: 003

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 4215 5th Ave.
 city / town: Pittsburgh
 vicinity of:
 state: PA
 county: Allegheny
 ⑥ NPS REGION: NE

⑦ OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 14
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☐ STATE ☐ FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES, NAME ☐ NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE
☐ LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION
☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair
☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed
☐ unexcavated
☐ altered
☐ unaltered
☐ reconstructed
☐ excavated
☐ original site
☐ moved
☐ unknown
 ⑰ features:
 INTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1
☐ NOT INTACT-0
☐ UNKNOWN-4
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2
☐ NOT INTACT-0
☐ UNKNOWN-5
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
☐ NOT INTACT-0
☐ UNKNOWN-6
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO
 ⑳ SAVED? ☐ YES
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1
☐ AGRICULTURE-3
☐ ARCHITECTURE-4
☐ ART-5
☐ COMMERCE-6
☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7
☐ CONSERVATION-8
☐ ECONOMICS-9
☐ EDUCATION-10
☐ ENGINEERING-11
☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26
☐ EXPLORATION-12
☐ HEALTH-27
☐ INDUSTRY-13
☐ INVENTION-14
☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15
☐ LAW-16
☐ LITERATURE-17
☐ MILITARY-18
☐ MUSIC-19
☐ PHILOSOPHY-20
☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21
☐ RELIGION-22
☐ SCIENCE-23
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24
☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30
☐ TRANSPORTATION-25
☐ RECREATION-28
☐ SETTLEMENT-29
☐ URBAN PLANNING-31
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain
 'first' ☐
 'oldest' ☐
 'only' ☐

㉔ functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 ㉕ dates of initial construction:
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):
 ㉘ architect:
 ㉙ master builder:
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉜ interior decorator:
 ㉝ artist:
 ㉞ artisan:
 ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP