

**NOMINATION OF THE TROY HILL FIRE HOUSE
TO BE DESIGNATED AS A CITY HISTORIC LANDMARK**

CITY COUNCIL REPORT



TROY HILL FIRE HOUSE - HISTORIC NOMINATION STAFF REPORT

Name of Property Troy Hill Fire House
Address of Property 1800 Ley Street
Property Owner City of Pittsburgh
Nominated by:..... Matthew Falcone
Date Received:..... January 18, 2022
Parcel No.: 48-N-10
Ward:..... 24th
Zoning Classification:..... R1D-H
Neighborhood:..... Troy Hill
Council District:..... 1 - Wilson

FORMAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE HISTORIC REVIEW COMMISSION:

1. Act on the Preliminary Determination of Eligibility for Historic Designation (2 February 2022)
2. Conduct a public hearing for the Historic Designation (2 March 2022)
3. Review the Report prepared by staff for the property in question, and make a recommendation to the City Council on the Historic Designation (2 March 2022)

FORMAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION:

4. Conduct a public hearing for the Historic Designation (3 May 2022)
5. Review the recommendations of the Historic Review Commission and make a recommendation to the City Council on the Historic Designation (3 May 2022)

FORMAL ACTION REQUIRED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:

6. Conduct a public hearing within 120 days of the Planning Commission vote (31 August 2022).
7. Review the recommendations of the Historic Review Commission and the City Planning Commission and take action on the Historic Designation

FACTS

1. On 18 January 2022 , the staff of the Historic Review Commission received an application for the nomination of the Troy Hill Fire House to be designated as a City Historic Structure.
2. **Description of Troy Hill Fire House**(as *extracted from the nomination form*)

Sited at 1800 Ley Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15212 (Parcel ID 0048-N-00010-0000-00), the subject building is a two-story brick structure, formerly a fire house and now used for civil service, constructed in the Beaux Arts style with Romanesque influences. It is a fine example of civic Beaux Arts style architecture done in a vernacular, localized interpretation.

The building rests on a rusticated stone foundation, and is capped with a flat parapet roof of black asphalt. The exterior is composed of white-yellow brick on the façade (southeast elevation) and sides (northeast and southwest elevations), native to the region and particularly popular with the German immigrant communities of the North Side and hilltop neighborhoods, while the rear (northwest elevation) of the structure is composed of red brick in the English bond style. The fenestration is marked by arched windows on the street-facing elevations (southeast and southwest), and the ground floor façade (southeast elevation) features large arched openings for a paired set of carriage doors, which have since been partially filled in and replaced with standard metal garage doors. The first and second floors are visually separated by a three-part Classical style entablature in glazed terra-cotta on the façade (southeast elevation), while the southwest elevation facing Froman Street is far more simplified. The façade (southeast elevation) ground floor is also marked by horizontal brickwork patterning that mirrors the marble or stone rustication often found in larger, more high style Beaux Arts buildings, showing a charming vernacular interpretation, although again, this does not repeat on the southwest Froman Street face. The decorative brickwork continues up the central column of the façade (southeast elevation), acting as a squared almost Italianate-esque tower, suggestive of a bell tower. A deep-set cornice visually marks the second story from the roofline and parapet on the façade (southeast elevation), with simplified but attractive escutcheons in brick acting as bracketing, while a restrained three-part stepped brick beltline serves as visual cornice for the southwest elevation. A corbeled brick chimney pierces the roofline on the southwest side towards the rear of the structure.

3. **History of the Troy Hill Fire House**(as *extracted from the nomination form*)

Summary Overview

Its isolated nature set high upon the hill overlooking the lower Spring Garden and Deutschtown neighborhoods, provides quick evidence as to why a firehouse was needed in this neighborhood early in its development. Response time in the era of horse-drawn wagon were too slow, aggravated by the steep Ravine Street (later renamed Rialto) and Troy Hill Road and Spring Garden Avenue, both of which also have steep inclines. Furthermore, Hopkins maps from the time period as well as photographs illustrate that many of the early dwellings were constructed of frame, and often were adjoining or very close to each other. This, combined with the use of wood and coal stoves, is why Troy Hill citizens placed high priority on establishing a fire department within their community as it started to develop.

Site History – Pre-Construction

The plot where the Troy Hill Fire House would later stand first appears as a lot on the 1872 Hopkins map of Allegheny City (7th Ward). At this time, the lot appears as an uneven quadrilateral at the intersection of Canal (now Froman) and Lowrie (now Ley) Streets, near the northeastern most edge of the City of Allegheny. It is shown as belonging to an Ehrenberg (although the adjoining plate for the 8th Ward labels it as “Eberhart”, and appears to have a brick structured located at the rear of the lot (northwest).

No further information could be found on an Ehrenberg, but as this seems to be a mistake in transcription, this is not surprising. Eberhart (variously spelled in sources as both Eberhart and Eberhardt), on the other hand, was a

well-known name in the vicinity as part of the establishing pair that formed Eberhart and Ober Brewery (now Penn Brewery). Conrad Eberhart arrived in Allegheny City in 1848 with his son William, from Alsace-Lorraine (now France). Conrad began a brewery operation in Allegheny City in 1850, after first operating a tavern on Ohio Street and briefly operating as a grocer (“History of Old Allegheny,” 1941). The 1856 Thurston Pittsburgh directory lists Conrad Eberhart as a brewer operating at Ohio Street and Chestnut Street (although this seems to be a mistake as the 1872 Hopkins map as well as other sources verify the brewery was located at the intersection of Vinial Street and Troy Hill Road). William, Conrad’s son, and brother-in-law John Peter Ober purchased the Conrad Eberhart Brewery after Conrad retired in 1870, and renamed it the Eberhart and Ober Brewing Company (“History of Old Allegheny, 1941). William Eberhart is thus likely the Eberhart owner of the fire house lot on the 1872 Hopkins map.

P. and S. Dornberger both own lots adjacent to the property, with P. Dornberger owning the large lot directly northeast. This is worth noting as the 1882 Hopkins map of Allegheny City shows that the lot has now been combined with several smaller lots to form a more traditional corner lot, and appears to be one of a string of lots along Forest (now Froman) Street owned by P. Dornberger. It does, appear, however, that a rectangular brick structure, more forward-facing on the lot than that shown on the 1872 lot, now occupies the corner.

A compiled history of the Allegheny City Fire Department records that the first fire house for the neighborhood was constructed on this lot circa-1873 (History of the Allegheny City Fire Department, 1894). The Allegheny County deeds office records the lot as being transferred to the City of Allegheny in May of 1873 (Allegheny County Real Estate Website, 2020). According to the Troy Hill neighborhood history available online, “Fire Station No. 39 presently located in the very center of the hill, rests on part of the foundation of an earlier firehouse established in the 1850s.” Although the decade is wrong, it does seem likely that the current structure utilized the original’s foundation and that a more modest brick firehouse occupied the lot before the current structure was built; this is possibly what is being depicted on the 1882 map. A cursory review of the city directories of Pittsburgh and Allegheny City at that time reveal a George Dornberger operating as a butcher at 60 Spring Garden Avenue, and a Mrs. C. Dornberger operating a saloon at 131 Branch Street. The latter entry could quite possibly be one of the frame buildings located on the same lot or could itself be part of the brick structure before the Fire Department owned it outright (Diffenbacher, 1881-2).

Site History – Construction

The 1890 Allegheny City Hopkins map is the first to label the brick building at the corner of Forest and Branch Streets (now Froman and Ley Streets) as “Engine House No. 11.” Likewise, this is the first map that shows evidence that the previous fire house building occupied the same footprint as the current, as it shows a similar slight setback from the street as well as a narrow rear yard. Based upon archival research, it seems likely this was the original Troy Hill Fire Station.

The 1901 Hopkins map for Allegheny City depicts a brick structure occupying the same footprint, but it has been established this is the current building.

Neighborhood History

Troy Hill is the most isolated of Pittsburgh neighborhoods, according to Franklin Toker, and is one of its smallest, at not quite two miles long and a little more than half a mile wide (Yanosko, 7). Originally it was comprised of a densely forested section of the “Reserve Tract” in the late eighteenth century when it was acquired by Captain George Wallace (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”). Following his military service, Wallace was appointed by Benjamin Franklin, in 1788, as the first Common Pleas Court Judge in the newly formed Allegheny County. The following year, Wallace, who was becoming a prominent landholder in the area, purchased Farm #5 (402 acres) in the Reserve Tract, and in 1791 he obtained Farm #6, adding an additional 276 acres to his holdings. These two “farms” were undeveloped land stretching from the present-day East Street valley to the border of Millvale (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”).

These purchases were clearly of a speculative nature in that Wallace, his wife Jane, and their eight children resided at their plantation “Braddock Fields” located at the present site of the Edgar Thomson Works in Braddock (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”). Riverfront property, of greater value than that of the steep hillsides beyond, enabled Wallace to sell 55 acres of land fronting the Allegheny River to Joseph and Margaret

McFerran in 1906 for \$1,214. Following Wallace's death, however, his properties were divided among his children. In 1813, the Court awarded his daughter, Arabella Wallace Beltzhoover, the wife of Daniel Beltzhoover, the remaining Reserve Tract property.

It was in 1789 that a portion of the "Reserve Tract," directly opposite the fledgling city of Pittsburgh, was divided into orderly lots, with the rest of it comprising the new Reserve Township (Yanosko, 7). This settlement was called Allegheny Town (Yanosko, 7). One of the earliest immigrants to Allegheny was Henry Rickenbach, Sr., who originated from the Basel section of Switzerland (Yanosko, 7). He came to Allegheny Town in 1808, and after purchasing a small piece of property near the present location of the

Sixteenth Street bridge, erected a log cabin (Yanosko, 7). Rickenbach would prove to be an important shaper of this side of the Allegheny River's makeup as several years later he traveled home to his native Switzerland and entreated several family members to join him, including Nicholas Voegtly, Sr. (Yanosko, 7). In 1823, the Rickenbach and Voegtly families purchased a substantial piece of property from the estate of James O'Hara for \$8,400, and this area became the center of the business enterprises of the families for years to come (Yanosko, 7).

The Rickenbach and Voegtly families played a very significant part in the development of the easternmost section of Allegheny as well as the communities on Spring Hill, Spring Garden, and Troy Hill. In 1823 the Voegtly and Rickenbach families bought a sizeable piece of property from the estate of James O'Hara.

Fronting on the river and extending far back into the interior, this property became the center of the business enterprises of the families (Troy Hill Citizens, "History,"). These Swiss families were among the first developers of cotton mills in the area. The job markets created by their investments encouraged German-speaking immigrants to settle on or nearby their property. In 1833, these families founded the German United Evangelical Congregation of Allegheny, later razed during the construction of I-279, although it was more colloquially known as the "Voegtly Church," (Yanosko, 7).

It was not long before German-speaking immigrants began to flock to the area, as the industry, language, culture, and religion already established by the Rickenbach and Voegtly families made them feel more at ease in a strange new land. They came primarily from Alsace-Lorraine, Hesse-Darmstadt, Bavaria, Wurtemberg, and Switzerland (Yanosko, 7). The eastern section of Allegheny Town shortly became known as Deutschtown, and the area right below Troy Hill (now called Spring Hill) was first nicknamed "Swiss Hole," (Yanosko, 7). Initially it was slow to see growth, with only a few cemeteries and a handful of shops and houses established within its first few years (Toker, 184-6). The railroad yards and Heinz plant at the base of the hill provided some impetus for settlement, as did the recurring flooding on the bottomlands of the Allegheny (Toker, 184-6). However, within a decade or so after the arrival of the Rickenbachs and Voegtlys the commercial and manufacturing developments along the river, which was being enhanced by the construction of the Pennsylvania Canal system, created a stimulus to population growth (Troy Hill Citizens, "History,").

By the 1840s, the farming neighborhood beyond the original borders of Allegheny Borough was divided and developed into residential sites for working class families. In 1840 with a population over 10,000, Allegheny Borough became Allegheny City (Troy Hill Citizens, "History,"). The economic expansion of the 1840s and 1850s created by employment in cotton factories, meat packing houses, soap and candle making companies, tanneries, and lumber mills greatly contributed to the settlement of the hillsides just beyond the flood plain of the runs and river. During these years the village of "New Troy" began its transformation from a sparsely settled farm community to a neighborhood of working-class families.

Interestingly, as the area was first populated by the Scots-Irish and English common to Southwestern Pennsylvania frontier settlements, the name of New Troy (later changed to Troy Hill) was derived from that of Troy, New York, where its original owner settler, Elizabeth Seymore, hailed from (Toker, 184-6). Although the composition of the neighborhood changed, the original name stuck, and has been used ever since.

One of the many crafts transferred from the Old World to the New World was that of brewing. With the large number of German-speaking families in the outer wards of Allegheny it is not surprising that a number of small family-owned breweries began to operate. Two families, the Eberharts and the Obers were among the

owners of the earliest breweries at the base of Troy Hill and along Spring Garden valley (“History of Old Allegheny City,” 1941). In 1870 John Ober went into partnership with his brother-in-law William Eberhart, a native of Strasburg in Alsace-Lorraine, thus forming the Eberhart and Ober Brewery (“History of Old Allegheny City,” 1941). Both partners lived in stylish residences located on Troy Hill and owned a number of properties in the area (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”). In 1883 Eberhart and Ober absorbed the J.N. Straub and Company Brewery and by so doing became the largest beer-making company in Allegheny (“History of Old Allegheny City,” 1941). In 1899 the Eberhart and Ober Company

affiliated with the Pittsburgh Brewery but the company continued producing lager from their brewery at the corner of Vinial Street and Troy Hill Road (“History of Old Allegheny City,” 1941). Both the Eberhart and Ober families played pivotal roles in civic leadership in Allegheny, often representing Troy Hill on the Common and Select Councils of Allegheny City and by establishing foundations that built public spaces such as Ober Park and Riverview Park (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”). The brewery still stands today and is run by the Pastorius family (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”).

By 1900, the neighborhood had its own trolley run and inclined plane, and reached its peak population of 10,000 inhabitants (Troy Hill Citizens, “History,”). The influence of its primarily German and Eastern European occupants is readily visible in its street names, churches, and rows of tidy late nineteenth century rowhomes that encompass popular styles of the period, primarily Second Empire, Romanesque, and Queen Anne Victorian (Toker, 184-6).

4. Significance of Troy Hill Fire Station *(as extracted from the nomination form)*

The *Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, Title 11, Historic Preservation, Chapter 1: Historic Structures, Districts, Sites and Objects* lists ten criteria, at least one of which must be met for Historic Designation. The nominator is of the opinion that the Troy Hill Fire House meets several of the criteria as follows.

(1) Its exemplification of an architectural type, style, or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship;

This Criterion corresponds with Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). As this resource is the only remaining extant of a series of Italianate/Beaux Arts style fire stations constructed by the City of Allegheny, it exhibits characteristics that meet this Criterion. Characteristic elements of Beaux Arts exemplified in the structure include its use of decorative terra-cotta elements, notably around windows as cornice bands; the consistent theme of arched fenestration and doorways; the use of localized white-blond brick, common to Pittsburgh and particularly to North Side neighborhoods; and the square central tower which exhibits the late influence of Italianate, a style immensely popular in Pittsburgh and environs during the latter half of the nineteenth century. Civic buildings constructed in this style and often with vernacular interpretations such as these were once extremely common but have since become relatively rare, particularly in the City, making this resource unique in its longevity.

(2) Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history of development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid- Atlantic region, or the United States;

This Criterion corresponds with Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). As Joseph Stillburg was once a prolific architect in Pittsburgh, having designed both major commissions such as the Exposition Buildings, as well as many minor commissions, particularly in his home of the North Side, with a notable extant example being the Eberhart and Ober Brewery in addition to this resource. Having been born in Germany, his work exhibits the fine attention to nature-derived detail, often called Art Nouveau, and the highly ornamental styles of Romanesque and Beaux Arts. He was well known both for the quality of his craft and as well as for being the mentor to another notable Pittsburgh architect, Frederick Osterling. As one of only a handful of Stillburg’s work to retain integrity and to remain extant, this resource retains significance for its

association with him.

Joseph Stillburg was born in what was then the Austrian Empire, to Joseph Stillburg, Sr., and Marie Berchschnieder (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,"), He served in the Austrian Army during the Austro-Prussian War in 1866, where he was stationed in Tirste. During this time, he survived a deadly cholera outbreak (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,"). He immigrated to the United States in 1868 and married Amelia Hoenig in 1879. Hoenig was born in Wisconsin in 1856. Her parents were Freiderika Schiller Moeier and Oskur Koenig (the 1860 Census spells their last name as Koenig not Hoenig, likely a mistake in transcription). Her father was born in 1827 and her mother in 1833, both in Saxony (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,"). She had a brother Albert, born in 1859, and a sister Louisa, born in 1853. They lived in a German community in Green Bay, Wisconsin. After marrying, Joseph Stillburg and his wife Amelia had four sons: Joseph, born in October of 1880 and died after less than one year, in October of 1881 (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,"). They had three sons live to adulthood: Frederick Albert, born in 1882, Osker, born in 1885, and Albert James born in 1893.

Of these, both Frederick and Osker became architects like their father; Frederick taught at Carnegie Institute of Technology in the 1920s, and died in 1952; it is speculated he suffered from mental illness later in life (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,"). His brother Osker practiced architecture in Green Bay due to a family disagreement over his choice of wife, and died in 1914 at only 28 years old of pneumonia (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,").

Only Albert chose not to pursue architecture as a profession and instead became an accountant (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,"). He married Mildred Reese and had two daughters, Jean and Nancy (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,").

Joseph Stillburg's work as an architect in Pittsburgh was well-known and highly regarded. He and his wife were lifelong residents of Reserve Township, where he built a fine Shingle Style residence for his family just west of Spring Garden Road (now Avenue), between Beech and Hazlett Avenues.

Somewhat uniquely, this house was spared the wrecking ball during the construction of the Northview Heights public housing development, and still stands at the center of the complex, although much changed, and is now used as the headquarters for Bethany House Ministries. Stillburg completed many commissions for upper North Side and adjacent communities, working primarily in the Classical styles, being particularly adept at Beaux Arts, and was a popular choice for municipal, civic, and educational projects.

Perhaps Stillburg's most well-known work was that of Exposition Hall. The Winter Garden at Exposition Hall was comprised of three buildings, the Main Hall, the Music Hall, and the Machinery Hall. It was originally conceived of a place for social gatherings and a sort of exchange market; the Western Pennsylvania Exposition Society envisioned it as a cross between a county fair and a World's Fair (Januzzi, 1953). The Society was organized in 1885 at the peak of an era where these sorts of nonprofit societies and their accompanying expositions and fairs were quite common. Originally located on the North Side, their first home was called Exposition Park and eventually became home to the Pittsburgh Pirates (until 1909 when Forbes Field was completed). However, the Society quickly outgrew their North Side home and in 1886 Pittsburgh City Council approved the purchase of land at the Point along the Allegheny River for a new facility and site (Januzzi, 1953). Joseph Stillburg acted as architect and designed the Richardson Romanesque and Beaux Arts buildings in a highly ornamental manner (Gudmundsson, "Stillburg Family History,").

During its initial months of opening, it had a daily average attendance of 10,000 and

featured automobile, poultry and trade shows as well as live music by the likes of Victor Herbert and John Philip Sousa (Januzzi, 1953). Outside, a roller coaster, Ferris wheel, and merry-go-round entertained families.

Although its initial years were successful, disaster struck in the form of a fire on St. Patrick's Day, 1901, when winds carried embers from a nearby stable fire. The blaze destroyed the great Main Hall and adjoining buildings, leaving only Machinery Hall as a surviving structure on the six-acre site (Januzzi, 1953). Although it was rebuilt, interest in such expositions was waning, and although the Society tried to remain relevant by booking musical acts, particularly orchestras, by 1916 the Exposition Hall had seen its last great event (Januzzi, 1953). Combined with a severe polio outbreak and the onset of World War I, hosting an exposition that would turn a profit was deemed impossible, and the Society voted in 1919 to give up the remaining 17 years of its 50-year lease from the City (Januzzi, 1953).

The buildings were turned over to municipal use, and the City used them as a union trolley freight station, city garage and machine shop, and as a meeting space for larger meetings and conventions. The buildings were not well maintained during these years and the surrounding site was used for a variety of storage purposes; by 1940 they were in poor shape (Januzzi, 1953). The Music Hall was demolished in 1941, and Machinery Hall was dismantled in 1942 to use the metal for the World War II effort; the Main Hall was the last remaining building until 1951 when the structure was torn down to make way for the 37-acre Point State Park (Januzzi, 1953).

Stillburg also designed the Eberhart and Ober Brewery (known now as the Penn Brewery), the Spring Hill School (in Reserve Township) (Figure 21), and the St. Anthony of Padua Shrine, which is located just north of the Troy Hill Fire House; outside of Pittsburgh, he was also responsible for Administration building at what is now Seton Hill University (it was originally designed for the St. Joseph Academy for Girls). The thread that runs throughout his work is the influence of German and Austrian motifs, particularly evident in his use of decorative brickwork and stonework, and his mastery of using high Classical orders mixed with Art Nouveau and other similar ornamentation styles to create complex, interesting, and Old World-esque facades.

Additionally, Stillburg was well respected as the mentor for Frederick J. Osterling, another German architect who became well known in Pittsburgh and environs, who apprenticed at his office. His influence on Osterling is evident when seen through the lens of Osterling's own highly ornamented styles which often recall Eastern European decorative motifs (such as the Union Trust Building, the Heinz Company factories, the Horace Mann public school, and the Osterling "flats" triplex in Brighton Heights).

(3) Its representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or objects that may or may not be contiguous

This Criterion corresponds with Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Public service and civically-oriented institutions such as police, fire, churches, schools, and cemeteries are often the keystones to a neighborhood's development, and often appear early on in a community's history.

Such is the case with Troy Hill – not long after residents began to settle the small village that would later become absorbed by Allegheny, did fire service become a concern, particularly since the primary building material in those days was frame. Thus, it was not long into Troy Hill's history that the neighborhood gained its own fire station, and it has

remained in that corner, albeit in different forms and with different street names and numbering systems, in the nearly 150 years since. With its location on the central intersection of this otherwise remote neighborhood, it is rare to see a photo of a parade or gathering in Troy Hill that does not feature this resource. It was a key part of the neighborhood's settlement and an important factor in its identity.

The first record of any attempt in Allegheny City to have a fire department can be traced to 1840, when four volunteer companies were organized, each having a hose and carriage and hand engine (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894). There was the Washington, stationed in the old Town Hall (located at the corner of Federal and Ohio Streets); the "Uncle Sam," located on Union Avenue where the U.P. Church now stands; the "William Penn," located at Robinson and Darragh; and the "President," located at the corner of Anderson and Lacock (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894). There was also the "Lafayette," stationed in the then-borough of Manchester, later consolidated into Allegheny City (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894). During these early days, it was common for the Allegheny companies to answer calls in Pittsburgh, and likewise to an extent. In January of 1854, it was resolved to develop a more professionally organized fire department, as the City of Allegheny was rapidly developing. At this point a partial paid department was established and lots were bought to build three fire houses, in the First, Second, and Third Wards, respectively, and to have the house in the Fourth Ward developed to accommodate a family to live there (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894). Eight men would be employed in each of the four wards, and would be supplemented with volunteers. This system was continued until 1864, with a paid and formally organized department established in 1869. At the time of its creation, the formal paid department consisted of "Hope" Engine Co. No. 1, "General Grant" Engine Co.

No. 2, "Friendship" Engine Co. No. 3, "Ellsworth" Hose Co. No. 4, "Good Will" Hose Co. No. 5, and "Columbia" Hose and Hook and Ladder Co. No. 6 (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894).

In 1872 both the Chief of the paid fire department and the Fire Committee recommended the establishment of a hose company on Troy Hill (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894). As per recommendation, in 1874 a new hose and ladder company was established and assigned to duty in Troy Hill in the Seventh ward (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894). A compiled history of the Allegheny Fire Department, published in 1894, shows the only known photo of the first Troy Hill fire house. Interestingly, it occupied a near identical footprint to the current one, and while not quite as tall, features the same arched double doors, arched windows, and square bell tower that the current one exhibited/s (History of the Allegheny Fire Department, 1894) (Figure 7).

Much of the impetus for establishing and maintaining a well-trained and well-appointed system of fire stations and apparatus came from the Chief of the Allegheny Fire Department, James E. Crow, who organized the first paid fire department in 1870 and oversaw its maintenance and expansion into areas such as Troy Hill ("History of Old Allegheny City," 1941). He continued to serve for twenty years, until his death in July of 1891, from an illness contracted while performing rescue work during the disastrous Johnstown Flood of 1889 ("History of Old Allegheny City," 1941). A new chief, John K. Hunter, took command in 1893 and sought to improve and expand upon the work of Chief Crow. During his tenure, a decision to replace the aging structure at Troy Hill with a new station No. 11, was undertaken in 1901.

In 1907, following Allegheny's absorption into Pittsburgh, the official name was changed to Fire Company No. 51 ("History of Old Allegheny City," 1941). A later renumbering resulted in the present No. 39 designation (Fuoco, 2005).

In the mid-1990s Troy Hill firefighter Donald Dorsey, along with his colleagues

throughout the City, led a campaign for constructing a memorial to firefighters who sacrificed their very lives in the line of duty. The Western Pennsylvania Firefighters Memorial, located in Voeghtly Cemetery in Troy Hill, was dedicated on September 2, 1995 (Fuoco, 2005).

The fire station continued to serve its purpose until 2005, at which point the decision was made by the City to consolidate with other neighboring fire stations, as population and demographics as well as tighter budgets made it difficult to maintain the station. At its closure point, it was the oldest extant fire station structure in the City (Fuoco, 2005).

- (4) Its unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh

As mentioned previously, this resource embodies the civic side of Troy Hill, and its location at the heart of the neighborhood has allowed to serve as a central gathering space and important community institution in all of its years of service. It is a point of pride for the neighborhood, and the small commercial core at Ley and Lowrie would not be the same without its sturdy edifice.

5. Integrity

The Troy Hill Fire House / Engine Co. No. 11/39 enjoys a high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. The Troy Hill Fire House / Engine Co. No. 11/39 remains in its original location and has not been substantially altered since it was constructed other than the removal of its cupola and balustrade and replacement vinyl windows and metal garage bay doors.

6. Photos



Photo 1: 1800 Ley Street, Troy Hill Fire House, Facing Northwest. Amanda Stander, 2020.

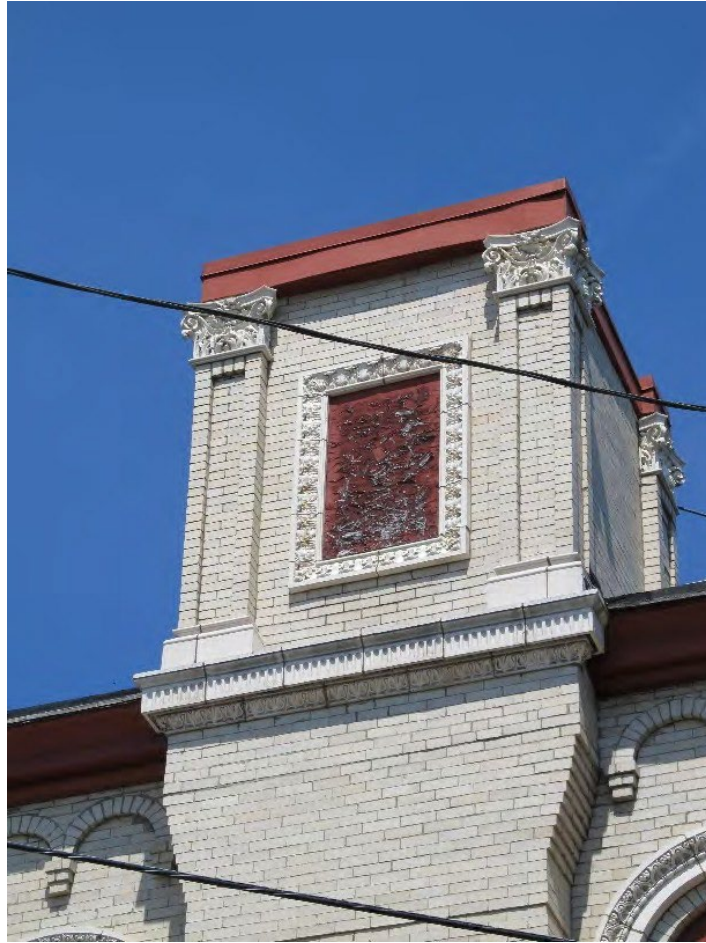
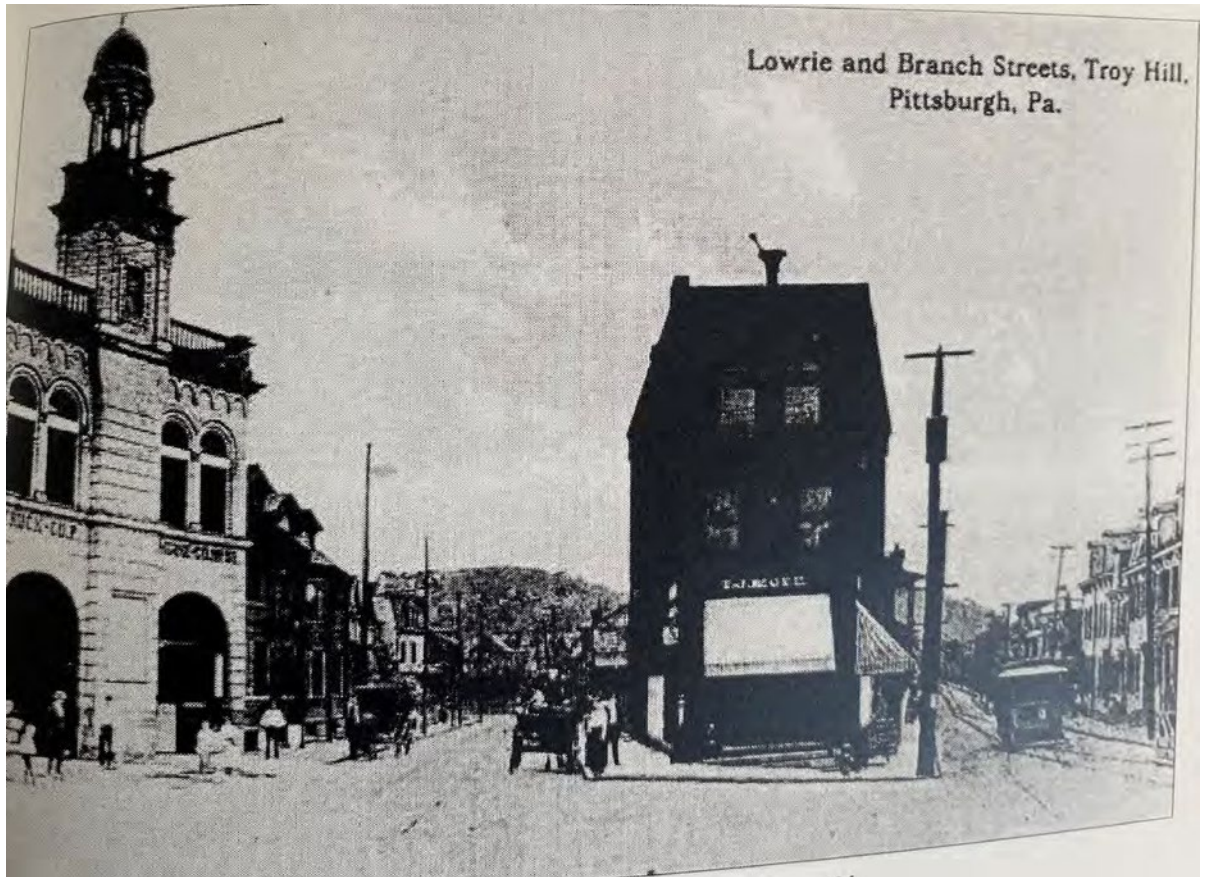


Photo 2: Italiante-style tower (modified). AmandaStander, 2020.

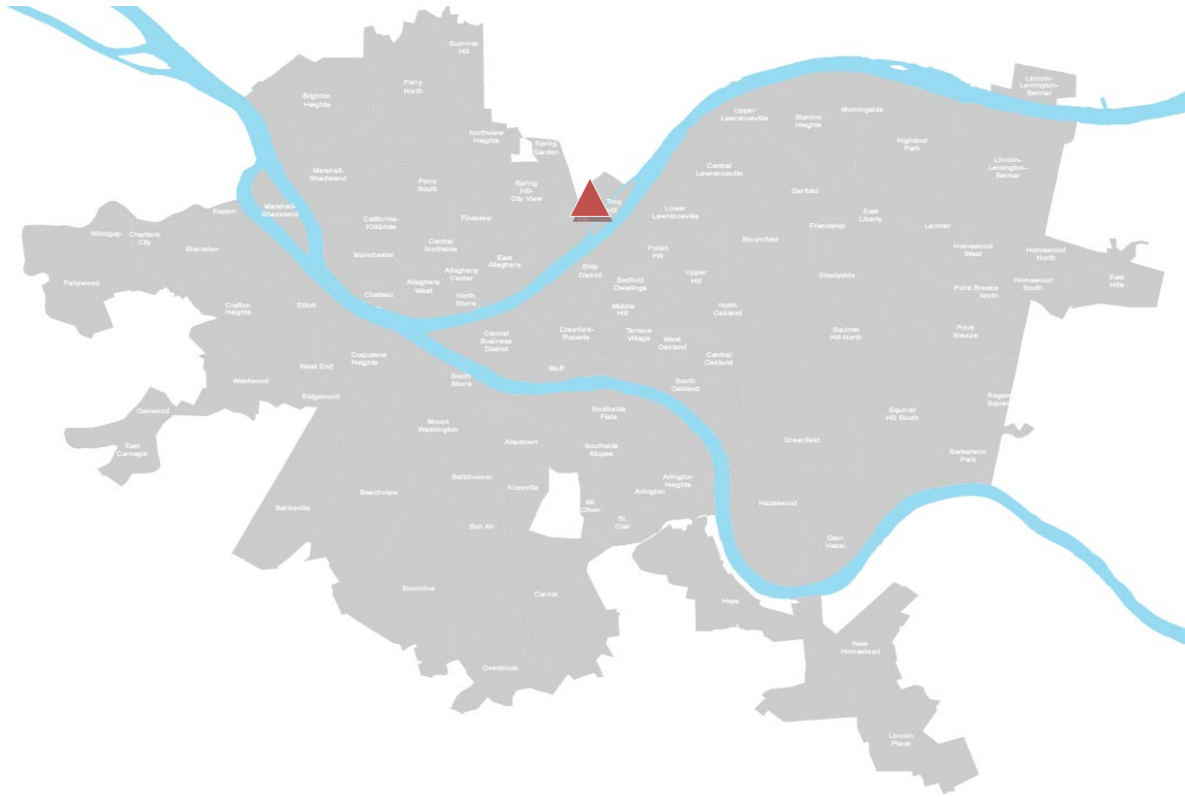


Photo 3: Southwest (Froman Street) elevation. Amanda Stander, 2020



An early view of the fire house. Note the postcard calls it "Lowrie and Branch Streets," before the naming conventions of old Allegheny City were renamed to Ley and Lowrie. Photo courtesy of Footprints of Troy Hill.

7. Maps





Site
Location

G.M. Hopkins Map of Allegheny City, Plate #, Ward 7, 1872. Note the original street names of Lowrie (Ley) and Canal (Froman).



Site Location

1925 G.M. Hopkins Map, showing the renumbered (No. 59) fire station after consolidation with the City of Pittsburgh. Note also the street names have been changed to their current iteration, Ley and Froman.

8. Recommendation of the Historic Review Commission

The Historic Review Commission held a public hearing regarding the designation of the Troy Hill Fire House. On 2 March 2022 the Commission voted to recommend to City Council that it designate the Troy Hill Fire House as historic

9. Recommendation of the City Planning Commission

The City Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the designation of the Troy Hill Fire House. On 3 May 2022 the Commission voted to recommend to City Council that it designate the Troy Hill Fire House as historic.

10. Meeting Minutes

HRC MINUTES – 2 FEBRUARY 2022 – PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION HEARING

Pittsburgh HRC –February 2, 2021 Troy Hill Firehouse 1800 Ley Street Historic Nomination

Owner: City of Pittsburgh

Ward: 24th

Lot and Block: 48-N-10

Nominator: Matthew Falcone

Council District: 1

Nominations Received: 1/18/22

National Register Status: Listed: Eligible:

Proposed Changes: Nomination for historic designation.

Discussion: 1. Ms. Quinn gives a short presentation on the property. She states that the nominator found that the property is significant under Criterion 3, exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, Criterion 4, identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States, Criterion 9, representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or objects that may or may not be contiguous, and Criterion 10, unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh. She states that the property retains integrity and recommends that the Commission provide a determination of positive viability.

2. Ms. Aguirre notes that they don't generally take public comment for the determination of viability. She asks for comments and questions from Commissioners.

3. Ms. Loysen asks if there are any plans to restore some of the historic elements of the façade.

4. Mr. Falcone states that it is a good question, as some of the alterations caused some lack of integrity in terms of architecture. He states that there is a good opportunity for reconstruction, although some of the original elements like the columns and dome would be much harder to reconstruct.

5. Ms. Loysen states that it reminds her of some of the unfortunate alterations done to the schools.

6. Mr. Hill states that the intention is to sell it, so hopefully a developer with deeper pockets than the city will be able to undertake a restoration.

7. Ms. Aguirre states that it is still great to see it nominated, and hopefully that will allow a developer to take advantage of tax credits while still having the history preserved.

8. The Commission discusses the nomination.

Motion: 1. Mr. Snipe moves to provide a determination of positive viability based on Criteria 3, 4, 9, and 10.

2. Ms. Loysen seconds.

3. Ms. Aguirre asks for a vote; all are in favor and motion carries.

HRC MINUTES – 2 MARCH 2022 - RECOMMENDATION

Pittsburgh HRC –March 2, 2022 Troy Hill Firehouse 1800 Ley Street Historic Nomination

Owner: City of Pittsburgh

Ward: 24th

Lot and Block: 48-N-10

Nominator: Matthew Falcone

Council District: 1

Nominations Received: 1/18/22

National Register Status: Listed: Eligible:

Proposed Changes: Nomination for historic designation.

Discussion: 1. Ms. Quinn gives a short presentation on the property. She states that the nominator found that the property is significant under Criterion 3, exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship, Criterion 4, identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States, Criterion 9, representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or objects that may or may not be contiguous, and Criterion 10, unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh. She states that the property retains integrity and recommends that the Commission provide a determination of positive viability.

2. Ms. Aguirre asks for public comment; there is none. She reads for the record a letter of support that was received.

3. Ms. Quinn mentions that Councilman Bobby Wilson's office was a big supporter of the nomination.

4. Mr. Falcone also thanks the neighborhood group, Troy Hill Citizens, for their support.

5. The Commission discusses the nomination.

Motion: 1. Mr. Green moves to provide a positive recommendation to City Council based on Criteria 3, 4, 9, and 10.

2. Ms. Loysen seconds.

3. Ms. Aguirre asks for a vote; all are in favor and motion carries.

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES –3 MAY 2022 - RECOMMENDATION

C. Development Reviews (See Attachment C for staff reports)

Hearing and Action

1. DCP-HN-2021-00821 – 1800 Ley Street

Historic Nomination for the for the Troy Hill Fire House.

Troy Hill Neighborhood

Ms. Quinn made presentation in accordance with the attached staff report.

There being no comments from the Public, the Vice Chairwoman called for questions and comments from the Commissioners.

There being no comments from the Commissioners, the Vice Chairwoman called for the Motion.

MOTION:

That the Planning Commission of the City of Pittsburgh provides a positive recommendation to City Council for the nomination of .DCP-HN-2021-00821 1800 Ley Street for the Troy Hill Fire House for listing as a City-designated historic site.

MOVED BY: Ms. Dick SECONDED BY: Ms. Askey

IN FAVOR: Dick, Burton-Faulk, Askey, Deitrick, O'Neill, Brown, Blackwell

RECUSED:

OPPOSED:

ABSTAINED:

MOTION CARRIED