

Restoring Pride and Community through History: A Plan for the Revitalization of Uptown Harrisburg's Distressed Camp Curtin Neighborhood

Jeremy Ryan Young
Millersville University of Pennsylvania
The Harrisburg Internship Semester (THIS) Program
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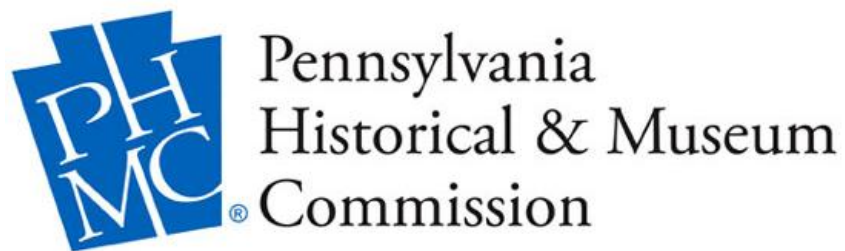
Submitted to:

Dr. Michael E. Greenberg
THIS Resident Faculty Director
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
Dixon University Center

and

Director Jean H. Cutler
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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ABSTRACT

Restoring Pride and Community through History: A Plan for the Revitalization of Uptown Harrisburg's Distressed Camp Curtin Neighborhood

In this report, the author explores the foundations of a neighborhood in the uptown area of the City of Harrisburg and analyzes the many difficult challenges it faces today. Like many other parts of the capital city, this area, known as Camp Curtin, has been suffering from the destructive effects of decades of disinvestment, white flight and deindustrialization. Today, Camp Curtin is widely considered the second-most distressed neighborhood in Harrisburg and is faced with immense challenges including severe crime, blight, poverty, unemployment, and high rates of housing unit vacancy.

Using History as a Foundation for Community Pride and Neighborhood Revitalization

While Camp Curtin may face more pressing challenges than other parts of the City of Harrisburg, it has one characteristic which may help it to bounce back faster than other neighborhoods: it has a very strong and unique history which has the potential to reestablish the community's sense of place and unite the residents and workforce in pride behind a common historical theme. Camp Curtin, prior to becoming a residential area and a part of the City of Harrisburg in the 1880s, was the site of the Union Army's largest training ground during the American Civil War, between 1861 and 1865. The camp, which also served as a major transportation and supply depot as it was situated adjacent to major rail lines, played an integral role in the U.S. victory over the Confederacy and ultimately contributed to the preservation of a nation and the provision of freedom for all Americans.

In *Restoring Pride and Hope through History*, the author also revisits the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, an economic development plan for the uptown area which was drafted in 2001 by a coalition of community leaders but was never implemented. The needs and challenges which face Camp Curtin and the uptown area are very much the same today as they were over a decade ago; however, some of the needs and strategies proposed in the 2001 report have been reassessed and some have been dismissed altogether. Additional strategies, some which take innovative approaches and follow recent trends in planning, have also been recommended by the author.

A critical first step has been realized through the reassessment of the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*: before any economic development activity may occur in the Uptown area, the spirits of the residents who live there must be uplifted and pride must be fostered in the community.

Proposed Strategies

Several new strategies which have been proposed for the Camp Curtin community in this report include: rebuilding a strong and diverse community coalition similar to the one which existed at the time of the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, reestablishing Camp Curtin's identity and sense of place, and helping residents to understand the historical significance of where they live through the help of street light banners and street sign toppers; educating the people who live and work in the community, especially the community's youth, through history programs that teach and promote the area's strong Civil War heritage; advocating for safer streets through a push for increased police presence and by strengthening already-existing neighborhood crime watch programs; promoting the preservation and rehabilitation of existing historic housing stock and anchor buildings; beautifying the streetscape and landscape in the neighborhood by planting trees; and promoting neighborly interaction, community health and beautification through the implementation of urban agriculture and community gardens.

INTRODUCTION

The Industrialization of Harrisburg and an Era of Tremendous Growth

At the turn of the twentieth century, industrialization and the multitude of job opportunities that it produced resulted in a mass migration of Americans from the countryside to the nation's urban areas. The capital city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, like many of the industrial cities of the North, was a magnet for rural migrants and saw its population increase substantially in the half century following the American Civil War.

Bisected by the mighty Pennsylvania Railroad, Harrisburg became a significant transportation hub for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Northeastern United States due to its location at a crossroads between major cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, and Washington and Pittsburgh. Its location on major rail lines made it the ideal location for one of the Union Army's most significant military supply depots and hospitals during the Civil War as well as the single largest Union Army training ground in the North, known as Camp Curtin. Aided by the railroads during the decades following the war, the city's industry quickly boasted steel mills, blast furnaces, machinery plants, and cotton and textile factories.¹ While not as strong as its larger counterparts in the state such as Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, it still shined as a symbol of Pennsylvania's industrial might and economic growth for much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The city's steady population increase during its industrial heyday, noted in U.S. Census records, certainly reflected such growth. In the decade 1900-1910 alone, the capital city's population increased by over 14,000, from 50,167 to 64,187.² The population continued to grow

¹ Gerald G. Eggert, *Harrisburg Industrializes: The Coming of Factories to an American Community*. (University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1993).

² United States Department of the Interior, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form*. "Camp Curtin Fire Station, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania." (Harrisburg, PA: PHMC, 1981), 4.

nearly every decade until just after the Second World War, when it peaked at nearly 90,000 in 1950.³

Perhaps the largest amount of growth in the first decade of the twentieth century occurred in the newly-annexed region of the city which became known as the Tenth Ward. This sector extends to this day from Maclay Street in the south to Division Street in the north and from the Susquehanna River on the west to Cameron Street in the east. Created from land annexed by the City of Harrisburg from Susquehanna Township in 1895, the Tenth Ward quickly became known as "Uptown" and was the site of one of the largest housing booms in the city's history. During this time, the Uptown area, especially along the North Sixth Street corridor which was connected by electric streetcar service as early as 1891, became one of the most sought-after working-class residential areas in the city. Indeed, its own population saw an overwhelming increase from 1,906 persons at the time of the 1900 census to 5,173 persons just a decade later. The greater than 3,000 person population increase in the Tenth Ward contributed to as much as twenty-five percent of the entire citywide population increase during the first decade of the twentieth century.⁴

Very early on, the Uptown area was home to a large railroad and factory worker population. The adjacent Pennsylvania Railroad lines made the area an ideal location for railroaders to reside, and several blocks of homes stretching from Herr Street, south of Maclay Street, north to Curtin Street, were specifically built to provide housing for them between the years 1870-1910. Pockets of dwellings also appeared rather organically, albeit in a grid-like pattern, prior to the City of Harrisburg's annexation of what would become the Tenth Ward. These homes were constructed in the area of Fifth and Woodbine Streets in 1884 in what was

³ Thomas R. Deans Associates, *Harrisburg Historic Site Survey*. (Milton, PA: Thomas R. Dean Associates, 1980), 15.

⁴ United States Department of the Interior, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form*. "Camp Curtin Fire Station, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania." (Harrisburg, PA: PHMC, 1981), 4.

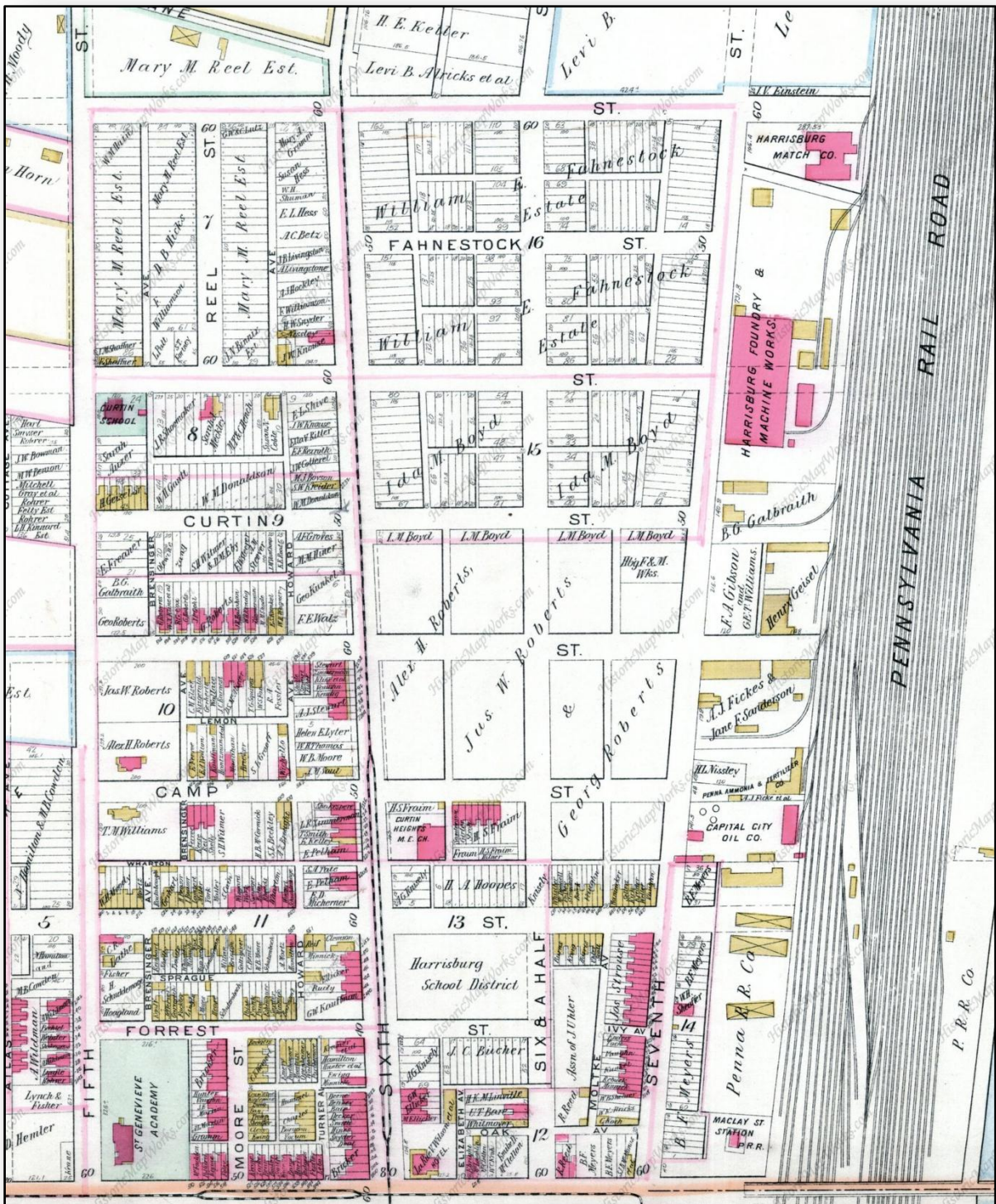


Fig. 1. 1901 map illustrating the development of the Camp Curtin area to date. The dense residential development between Fifth and Sixth Streets from Maclay Street to Curtin Street was originally known as Schuद्धemageville and dates to the 1880s. The area immediately adjacent to the Pennsylvania Railroad lines was heavily industrial. (Map courtesy of Historicmapworks.com. "Plate T - Part of 10th Ward, City of Harrisburg," 1901.)

referred to in its early days at Schuylkill, and in a new community named "Curtin Heights" which was adjacently laid out in 1889 from Fifth to Seventh Streets and from Woodbine to Curtin Streets. The housing boom in Uptown Harrisburg continued to about 1920. A real estate sign visible in a 1917 photo of newly constructed townhouses in the 2500 block of North Sixth Street calls the dwellings "good well built home[s] with all modern improvements...the cheapest good new houses ever offered in this city."⁵

On Sacred Ground: the Camp Curtin Neighborhood

Prior to the northward movement of urbanization that swallowed large tracts of rural land north of what is now Maclay Street beginning in the 1870s, much of the eastern portion of what is now considered Uptown Harrisburg belonged to the Dauphin County Agricultural Society and was the site of their fairgrounds. This site existed from approximately what is now North Fifth Street to North Seventh Street and from Maclay Street (originally called Asylum Road, as the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital was nearby) northward to Reels Lane. Ridge Road, so called as it was the highest elevation positioned between the Susquehanna River to the west and the Paxton Creek to the east, provided access to the site through a central gate. Following the urbanization of the area, Ridge Road became known as North Sixth Street.

During the fateful month of April 1861 when the Southern states seceded from the Union and Fort Sumter was bombarded by Confederate forces, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 troops to put down the rebellion and preserve the Union. Pennsylvania, under the leadership of Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, became the first state to respond. On April 18, 1861, officers from the Pennsylvania militia took control of the Dauphin County Agricultural Fairgrounds and set up a Camp of Rendezvous which they very quickly named

⁵ "George C. Frifmer Residence, 2526 N. Sixth St., 1917," Photograph, Historical Society of Dauphin County, PA.

"Camp Curtin," after the Governor. In its four-plus years of service, over 300,000 Union troops passed through its gates. Its proximity to four major Northern railroads and quick access to Washington, D.C. and the Federal Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, made it the most strategic location for a supply depot and an ideal place for a military hospital and POW quartering during the war.⁶

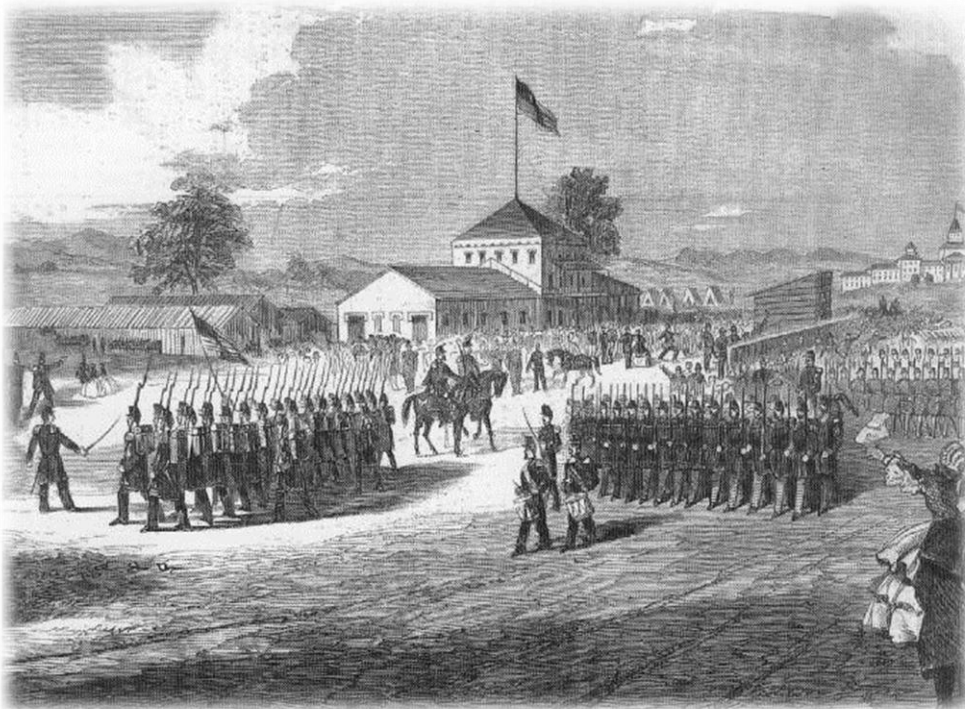


Fig. 2. "Camp Curtin, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. A rendezvous of the Pennsylvania Volunteers." (Published in *Harper's Weekly*, September 1862.)

The historic Camp Curtin site was absorbed by the spread of urbanization in the post-Civil War years, but it was surely not forgotten. A Methodist church constructed on the northeast corner of Woodbine and North Sixth Streets was the first to memorialize the site in 1890 with the name "Camp Curtin Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church". In fact, the church was the first in the United States to memorialize a Civil War site. Shortly thereafter, the Camp Curtin School and the Camp Curtin Fire Company followed suit, in turn taking their names from

⁶ William J. Miller, *Civil War City: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1861-1865*. (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing Company, Inc., 1990), V.

the famed site. It wasn't until 1917 that an official State-sponsored memorial would move forward.⁷ That year, the Commonwealth purchased a plot one hundred feet square to construct a memorial to Camp Curtin, featuring a statue of wartime Governor Andrew Curtin and several plaques, including one which reads, "In memory of the more than 300,000 soldiers of the Civil War, the flower of the Nation's youth and the maturity of her manhood, who passed into and out of this camp to the field of battle; A United Nation enjoys the fruit of their victory for Liberty and Union."⁸ This site, called Camp Curtin Memorial Park upon its dedication in 1922, remains the smallest state-owned park in the United States and is still maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.⁹ It has been marked by a state historical marker since 1992.

Deindustrialization, Suburbanization, Population Decline and Urban Decay

Though Harrisburg's population swelled to its greatest extent in its history by the middle of the twentieth century, peaking at 90,000, the city by this time had entered a period of rapid population decline and job loss as a result of deindustrialization and suburbanization. Following the Second World War, like many other "Rust Belt" cities throughout the northeastern and north central United States, Harrisburg quickly began to deteriorate after many of its factories began to cease operations and middle- and working-class families began to leave the city en masse for the new suburbs in neighboring Susquehanna Township, Paxton Township, and other nearby municipalities. By 2010, the population of the City of Harrisburg had dwindled to just over

⁷ William J. Miller, *Civil War City: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1861-1865*. (Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing Company, Inc., 1990), V.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

49,000.¹⁰ This represents a forty-six percent (46%) decrease, or almost half of the city's population lost, in just half a century.

The extreme loss of population over approximately the last sixty years has resulted in a sharp increase in the number of vacant properties throughout the City of Harrisburg and a greatly decreased tax base. Additionally, the City of Harrisburg is in a rather unique conundrum in comparison to similarly-sized cities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as it is the seat of state government and is the location of the headquarters of hundreds of non-profit organizations and advocacy groups which represent various special interests. The city's shrinking tax base has resulted in reduced services, such as police and fire protection for its citizens, and an infrastructure which is crumbling and in desperate need of repair.

Particular areas of the city, such as the Camp Curtin neighborhood, for instance, have suffered more than other areas and as a result have experienced a higher rate of decay over the last several decades. Camp Curtin, once the home of many working-class railroad and industrial workers and their families, began to lose population as these workers sought jobs in other places after the gradual decline of railroad operations and other factory work along the former Pennsylvania Railroad lines and the once-bustling North Seventh Street corridor in proximity to Maclay Street.

As population, jobs, and essential city services quickly diminished in the years following the Second World War, so too did the overall quality of life in the Camp Curtin neighborhood as crime and poverty rapidly increased. As blight, crime, unemployment and property vacancy swept over the uptown area of the city, it seemed that a cloud of despair began to hang over

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. American FactFinder 2. "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: Harrisburg City, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, 2000." http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=DEC_00_SF1_DP1&prodType=table.

the Camp Curtin neighborhood. It remains in this state today, and the mere passage of time seems to exacerbate the neighborhood's plight.

Once a place of great pride and hope where armies trained for battle to keep a nation united, and once a thriving and vibrant community where generations of Harrisburgers chose to raise their families, the Camp Curtin neighborhood exists today as a haven for crime, fear, and desperation. The development of an up-to-date, comprehensive revitalization strategy deeply rooted in historic preservation, community engagement and private-public partnerships may help to foster this area's rebirth and bring forth positive change.

BACKGROUND

Camp Curtin's Challenges, Past and Present

In 1980, in an effort to document the city's historic resources, the City of Harrisburg commissioned the Harrisburg Historic Sites Survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine whether or not particular neighborhoods in the city, categorized as zones, were eligible for historic district designation according to the standards of the National Register of Historic Places and the U.S. Department of the Interior. Among the zones identified as having historic district potential was one that occupied a large portion of Uptown and contained a majority of the Camp Curtin neighborhood. At the time of the survey, it was apparent that much of the urban fabric was still intact in this zone and that a large percentage of the area's historic Victorian-era and early 20th century housing stock still remained.

In addition to the goal of recording the city's historic resources and identifying potential historic districts, the Harrisburg Historic Sites Survey Report was also intended to have additional consequences. The report suggested that "[the survey] should be a useful planning

tool for the City of Harrisburg as it develops preservation programs and practices to deal with unusually intact 19th and early 20th Century streetscapes, many of them located in low income and declining neighborhoods.”¹¹

The firm Thomas R. Deans Associates, of Milton, PA, which undertook the study of the uptown area, ultimately concluded, however, that while some parts of the area had historic district potential, overall the area had lost too much of its historical integrity to be eligible for such a designation. Regardless, their survey work today serves as a treasure trove of information about the gradual decay of the neighborhood over the decades.

Many of the observations that the Deans surveyors made during their study of the area help to paint a clear picture of the Camp Curtin neighborhood as it existed in 1980: approximately thirty years after the neighborhood’s decline, and thirty years prior to present-day. Neighborhood attributes which negatively impacted Camp Curtin’s historic district eligibility in 1980 included:

- The “traditional rhythm of the streetscape is often disturbed” due to demolition of buildings and the resulting vacant lots between them
- “Greenery...noticeably missing along the major thoroughfares...”
- “Street amenities are limited.”
- “...Few street furnishings and many areas are littered with trash.”
- “Paving...often cracked and crumbling.”
- “...Dominated by widespread deterioration and abandonment of buildings.”
- “...High vacancy rate...area’s greatest threat to stability.”¹²

Sadly, today, over three decades later, the Camp Curtin neighborhood remains in very much the same condition as it did when the Historic Sites Survey was undertaken, if not worse.

¹¹ “Zone 5,” Thomas R. Deans Associates, *Harrisburg Historic Site Survey*. (Milton, PA: Thomas R. Deans Associates, 1980), 1-3.

¹² *Ibid* (all bullet points).



Fig. 3. Aerial photograph of the Camp Curtin neighborhood during its prime in 1937. Neighborhood is outlined in red. Note the density of the built environment during this time and the abundance of street trees. *Photograph courtesy of pennpilot.psu.edu.*



Fig. 4. Modern-day aerial photograph of the Camp Curtin neighborhood. Neighborhood is outlined in red. Note that a majority of the green space visible is the location of former dwellings and other structures, which have been demolished in recent decades due to deterioration and abandonment. *Photograph courtesy of Bing Maps, 2009.*

Continued demolition in the Camp Curtin neighborhood since the Historic Sites Survey of 1980 has resulted in further interruption of the neighborhood's "traditional rhythm," even to the point where an entire city block or portions thereof have been demolished. Today, one particular block, the 2300 block of North Sixth Street, a place where a dozen families once had their homes, is essentially now a grass-covered lot littered with trash.

Several analyses have been conducted by the author in order to better understand the challenges currently facing the Camp Curtin community. These analyses, primarily demographic in their focus, were conducted using geographic information systems (GIS) software. Demographic-type census data were made available by the U.S. Census Bureau and property owner data were provided by the County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania.

The Camp Curtin neighborhood, for the purpose of this report, is bound by Maclay Street, Schuylkill Street, North Fifth Street and North Seventh Street. This geographic area is comprised of approximately 1,042 parcels of land. Of these 1,042 parcels, approximately 250, or twenty-five percent (25%) of these are currently vacant lots. Approximately 111, or nearly half, of vacant lot parcels have been seized by or transferred to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Harrisburg in recent decades. An overwhelming majority of such parcels once contained structures which have since been demolished, leaving holes in the urban fabric or "missing teeth" in the streetscape.

Demographic analyses conducted on the Camp Curtin neighborhood revealed the locations of high housing unit vacancy and pockets of low population per census block, respectively. Maps produced as a result of these analyses can be viewed on the following two pages (see Fig. 5 and Fig. 6).

UPTOWN HARRISBURG - CAMP CURTIN

NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

2010 U.S. CENSUS: VACANT HOUSING UNITS

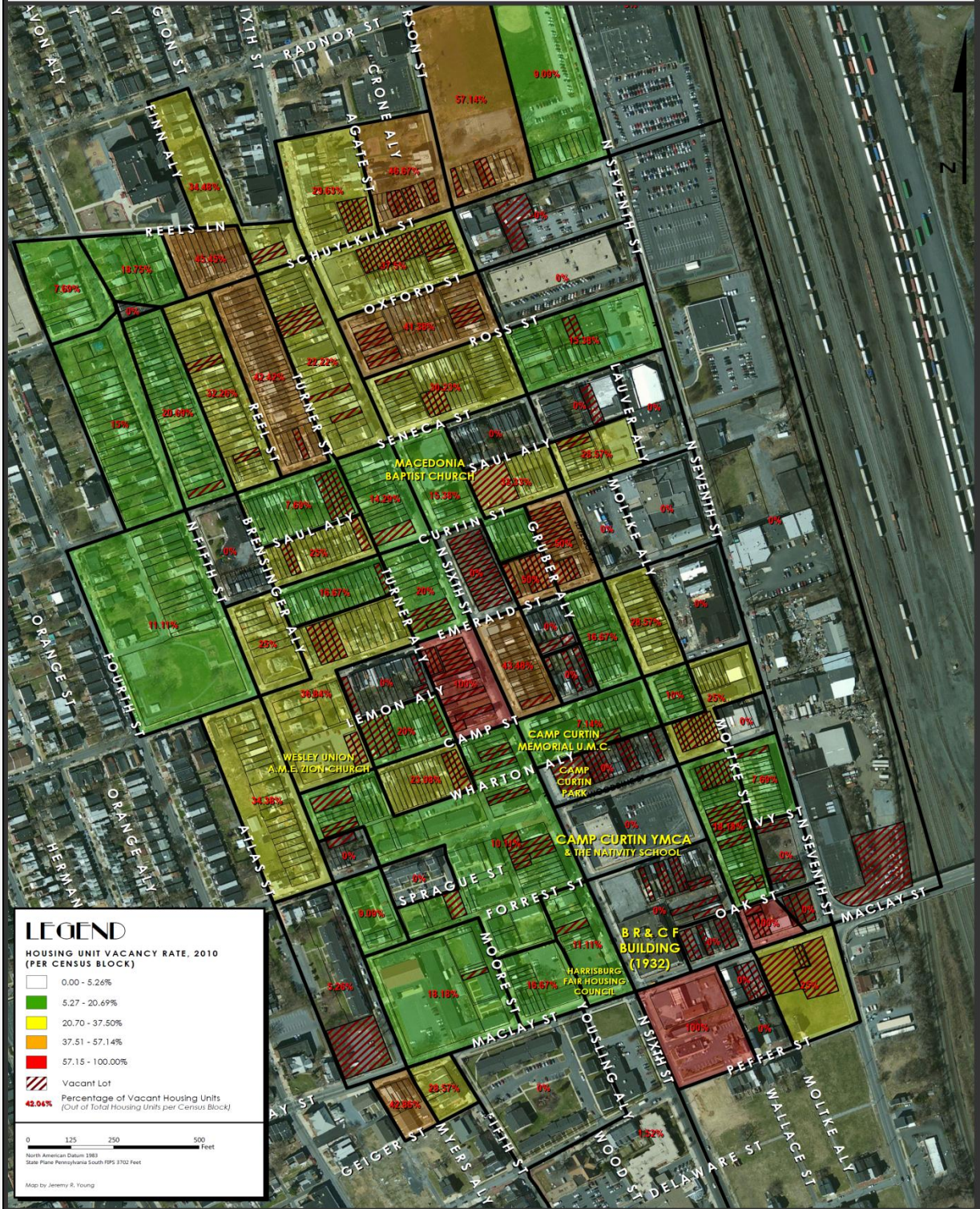


Fig. 5. Map of the Camp Curtin neighborhood illustrating rates of housing unit vacancy per U.S. Census block in 2010. Areas in red are most severe, followed by orange, yellow and green. Areas with no color represent blocks with zero housing unit vacancy. *Map and analysis by author.*

UPTOWN HARRISBURG - CAMP CURTIN

NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

2010 U.S. CENSUS: POPULATION PER CENSUS BLOCK

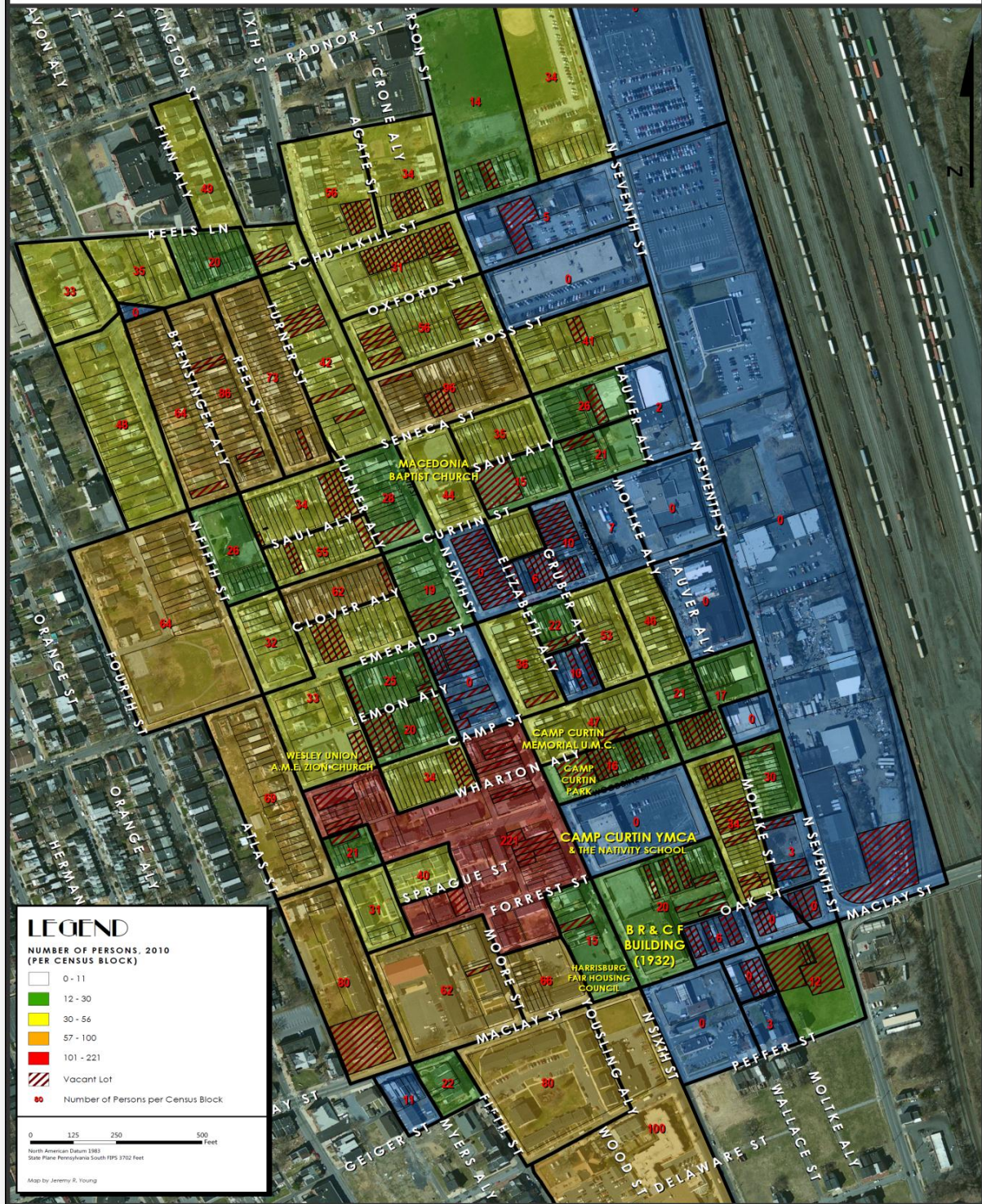


Fig. 6. Map of the Camp Curtin neighborhood illustrating population per U.S. Census block in 2010. Areas in red have the highest population values, followed by orange, yellow and green. Areas colored blue represent blocks with zero population. Note that most of these blocks, along the Seventh Street corridor, are not residential but rather industrial areas. *Map and analysis by author.*

In addition to having large concentrations of low to null population and high rates of housing unit vacancy, it appears that the Camp Curtin neighborhood also has an alarming percentage of renter-occupied lots or parcels. An analysis of parcel data for the Camp Curtin neighborhood revealed that of 1,042 parcels, approximately 707 or sixty-eight percent (68%) of parcels were not owner-occupied in 2012. In other words, approximately less than a third of all parcels in the Camp Curtin neighborhood were occupied by persons who own their own homes. See Fig. 11, page 29, for a map illustrating the locations of renter- and owner-occupied parcels.

A Plan Never Realized: the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* (2001)



Fig. 7. *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania* (2001).

In response to over thirty years of disinvestment, decline and a growing outcry from residents and business owners in the neighborhoods of uptown Harrisburg, a community coalition was created in 2000 with the purpose of drafting a plan to begin the gradual process of revitalizing the area.

The community coalition charged with drafting a revitalization strategy was led by two separate community development corporations, the Wesley Union Community Development

Corporation (WUCDC), administered by the Reverend Jimmy Allen Thomas, Terri R. Wilson and Pamela Thompson of the Wesley Union African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (2219 N. Fifth Street); and the New Hamilton Community Development Corporation (NHCDC), administered by Jacqueline Phillips-Martinez of the New Hamilton Drug Treatment Center (2705 N. Fifth Street).

The City of Harrisburg's Department of Building and Housing Development was the third key player and catalyst for the plan, and was represented by Daniel Leppo and Christopher Wonders. Community support and participation was also secured from residents Evelyn Johnson, Patricia Burns, Luz Giboyeaux, and Colleen Edwards; Waypoint Bank, represented by Ronald Guss; Homeland Center, represented by Executive Director Barry Ramper and former Executive Director Tama Carey; Loveship, Inc., represented by the Honorable Councilwoman Linda D. Thompson (now Mayor of the City of Harrisburg); the Harrisburg Fair Housing Council, represented by Melvin Johnson; and the Neighborhood Center, represented by Jairee Counterman. Input was also made by Mark Stewart, Esq.; Carlton Ketchen of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development; and Christopher Markley of Pinnacle Health Systems.¹³

In addition to the support from the aforementioned individuals, funding for the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* was made possible by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development; the Pennsylvania Community Revitalization Program supported by the Honorable Rep. Ronald I. Buxton, of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; the City of Harrisburg; Pinnacle Health Systems; Allfirst Bank; Fulton Bank; Waypoint Bank; the Greater Harrisburg Foundation; and the Interdenominational Ministers

¹³ Urban Research and Development Corporation (for the Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy Executive Committee). *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*, December 2001, ii.

Conference of Greater Harrisburg.¹⁴ The Urban Research and Development Corporation, of Bethlehem, PA, was hired as a consultant to prepare the study and assist with all necessary research.

The focus area for the study, which was approved, published and released in December 2001, included an area extending north to south from Division Street to Reily Street, and extending east to west from North Seventh Street to North Third Street (see Fig 8, next page).

To assess the needs of the community during this time, the full support of private and public stakeholders, including residents, business owners, neighborhood not-for-profit organizations, public officials, and key neighborhood institutions was secured. Meetings of an Executive Advisory Committee were held monthly and public meetings were attended by concerned members of the community over several months' time. In addition, surveys and questionnaires were frequently used to gather input from ordinary citizens regarding their opinions on the current challenges the uptown area faced as well as what people viewed as positive assets and attributes.

Throughout the study period, the various public meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee were guided by a five-step process which focused on: **(1) "Conditions, Concerns & Assets"; (2) "Vision & Goals"; (3) "Concept Opportunities & Solutions"; (4) "Recommendations"; and (5) "Actions."**¹⁵

The *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, when completed, contained five sections, including:

¹⁴ Urban Research and Development Corporation (for the Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy Executive Committee). *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*, December 2001, i.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 1.



Fig. 8. Focus area of the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* is depicted here, outlined in red. The Camp Curtin neighborhood is also shown highlighted in yellow. *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, p. 2.

- (1) An introductory component briefly outlined the benefits of a neighborhood revitalization strategy and provided background information on the study process and partners involved.¹⁶
- (2) **“Neighborhood Goals and Functions”** outlined ten specific goals that summarized the community’s aspirations. Goals and functions were developed after reviewing surveys, public opinion polls, and minutes from public meetings. These included:
- Developing leaders in the community and building neighborhood pride
 - Focusing on community housing needs, including maintenance and rehabilitation of existing housing stock and providing housing choices for all types of residents
 - Making the neighborhood safe and secure
 - Beautifying the area and improving the area’s image
 - Attracting new jobs and retaining existing community businesses
 - Strengthening community institutions, including schools and churches and improving recreational areas such as parks
 - Stimulating private investment for the rehabilitation of existing commercial buildings and the development of new structures.¹⁷

The creation of nine “functional areas” was also suggested in this section of the plan.

These areas, intended to serve a specific purpose in the uptown community, included:

- “Primary Residential Preservation and Rehabilitation Areas”
- “Primary Residential Expansion and/or New Development Areas”
- “Convenient Services Center”
- “Education & Recreation Complex”
- “Health Care, Institutional & Related Uses”
- “Business & Manufacturing Technology Park”
- “Light Industrial Corridor”
- “Large Site Commercial Corridor”

¹⁶ Urban Research and Development Corporation (for the Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy Executive Committee). *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*, December 2001, 1.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 4.

- “Traffic-Oriented Commercial”¹⁸

(3) **“Key Reinvestment Areas and Projects”** outlined seven distinct reinvestment/opportunity areas within the uptown area. Most, if not all, of these areas were the sites of vacant and/or underutilized land. Additionally, a majority of these sites were identified south of Maclay Street and north of Reily Street, where vast spans of open space existed (and still exist today) following demolition during the Urban Renewal era of the 1960s-70s.¹⁹ (See Fig. 6, below, for the areas where reinvestment was proposed.)



Fig. 9. “Opportunity Areas,” *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, p. 7.

¹⁸ Urban Research and Development Corporation (for the Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy Executive Committee). *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*, December 2001, 4.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 7-14.

(4) "Overall Actions" outlined ten specific steps recommended for implementation, and viewed as necessary to move forward with the proposed goals and functions and development of the identified key reinvestment areas. The actions included:

- "Organization for Uptown Action," which called for the creation of a private, non-profit corporation, or "Uptown Action Commission (UAC)," to manage the implementation of the goals and functions outlined in the previous section. This corporation was to be complemented by a citizen's advisory board and a separate, non-profit finance organization. The non-profit organization, as it was recommended, could be led by an Executive Board comprised of representatives from various different neighborhood institutions, as well as an Executive Director and a small staff. The organization would have been responsible for overseeing financing, neighborhood programs, housing, streetscape improvements, community promotion, and other functions.²⁰ The creation of a UAC was considered to be the crucial first step which needed to be taken before any other steps could be effectively taken.

Additional strategies were also developed and outlined in this section, which focused on the following:

- "Communication"
- "Housing"
- "Safety and Security"
- "Education and Training"
- "Image and Appearance"
- "Transportation and Parking"
- "Economic Opportunity"
- "Land and Building Use"

²⁰ Urban Research and Development Corporation (for the Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy Executive Committee). *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*, December 2001, 15.

- “Financing and Funding”

(5) “**Action Program**” summarized and outlined the implementation strategies described in the previous section. This last section of the plan also outlined specific and priority tasks to be completed during the first year following the plan’s official release in December 2001.

Progress on Hold

After the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* was released in December 2001, it seemed that real progress was underway for the first time in decades in the uptown area of the City of Harrisburg. Sadly, however, progress seemed to stall very shortly thereafter. Though the reasons for putting progress on hold have never officially gone public, it is generally believed that internal turmoil within the community development corporations (CDCs) leading the charge for revitalization contributed to the dissolution of the coalition. Ironically, it seems that the coalition responsible for the 2001 action strategy did not follow one of its own recommendations: “Without a concentrated organization, necessary projects can be overlooked, vital initiatives can be stalled, precious human and financial resources can be wasted, and the overall vision of the future Uptown can be forgotten.”²¹ As such, a decade later, even the notion of progress in Uptown seems to have ceased altogether.

Once believed to be the plan that would save the Uptown community, the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* now merely gathers dust, and Uptown continues to decline at a rapid pace. Making matters worse, there is a lack of strong leadership today in the uptown area; the type of leadership which existed in 2000 at the time of the last revitalization effort and which is necessary for a revamped effort.

²¹ Urban Research and Development Corporation (for the Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy Executive Committee). *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*, December 2001, 15.

The next section of this report will outline the necessary next steps which must be taken to "jump start" the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, or a similar strategy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Utilize, but Update, the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*

Due to the cost of producing the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* in 2001 and the current financial difficulties plaguing the Uptown area today, it is recommended that any future revitalization efforts in the uptown area consult the 2001 study and take advantage of the research that was already completed a decade ago. While it is likely that some parts of the study may no longer apply today, most of the 2001 plan still remains relevant and the plan has the potential to serve as a model for a redesigned strategy in the future. Utilizing the existing action strategy is perhaps one of the most cost-effective strategies which could be implemented in jump starting an uptown revitalization effort.

It is also recommended that parts of the 2001 plan be removed that are no longer relevant today and that additional strategies, especially those which follow recent trends in urban planning, be considered. Minimal funding may need to be secured at the start to fund a new survey of the area to assess the area's current needs and challenges.

(2) Reduce the Size of the Revitalization Focus Area

While overall the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* remains a model plan for revitalizing the uptown area, the author believes that the focus area of the 2001 plan is too large and contains too many dissimilar neighborhoods. For example, the southern portion of the

2001 plan's focus area extends from Maclay Street southward to Reily Street. This area has experienced widespread demolition since the 1960s and more resembles a barren landscape than a neighborhood. The area directly north of it, extending from Maclay Street northward to Division Street, is still mostly intact with a few exceptions. When neighborhoods are too dissimilar as are the two said areas, it becomes difficult for the people who live in these areas to see that they are part of the same community and that they share a common bond.

It is recommended that in a modified plan, new focus areas are developed which share many common attributes. An example of a reduced focus area is provided hereafter, and centers on strictly the Camp Curtin neighborhood (see Fig. 10, p. 27). The built environment in the Camp Curtin neighborhood, though blighted and containing many "missing teeth" (vacant lots, or holes in the landscape), is still very much intact in comparison to its southern neighbor which extends from Maclay Street to Reily Street. Additionally, the neighborhood also already has a name-Camp Curtin-and a deep heritage rooted in Civil War history. Such deep historical roots may make it easy for residents to rally around a common neighborhood (and historical) theme and help to provide the neighborhood with an identity.

UPTOWN HARRISBURG - CAMP CURTIN

FOCUS AREA FOR REVITALIZATION (2012) BOUNDARY APPROXIMATE

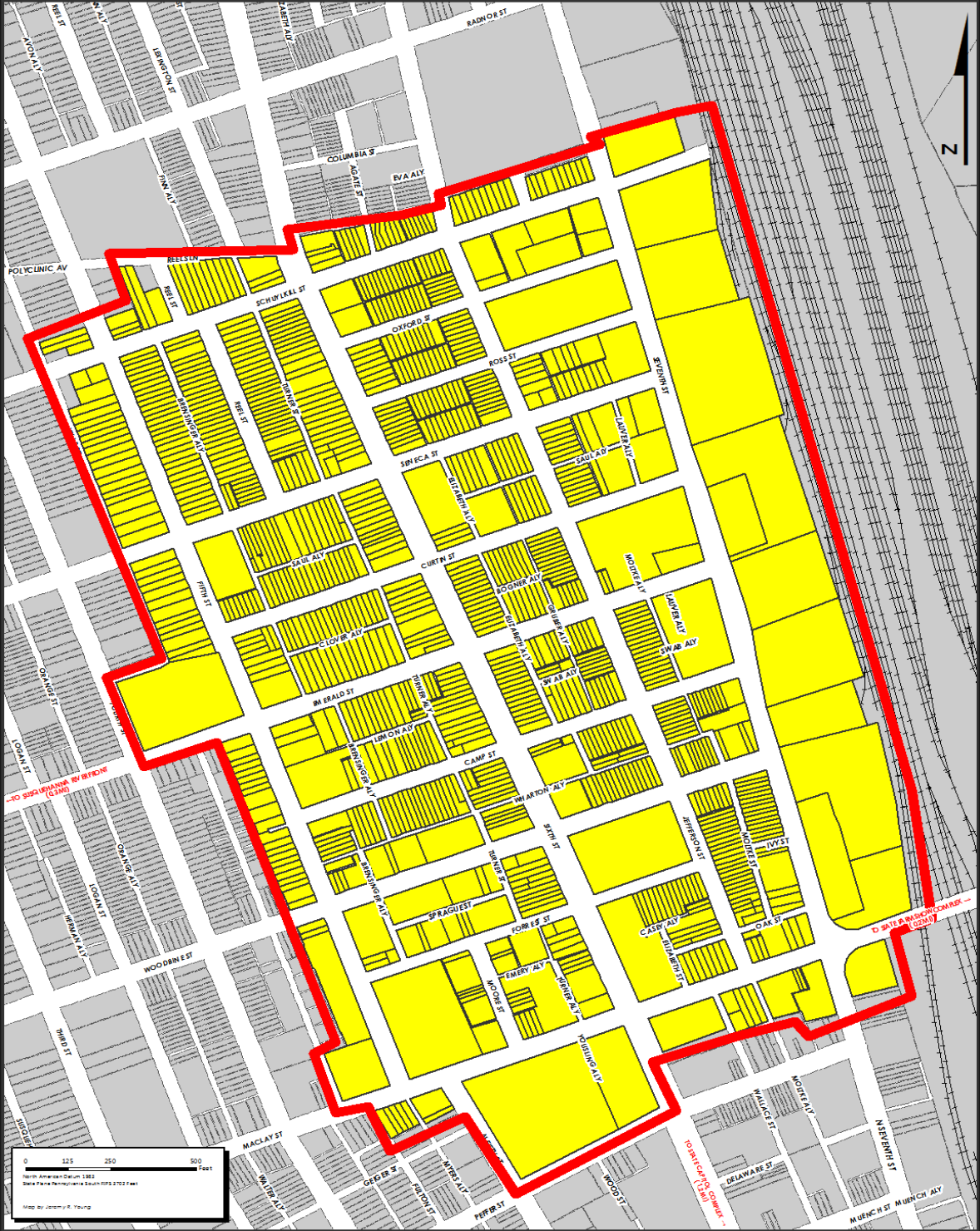


Fig. 10. Reduced focus area for revitalization based on the author's recommendations. This area represents the approximate area of the former Civil War-era Camp Curtin, and covers approximately 80 acres. *Map by author.*

(3) Resurrect/Rebuild a Community Coalition

After reducing the size of the focus areas for revitalization, it is important to immediately identify all neighborhood institutions currently making a positive impact within that neighborhood or its close proximity. These institutions, such as schools, churches, medical facilities, community centers, may be able to provide leadership from within their ranks to help lead a new community coalition. Fig. 11 on page 29 illustrates the following non-profit organizations currently making a positive impact in the Camp Curtin community:

- Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church
- Camp Curtin YMCA
- The Nativity School of Harrisburg
- Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church
- Wesley Union African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
- Green Urban Initiative
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Harrisburg
- Harrisburg Fair Housing Council

In addition to the above non-profit organizations currently engaged in the community, the following private, for-profit corporations have invested dollars in the Camp Curtin neighborhood and/or have future plans for contributing to redevelopment in the community:

- Landex Corporation
- Vartan Group, Inc.

Since many of the non-profit organizations listed above do not have strong financial power, it may be effective to reach out to major institutions within close proximity to Camp Curtin, such as Pinnacle Health Systems or Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) to become lead players in community engagement efforts.

UPTOWN HARRISBURG - CAMP CURTIN FOCUS AREA FOR REVITALIZATION (2012)

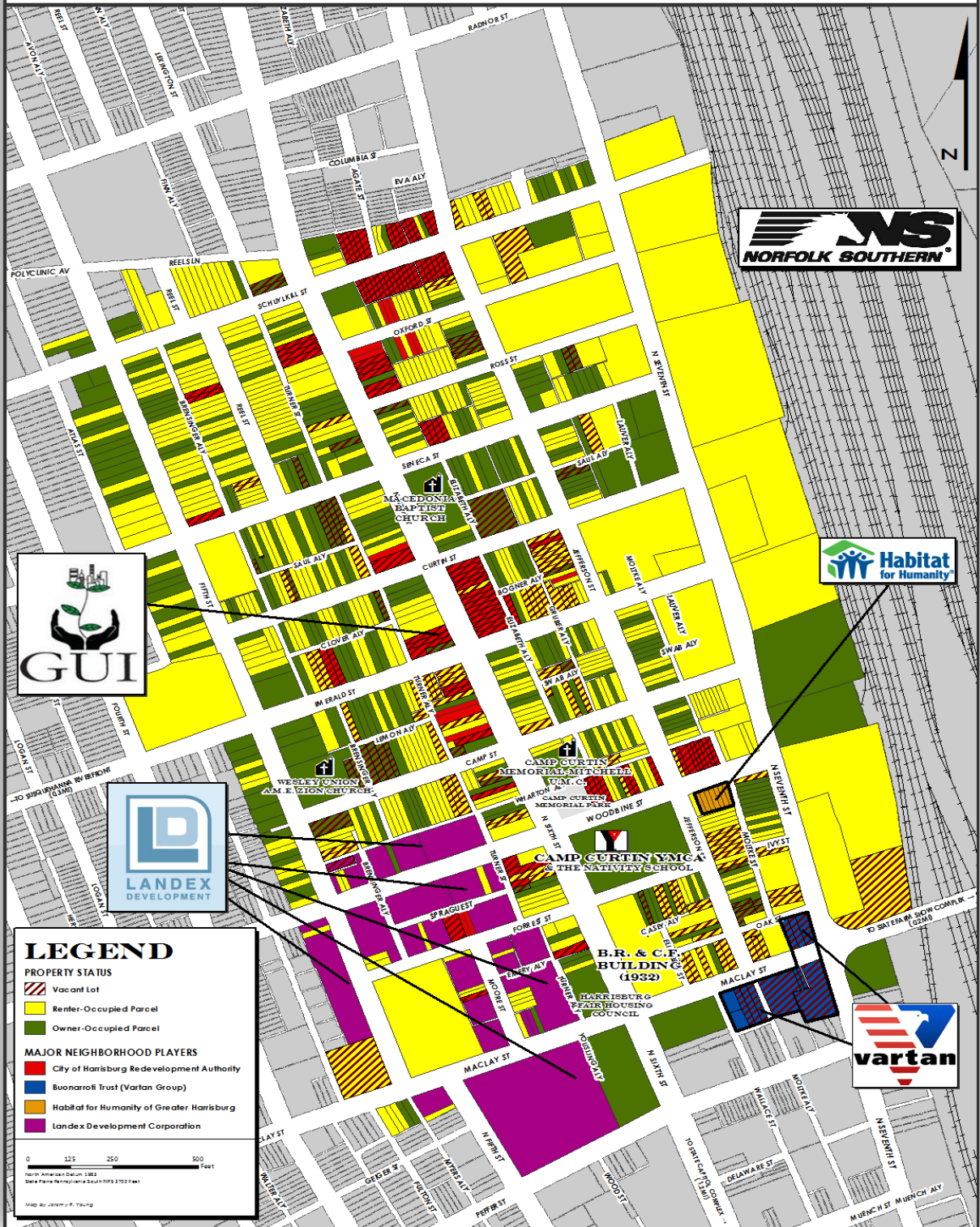


Fig. 11. Map identifying the major neighborhood players in the Camp Curtin area to date (April 2012). The map also identifies vacant lots (with red hashes) and owner-occupied parcels (colored green). *Map by author.*

(4) Foster Neighborhood Pride through Identity Banners and Street Sign Toppers

At the same time that community partnerships are being reconnected and a shared commitment to bringing forth positive change is developed, work must be undertaken to inspire the people who live and work in Camp Curtin and to foster pride and hope within the community there. This is a critical first step after identifying the appropriate focus area for revitalization and securing community leaders.

In an effort to facilitate neighborhood pride in the Camp Curtin neighborhood, the author has developed a concept for a street light pole "identity" banner which can be used to help promote a common neighborhood theme and help all community members, visitors and persons passing through to recognize the historical significance of the Camp Curtin neighborhood. The identity banners may help community members to realize that they live and/or work in an important place—a place worth preserving and maintaining. For high visibility, light pole banners may be installed on all traditional-style lampposts along the major North Sixth Street corridor as well as on PPL Electric utility poles and cobra-head style light poles marking the boundaries of the former Civil War camp on Maclay Street, Schuylkill Street N. Fifth Street and N. Seventh Street.

In addition to light pole banners, it is recommended that signs identifying the Camp Curtin historical site be installed atop street signs at all major intersections throughout the former Civil War site and along the former site's boundaries. These may help to reinforce the idea that the Camp Curtin neighborhood is an important and historic place.

Models for the light pole "identity" banners and street sign toppers are printed on the pages 31-34, as well as the locations of proposed installations. Funding may be secured for

these by local community foundations, for example, but it is important that members of the community invest at least a small amount of money in a project such as this; otherwise, there will be no community ownership of the installations and the banners and signs may become susceptible to vandalism or theft-especially in a high-crime area such as Camp Curtin.



Fig. 12, Fig. 13. These graphics illustrate what Camp Curtin identity banners would look like installed on light poles on the North Sixth Street corridor, near the Camp Curtin YMCA/The Nativity School of Harrisburg and the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church. *Photographs and graphics by author.*

WELCOME TO

Historic
CAMP
CURTIN
NEIGHBORHOOD



UNION ARMY
TRAINING GROUND



AMERICAN
CIVIL WAR

1861 - 1865

Fig. 14. "Welcome to Camp Curtin" Street Light Pole Identity Banner Concept. *Design by author.*

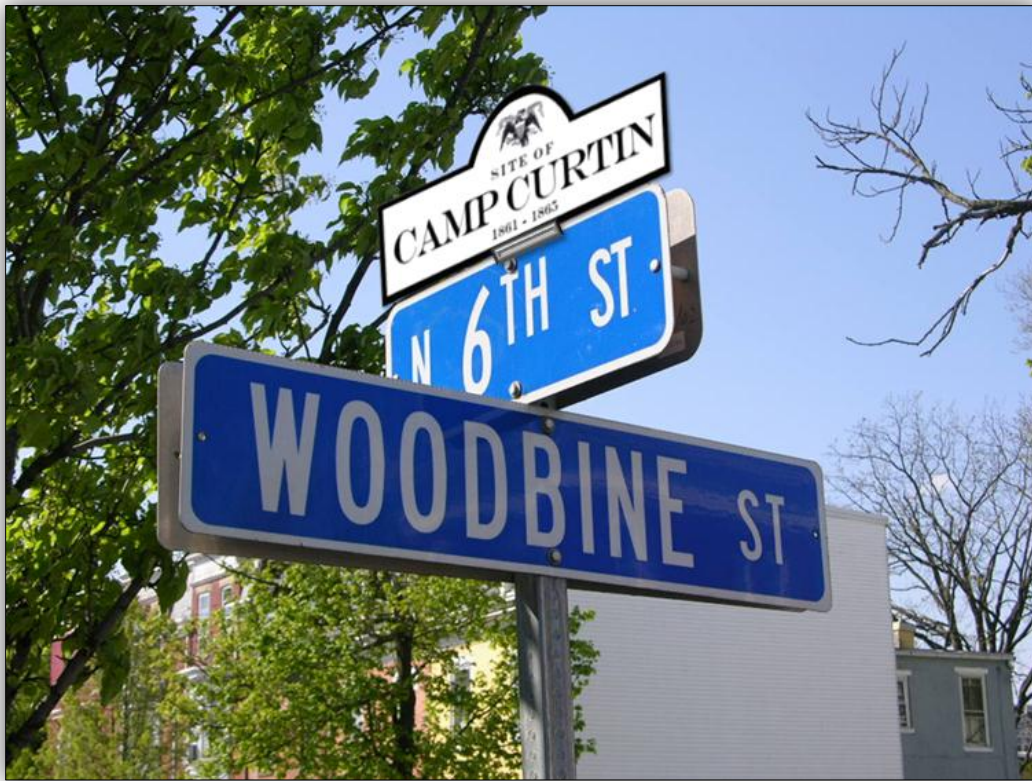


Fig. 15. "Site of Camp Curtin, 1861-1865" Civil War community identity signs proposed to be installed atop street signs at all major intersections within the Camp Curtin neighborhood. *Photograph and "Site of Camp Curtin" design by author.*

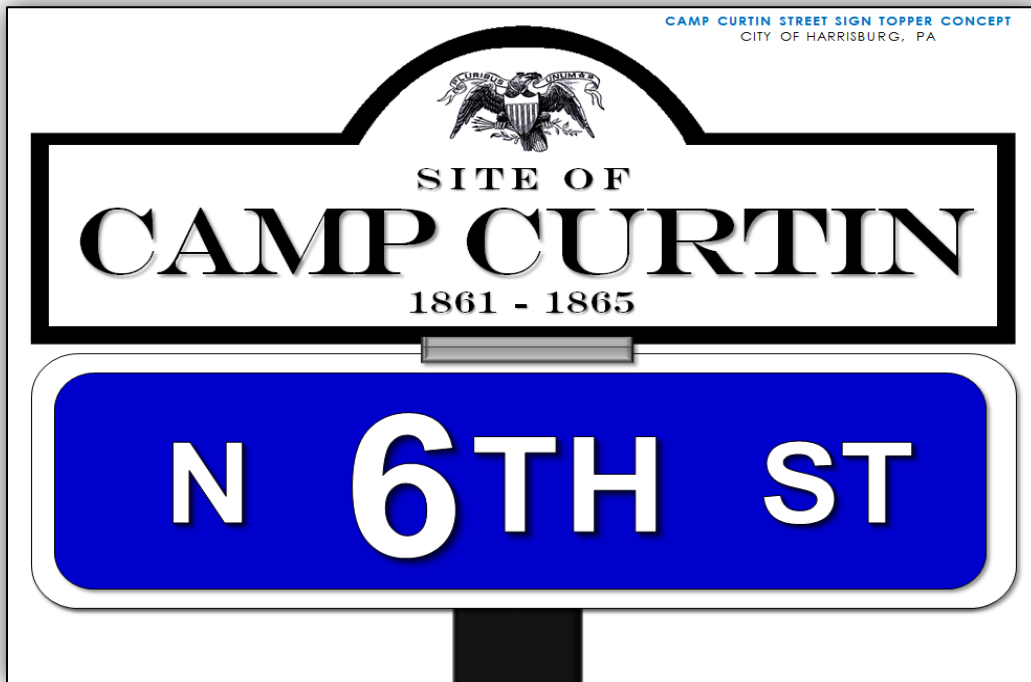


Fig. 16. "Site of Camp Curtin, 1861-1865" Civil War community identity concept. *Graphic and "Site of Camp Curtin" design by author.*

UPTOWN HARRISBURG / CAMP CURTIN CIVIL WAR IDENTITY STREET SIGN LOCATIONS (PROPOSED)

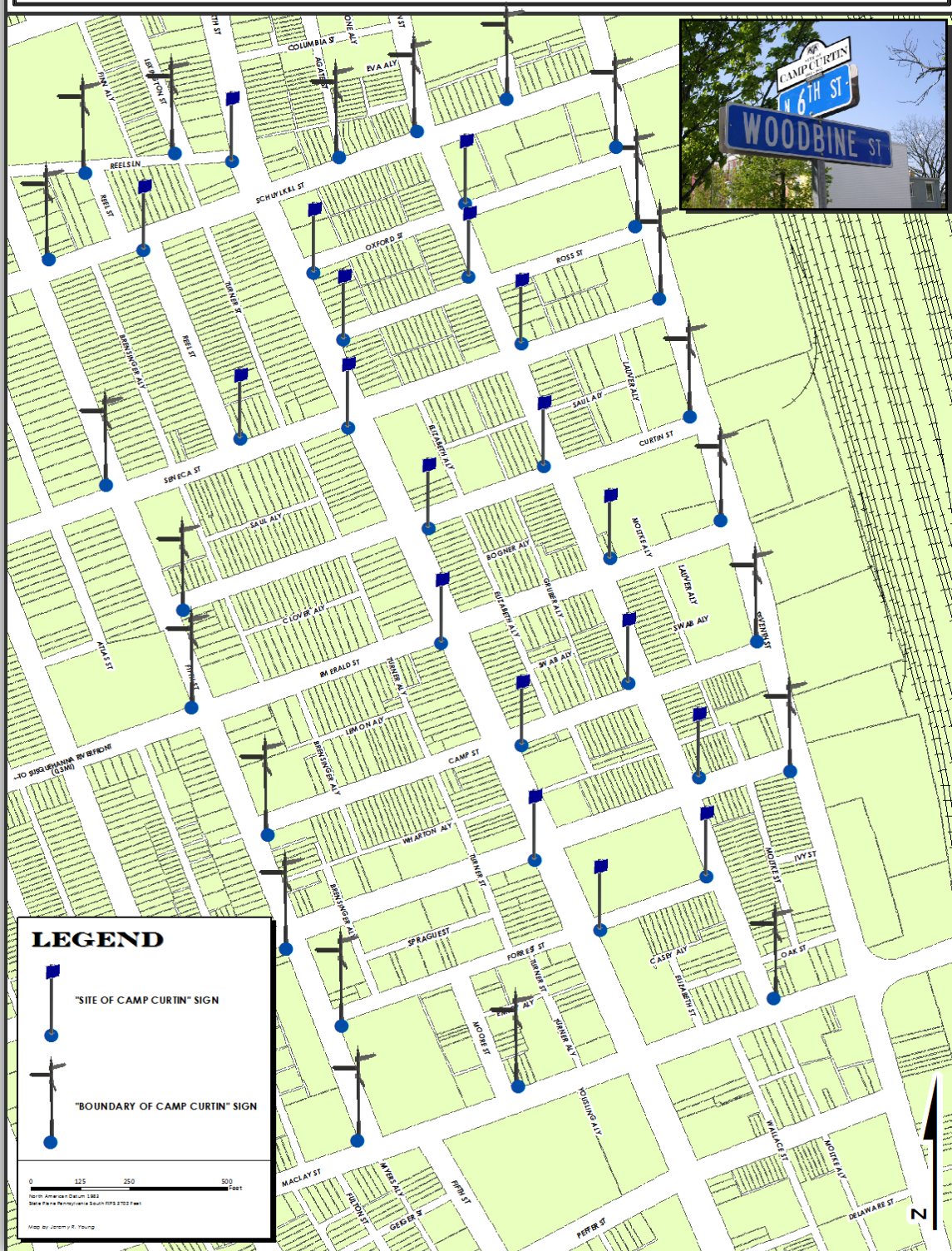


Fig. 17. Map identifying the locations of proposed "Site of Camp Curtin, 1861-1865" and "Boundary of Camp Curtin, 1861-1865" Civil War community identity signs to be installed atop street signs at all major intersections within the Camp Curtin neighborhood. *Map by author.*

(5) Advocate for Increased Police Presence and Strengthen Existing Crime Watch Programs

Since the Camp Curtin neighborhood began experiencing population decline, major disinvestment and urban decay several decades ago, crime has increased substantially in the area. Violent crimes and drug activity have particularly increased; especially in the years since the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* was shelved. To make matters worse, the City of Harrisburg's current fiscal problems prevent the hiring of additional police officers. Police presence in the city is minimal at most.

New community leaders must push elected officials to increase police patrols in the Camp Curtin neighborhood and must encourage residents to be watchful and vigilant and to report suspicious activity to police immediately. New residents and businesses, which are necessary for an improved economic situation, will not be attracted to an area of high crime.

(6) Educate Citizens through Community History Programs

While reminding citizens of the Camp Curtin neighborhood of their unique and rich history through the use of identity banners and street sign toppers may be an effective strategy, it is not enough. The stories of this history must come alive for the people of Camp Curtin and in a way that stimulates curiosity and interest. It is especially crucial that the neighborhood's youth gain an understanding of the historical significance of their community and at a young age.

History programs, led by the Camp Curtin Historical Society/Civil War Roundtable and the Dauphin County Historical Society, may help to teach children and adults alike about their unique heritage. There is also an opportunity to partner with the National Civil War Museum,

based in the City of Harrisburg, on educational programs. Camp Curtin, after crime is reduced, could even become part of a regular Harrisburg Civil War tour.

On Wednesday, April 18, 2012, the 151st anniversary of the opening of Camp Curtin, a commemorative ceremony was held at the Camp Curtin Memorial Park to help attract awareness of Civil War-era site and bring some positive attention to the Camp Curtin neighborhood. At the ceremony, the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church received a plaque proclaiming its listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. Civil War historians and public officials attended and participated in this event, which attracted over 100 persons. At the ceremony, the Honorable Mayor Linda D. Thompson declared that April 18 shall forever be known as "Camp Curtin Day."

The event was an overwhelming success, and should be used as a model for future history celebrations and future commemorations of the Camp Curtin Civil War-era site to be celebrated annually or semi-annually on April 18. The official press release, printed on pages 37-38, provides more details about the April 2012 event and is recommended for use as a model for future press releases which announce community events.



Fig. 18. Students from Camp Curtin's Nativity School of Harrisburg, participating in a public history/community heritage program on April 18, 2012, at Camp Curtin Memorial Park. *Photograph by PHMC.*



Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell
United Methodist Church
2221 N. 6th Street • Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 233-5952

Rev. Andrew T. Bradley, Sr.
Pastor



News for Immediate Release

April 18, 2012

Camp Curtin 151st Anniversary Civil War Commemoration and Community Celebration Scheduled for April 18 in Harrisburg

Harrisburg, PA – The Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church, in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission’s Bureau for Historic Preservation, the Camp Curtin Historical Society/Civil War Roundtable, and the Historical Society of Dauphin County, invite the general public to attend a wreath laying ceremony commemorating the 151st anniversary of the opening of Camp Curtin in Harrisburg and a community celebration recognizing the listing of the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church on the National Register of Historic Places.

Camp Curtin, located in what is today a residential neighborhood in the Uptown area of the City of Harrisburg, was opened on the site of the former Dauphin County Agricultural Society fairgrounds by order of Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin in April 1861. Governor Curtin and the Pennsylvania Militia, swiftly responding to President Abraham Lincoln’s call for troops just days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the secession of the Confederate States, assumed control of the fairgrounds and established a Camp of Rendezvous. This camp, located immediately adjacent to major northeastern rail lines, was among the Union Army’s most strategic transportation centers and supply depots and served as a mustering point for over 300,000 Union troops from several U.S. states during the years 1861-1865. In fact, it was the largest camp in the North or South throughout the entire course of the war. Confederate forces, under the command of General Robert E. Lee, had their sights set on Camp Curtin during their planned (and ultimately failed) invasion of the capital city prior to the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863.

The commemorative ceremony will be held at 11:00am today, Wednesday, April 18, at the Camp Curtin Memorial Park. This park, owned and maintained by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is just 100 feet square and is believed to be among the smallest state-owned parks in the United States. Located at 2201 N. Sixth Street in Harrisburg, the park was dedicated 90 years ago and features a statue of Governor Curtin and plaques dedicated to the brave men who passed through the camp’s gates on their way to battle.

The park is adjacent to the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church, which is the first religious institution in the United States to memorialize a Civil War site. The congregation, which dates to the 1880s, worships in a sanctuary featuring a large mural depicting Christ appearing to a dying soldier who is symbolically dressed in blue and gray.

During the wreath laying ceremony, President James Schmick of the Camp Curtin Historical Society/Civil War Roundtable will present the Reverend Andrew T. Bradley, Sr. and the Camp Curtin Church congregation with a bronze plaque which proclaims the church as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

The Civil War site commemoration is intended to celebrate the Camp Curtin community and seeks to engage local residents and foster neighborhood pride. Students from the Nativity School, a Camp Curtin neighborhood institution, will lead the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States during the wreath laying. Students from the Harrisburg High School Wind Ensemble will also perform some patriotic musical selections.

Several keynote speakers will be present during the ceremony, including Mr. James Schmick of the Camp Curtin Historical Society/Civil War Roundtable; Mr. Wayne Motts, CEO of the National Civil War Museum; Ms. Jean H. Cutler, Director the Bureau for Historic Preservation at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; and Mr. David W. Demmy, Sr., Executive Director of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Elected officials are also expected to participate, including Harrisburg Mayor Linda D. Thompson and members of Harrisburg City Council, who will deliver an official City proclamation affirming the significance of the Camp Curtin site. Reenactors portraying Governor Curtin and Union soldiers will be present to lay the wreath and replica Civil War-era U.S. and Pennsylvania colors will be presented. The replica colors are being provided for the ceremony courtesy of the Capitol Preservation Committee. Modern-day colors will be presented by an honor guard comprised of soldiers from the Pennsylvania Army National Guard's Joint Force Headquarters at Fort Indiantown Gap.

The Camp Curtin Commemoration Ceremony has been organized by Jeremy R. Young of Lancaster, PA, and Harrisburg resident Lewis Butts, Jr. Young is a senior geography student from Millersville University of Pennsylvania and Spring 2012 THIS (The Harrisburg Internship Semester) Intern representing the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) and interning at PHMC's Bureau for Historic Preservation. Butts is a member of the Harrisburg community and serves as Chair of the Preservation Committee at Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church.

CONTACT:

Jeremy R. Young, Student, Millersville University of Pennsylvania
Intern, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission - Bureau for Historic Preservation
jryoung1@marauder.millersville.edu
c. (717) 598-1189 w. (717) 346-1111

(7) Promote the Preservation and Reuse of Camp Curtin's Major Anchor/Gateway Buildings

Two rather imposing, albeit deteriorating, structures mark the entrance to the Camp Curtin neighborhood at the intersection of Maclay and North Sixth Streets: the Harrisburg Fair Housing Council Building, on the northwestern corner of the intersection; and the former Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & c. F.) Building, also known as the Hudson Building, on the northeastern corner. The former, a three-story building, was constructed in the early part of the twentieth century as a bank with apartments on the upper floors. The latter, a two-story Classical Revival structure, was originally intended to be built as a ten to twelve story high rise as the headquarters for an American and Canadian railroad worker fraternal organization. The Harrisburg Fair Housing Council Building is still in use, but ironically, the apartments above the first floor office space are vacant and the windows are covered with plywood. The B. R. & c. F. Building has been vacant since at least 2004, and is in a rapid state of deterioration. Its windows, too, are covered. During the spring of 2012, a concerned citizen spray painted phrases on some of the plywood window coverings on the B. R. & c. F. Building, including one which reads, "WHO'S NEXT? STOP CRIME." The message likely refers to shootings and other violent crimes in the neighborhood in recent months.

When community leaders once again emerge in the Camp Curtin neighborhood, it is important that they promote the rehabilitation of these two buildings as they are the first two structures that passersby see when entering the neighborhood. The buildings serve as a first impression of the neighborhood due to their location at the entrance to the neighborhood, which is also a major thoroughfare leading into and out of the City of Harrisburg.

Community leaders may seek the assistance of State agencies such as the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's Bureau for Historic Preservation. The Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP), also known as the State Historic Preservation Office, oversees the National Register of Historic Places program and provides assistance for individuals and organizations interested in preserving historic sites and structures. Just as the Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, so too may other potentially significant buildings in the Camp Curtin neighborhood.

The author recently completed a Historic Resource Survey Form (HRSF) for the B. R. & C. F. Building, which is the first step in determining whether or not a building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Following the completion of the HRSF for the B. R. & C. F. Building and review by BHP staff, the building has officially been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. If listed on the National Register, the building may become eligible for Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits (RITCs), also known as "historic tax credits." Historic tax credits have been known to attract developers to decaying urban structures-many of which may thought to be deteriorated beyond repair-all across the nation. Tax credits may also help to attract reinvestment and economic development to Camp Curtin.

The building/s grand scale and classical design make it an ideal candidate for reuse, offering the potential for both commercial and residential spaces in the once-vibrant mixed use Camp Curtin neighborhood. Its rehabilitation may be another much-needed boost to the neighborhood/s tarnished image.

The PA Historic Resource Survey Form for the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building is included in the appendix. It should be consulted and utilized as a resource and model for future historic resource surveys in the Camp Curtin neighborhood.

(8) "TreeVitalize" and Beautify the Neighborhood

Among the negative attributes recorded in the 1980 Harrisburg Historic Sites Survey of the Camp Curtin neighborhood was the " ...greenery...noticeably missing along the major thoroughfares." This attribute still negatively impacts the neighborhood today.

Community leaders may help to reverse this trend by planting trees and shrubs along the busy North Sixth Street corridor. A recent grant program coordinated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) called "TreeVitalize" may help to subsidize the cost of the tree plantings, which can often be very costly in urban areas.

"TreeVitalize" provides up to \$15,000 for tree plantings with a very minimal matching cost. This matching cost could be raised through community fund raisers and may help members in the community to feel as if they are helping to make a positive contribution to their community and have ownership.

According to DCNR, "research...links the presence of trees to a more positive social and economic environment, making business districts more attractive, increasing property values, calming traffic, and reducing stress. The loss of canopy cover results in the loss of those benefits as well. In short, tree cover is recognized as vitally important to the quality of life in a community."²²

Non-profit organizations in the Camp Curtin neighborhood which may like to become the grant applicant for a TreeVitalize grant may contact Ellen A. Roane, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator at Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (717-705-2825 or eroane@pa.gov).

²² TreeVitalize. "About TreeVitalize." <http://www.treevitalize.net/aboutus.aspx> (accessed April 17, 2012).

(9) Increase Beautification and Neighborly Interaction through Community

Gardens

The Camp Curtin neighborhood has approximately 250 vacant lots. Many of these lots are littered with garbage today and are breeding grounds for violence, gang activity and drug use. A strategy which may help to utilize some of the neighborhood's vacant lots may also help to beautify them, reduce crime, and increase property values in their immediate proximity: community gardens.²³

Community gardens, in addition to their aesthetic value they provide to a blighted neighborhood, can also be a great source of locally-grown fruits and vegetables and nutrition. Community gardening, or "urban agriculture" as it is sometimes called, may be especially appropriate for the Camp Curtin neighborhood as the site of the neighborhood was originally the site of the Dauphin County Agricultural Society's fairgrounds, prior to the American Civil War and the site's military activity. Gardens in Camp Curtin could be called "Union Gardens," because they are a great tool which can be used to unite members of the community, and encourage neighborly interaction. The name "Union Gardens" may also be a symbolic one in the Camp Curtin neighborhood because the site was occupied during the Civil War by soldiers of the Union Army who fought to keep the nation united.

In March 2012, a project began under the leadership of the Green Urban Initiative (GUI) to install the first community gardens in the Camp Curtin neighborhood. Plans call for twenty raised-bed gardens to be installed and planted on vacant lots in the 2300 block of North Sixth Street on April 28, 2012. It is recommended that additional community gardens be installed throughout the neighborhood if these are successful.

²³ Green For All, "Community Gardens: How To." <http://www.greenforall.org/resources/community-gardens-how-to> (accessed April 16, 2012).

CONCLUSION

The Camp Curtin neighborhood, one of the most distressed areas within the capital city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, faces many difficult challenges. It will not be easy for this area, one that has been in decline for over half a century, to regain its stability and become a thriving and vibrant community once again. In fact, conditions in this area may even worsen over the coming months and years before they eventually improve.

The failure of the *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy* to get implemented over a decade ago shattered the hopes and dreams of many people in the Uptown area who had a vision of the sun shining once again over their community. When the time comes to jump start the stalled action strategy, it may be very difficult to convince these people that positive change is still a possibility.

Though beleaguered, the Camp Curtin has one characteristic which may help it to rebound faster than other neighborhoods facing similar troubles in the City of Harrisburg: it has a very strong and unique history which has the potential to unite its residents and workforce in pride behind a common historical theme and help to reestablish the community's sense of place.

The recommendations in the previous section of this report are intended to compliment the primary goals, functions and strategies of the 2001 *Uptown Neighborhood Action Strategy*, and include: rebuilding a strong and diverse community coalition similar to the one which existed at the time of the 2001 plan; reestablishing Camp Curtin's identity and sense of place, and helping residents to understand the historical significance of where they live through the help of street light banners and street sign toppers; educating the people who live and work in the community, especially the community's youth, through history programs that teach and

promote the area's strong Civil War heritage; advocating for safer streets and a reduction in criminal activity through a push for increased police presence and by strengthening already existing neighborhood crime watch programs; promoting the preservation and rehabilitation of major anchor/gateway buildings; beautifying the streetscape and landscape in the neighborhood by planting trees; and promoting neighborly interaction/ community health and beautification through the implementation of urban agriculture and community gardens.

Best of luck, Camp Curtin. May you thrive and prosper once more.

-Jeremy R. Young

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX ITEM 1

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

CAMP CURTIN NEIGHBORHOOD

CITY OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

1860s – 1940s

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



Historic Photograph #1, circa 1932-1936.

Aerial View of Uptown and Midtown Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Railroad

City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Aerial photograph taken by Samuel W. Kuhnert, looking south over Uptown Harrisburg with the newly-constructed State Farm Show Building at lower left and the railroad at center. Photograph courtesy of the PA State Archives (MG-281, Samuel W. Kuhnert Collection).



Historic Photograph #2, circa 1932-1936.

Aerial View of Camp Curtin Neighborhood, Uptown Harrisburg

City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Closer view of the Camp Curtin neighborhood of Uptown Harrisburg. North Sixth Street, the neighborhood's major thoroughfare, is at far right. Photograph courtesy of the PA State Archives (MG-281, Samuel W. Kuhnert Collection).



Historic Photograph #3, circa 1940.

Maclay Street Bridge and Corridor

City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph, looking west, captures traffic moving across the busy Maclay Street Bridge in 1940. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 698-2873).



Historic Photograph #4, circa 1915.

Camp Curtin Fire Company Station

2504 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph, looking west, captures traffic moving across the busy Maclay Street Bridge in 1940. The Brotherhood Building is not visible here, but is located at the next intersection on the right of the street. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 698-2873).



Historic Photograph #5, January 15, 1938.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: International President Luther G. Smith of the B. R. & C. F., a railroaders' organization, calls members in the audience to order during a 1938 Victory Rally. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Historic Photograph #6, circa 1864.

Camp Curtin Military Hospital, American Civil War.

Ridge Road and Asylum Road, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This is the only known photograph of the Union Army camp, taken by Burnite and Weldon. The camp occupied nearly 80 acres and sat north of what is now Maclay Street on agricultural lands. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (OZ-02811).



Historic Photograph #7, circa 1917.

Newly-constructed Dwellings on Schuylkill Street.

680-684 Schuylkill Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph of the residence of F. A. Leisman (680 Schuylkill St.), was taken shortly after construction was completed in 1917. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 229-1103).



Historic Photograph #8, circa 1920.

Camp Curtin Student Orchestra

North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph, looking west, captures traffic moving across the busy Maclay Street Bridge in 1940. The Brotherhood Building is not visible here, but is located at the next intersection on the right of the street. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 698-2873).



Historic Photograph #9, 1930.

Camp Curtin Baseball Team

City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph captures the Camp Curtin Baseball Team in their uniforms in 1930. Note at least two African-American boys in the photo; evidence that the Camp Curtin neighborhood had long been racially integrated. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (S-02449).



Historic Photograph #10, 1936.

Students, Camp Curtin Junior High School

North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph of a class at the Camp Curtin Junior High School on N. Sixth Street shows that the neighborhood was racially integrated as early as the 1930s. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (S-06322).



Historic Photograph #11, circa 1917.

Newly-constructed Dwellings on N. Jefferson Street

2410-2414 N. Jefferson St., City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph of the residence of Lewis R. Fisher (2412 N. Jefferson St.), and neighboring houses, was taken shortly after construction was completed in 1917. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 229-1130).



Historic Photograph #12, circa 1917.

Newly-constructed Dwellings on Emerald Street

511 Emerald St., City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph of the residence of F.C. Miller (511 Emerald St.), and neighboring houses, was taken shortly after construction was completed in 1917. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 229-1074).



Historic Photograph #13, circa 1917.

Newly-constructed Dwellings on N. Sixth Street

2526 N. Sixth St., City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph of the residence of George C. Frifmer (2526 N. Sixth St.), and neighboring houses, was taken shortly after construction was completed in 1917. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 229-1322).



Historic Photograph #14, April 1, 1932.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: The building's construction was nearly complete when this photograph was taken of the American and Canadian railroaders' organization. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Historic Photograph #15, circa late 1930s.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph shows the B. R. & C. F. Building in its glory days in the late 1930s. In addition to housing offices for the railroad organization, the building also had six commercial storefronts. Note the Nancy Page Gift Shop to the left of the building's main entrance, and the Clover Grass Dairy Products Store and Luncheonette at right on street level. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.

APPENDIX ITEM 2

PA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM

BROTHERHOOD'S RELIEF AND COMPENSATION FUND BUILDING

2101-2119 N. SIXTH STREET
CITY OF HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Historic Resource Survey Form

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Key # _____
ER# _____

Name, Location and Ownership *(Items 1-6; see Instructions, page 4)*

HISTORIC NAME Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building
CURRENT/Common Name Hudson Building
STREET ADDRESS 2101-2119 North Sixth Street **ZIP** 17110
LOCATION NE Corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets
MUNICIPALITY City of Harrisburg **COUNTY** Dauphin
TAX PARCEL #/YEAR 10-019-034 **USGS QUAD** Harrisburg West, PA
OWNERSHIP **Private**
 Public/Local **Public/County** **Public/State** **Public/Federal**
OWNER NAME/ADDRESS Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation
100 Ross Road, Suite 200, King of Prussia, PA 19406
CATEGORY OF PROPERTY **Building** **Site** **Structure** **Object** **District**
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESOURCES 1

Function *(Items 7-8; see Instructions, pages 4-6)*

Historic Function	Subcategory	Particular Type
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Organizational</u>	<u>Office Headquarters Building</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Rail-related</u>	_____
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>	_____
Current Function	Subcategory	Particular Type
<u>Vacant/Not in use</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Architectural/Property Information *(Items 9-14; see Instructions, pages 6-7)*

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION

Classical Revival

EXTERIOR MATERIALS and STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Foundation	<u>Reinforced concrete</u>	_____
Walls	<u>Concrete</u>	_____
Roof	<u>Reinforced concrete and wood false roof</u>	_____
Other	<u>Reinforced concrete floors</u>	_____
Structural System	<u>Steel frame</u>	_____

WIDTH 177 (feet) or 7 (# bays) **DEPTH** 127 (feet) or _____ (# rooms) **STORIES/HEIGHT** 2

Key # _____
ER# _____

Photo List (Item 33)

See pages 10-11 of the Instructions for more information regarding photos and the photo list. In addition to this photo list, create a photo key for the site plan and floor plans by placing the photo number in the location the photographer was standing on the appropriate plan. Place a small arrow next to the photo number indicating the direction the camera was pointed. Label individual photos on the reverse side or provide a caption underneath digital photos.

Photographer name Jeremy Ryan Young

Date February 3, 2012

Location Negatives/Electronic Images Stored _____

Photo #	Photo Subject/Description	Camera Facing
1	West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing the central main entrance and 5 of the 6 total storefronts at street level.	NE
2	West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing pairs of columns with ionic capitals and the frieze, engraved with the phrase "B • R • & • C • F • BUILDING".	E
3	Close-up of the detail on the entablature and the ionic capitals of the leftmost columns, at the center of the west elevation of the building above the main entrance.	UP/SE
4	West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing the central main entrance and 4 of the 6 total storefronts at street level.	NE
5	West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing a close-up of the fifth storefront entrance with an adjacent storefront and building main entrance.	N
6	Close-up of the southernmost retail space entrance on the west elevation of the building.	E
7	View of the southwest corner of the building showing portions of the west and south elevations at the NE corner of North Sixth and Maclay Streets.	NE
8	Close-up of the cornerstone at the southwest corner of the building, laid in 1923. Note the date and the seal of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund, designed by founder Luther G. Smith.	NE
9	Close-up of the cornerstone of the building at the building's southwest corner. The seal of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund is shown here, fronting North Sixth Street.	E
10	Close-up of the date, 1923, on the cornerstone at the southwest corner of the building.	N
11	View of the south elevation of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building, fronting Maclay Street.	NE
12	Close-up of the south elevation of the B. R. & C. F. Building, showing an exterior basement stairwell and exterior staircase leading to the rear of the building's first floor from Maclay Street.	E
13	Close-up of the first floor exterior staircase on the south elevation of the building on Maclay Street. Elizabeth Street and adjacent parcels are visible in the background.	E
14	Close-up of Maclay Street exterior basement stairwell on the south elevation of the building, shown from Elizabeth Street.	W
15	View of the east elevation of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building. Elizabeth Street is off to the right of the picture.	N
16	View of the north elevation of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building.	SE
17	View of the west elevation and northwest corner of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Building and the building's northernmost storefront.	E
18	View of the main entrance and foyer from the interior of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building.	W
19	View of the interior of the second of five retail spaces at street level.	E
20	Close-up of a skylight on the second floor of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building.	UP/E

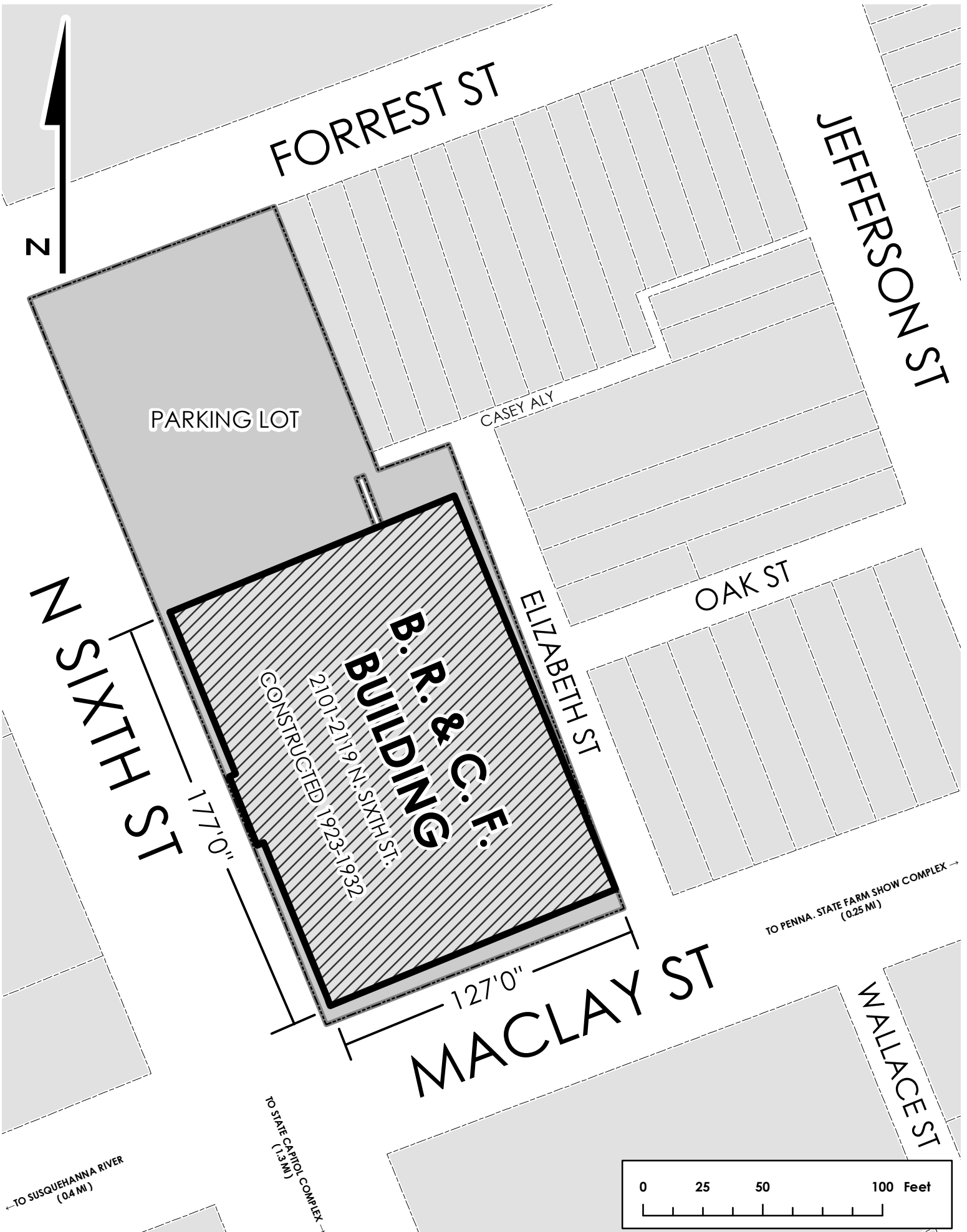
Key # _____

ER# _____

Site Plan (Item 34)

See page 11 of the Instructions for more information regarding the site plan. Create a sketch of the property, showing the footprint of all buildings, structures, landscape features, streets, etc. Label all resources and streets. Include a North arrow and a scale bar (note if scale is approximate). This sheet may be used to sketch a plan or another map/plan may be substituted.





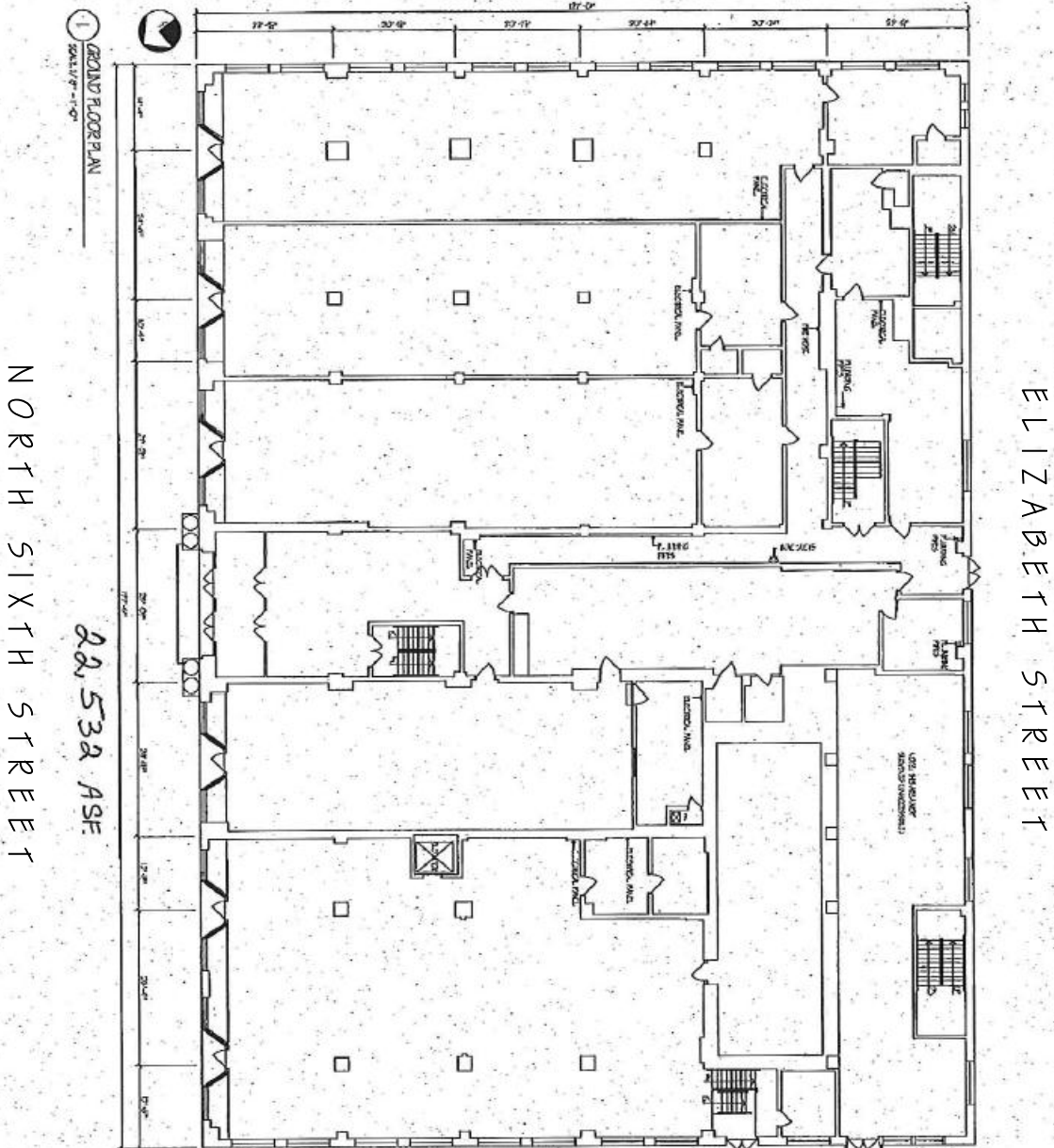
BROTHERHOOD'S RELIEF AND COMPENSATION FUND (B. R. & C. F.) BUILDING, 2101-2119 N. SIXTH ST., HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Key # _____
ER# _____

Floor Plan (Item 35)

See page 11 of the Instructions for more information regarding the floor plan. Provide a floor plan for the primary buildings, showing all additions. Label rooms and note important features. Note the date of additions. Include a North arrow and a scale bar (note if scale is approximate) or indicate width/depth dimensions. This sheet may be used to sketch a floor plan or another map/plan may be substituted.





1 GROUND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

NORTH SIXTH STREET

ELIZABETH STREET

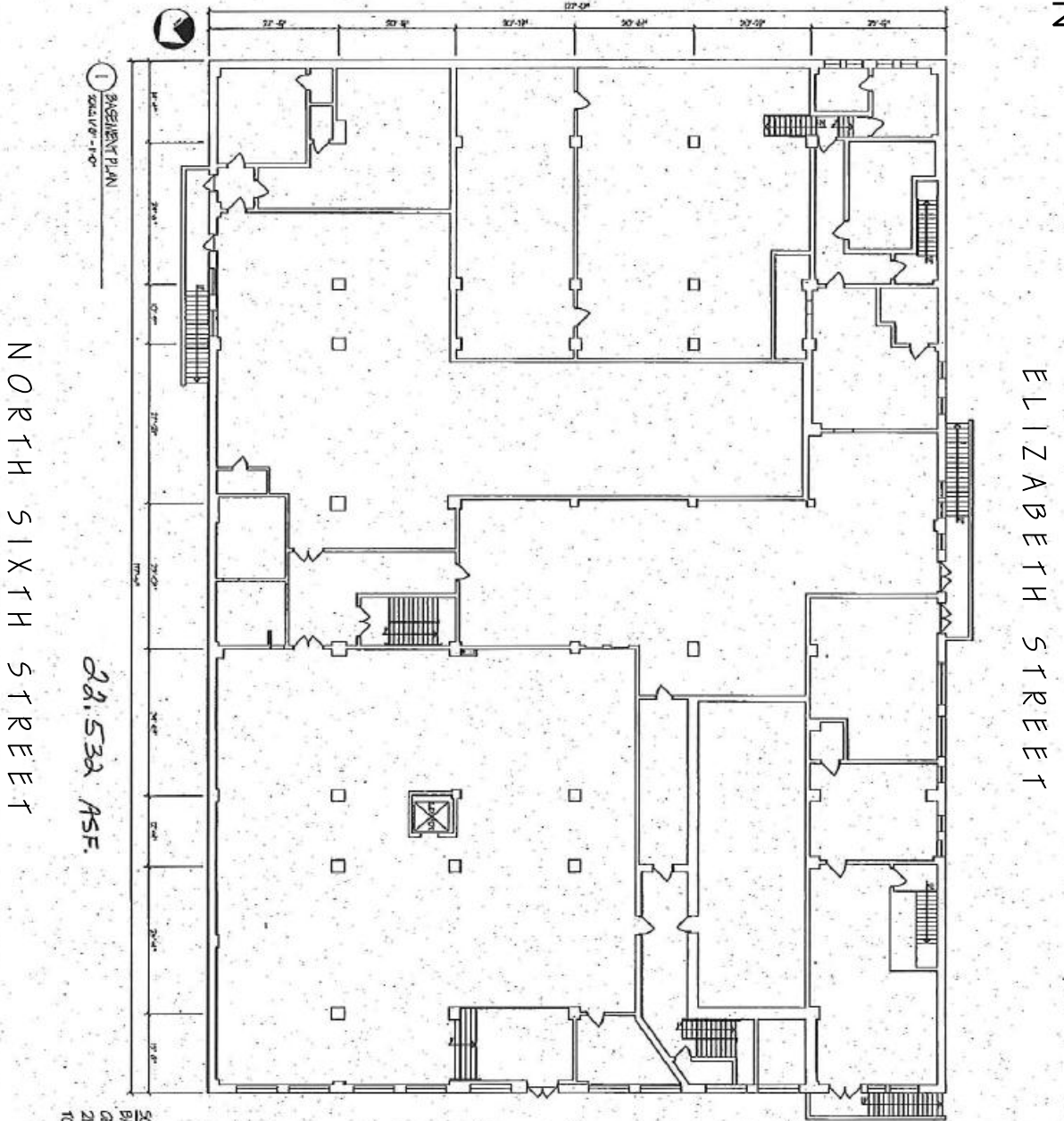
22.532 ASF

MACLAY STREET

SQUARE FOOTAGES:
 BASEMENT: 22,592 OSF
 GROUND FLOOR: 22,592 OSF
 2ND FLOOR: 22,592 OSF
 TOTAL: 67,776 OSF

X-1

<p>1317 Cumberland Street Harrisburg, PA 17104 610.555.2983 610.555.2889 www.pshpo.state.pa.us</p>	<p>JOHN W. SCHUBERT, AIA 201 N. 6TH STREET HARRISBURG, PA 17102 717.634.4113</p>	<p>DATE: 1/27/09 DRAWN BY: [Name] CHECKED BY: [Name] REVISIONS:</p>	<p>GROUND FLOOR PLAN 2101 N. 6TH STREET HARRISBURG, PA P S D C 100 ROSS ROAD, SUITE 200, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406</p>
	<p>www.pshpo.state.pa.us</p>		



1 BASEMENT PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

NORTH SIXTH STREET

ELIZABETH STREET

21.532 ASF.

MACLAY STREET

SQUARE FOOTAGES
 BASEMENT: 22,532 OSF
 GROUND FLOOR: 22,532 OSF
 2ND FLOOR: 22,532 OSF
 TOTAL: 67,596 OSF

X-BSMT

DATE	3/20/08
SCALE	1/8" = 1'-0"
DESIGNED BY	ASD
CHECKED BY	
PROJECT	

EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN
2101 N. 6TH STREET
 HARRISBURG, PA
PSDC
 100 ROSS ROAD, SUITE 200, KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19106

architectural solutions
 123 centerville plaza
 harrisburg, pa 17103
 610.552.2933
 610.552.0839
 www.architecturalsolutions.com
 john m. schmitt, AIA
 ps 1800090438
 re: 11-14-175

Physical Description and Integrity (Item 38)

Provide a current description of the overall setting, landscape, and resources of the property. See page 13 of the Instructions for detailed directions. Continue on additional sheets as needed. Suggested outline for organizing this section:

- Introduction [summarize the property, stating type(s) of resource(s) and function(s)]
- Setting [describe geographic location, streetscapes, natural/man-made landscape features, signage, etc.]
- Exterior materials, style, and features [describe the exterior of main buildings/resources]
- Interior materials, style, and features [describe the interior of main buildings/resources]
- Outbuildings/Landscape [describe briefly additional outbuildings/landscape features found on property, substitute Building Complex Form if preferred; See Instructions, page 18]
- Boundaries [explain how/why boundaries chosen, such as historic legal parcel, visual natural features such as tree lines, alley separating modern construction, etc.]
- Integrity [summarize changes to the property and assess how the changes impact its ability to convey significance]

(Text entered directly into form fields will not permit formatting adjustments, such as spell checking or italicizing. Instead, you may wish to cut-and-paste text from another document into the field below; “unprotect” the document for this section, or prepare the “Physical Description and Integrity” narrative as a separate document.)

SEE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND INTEGRITY ATTACHMENT -
PP. 1-2 of 2

The Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B.R. & C.F.) Building at 2101-2119 North Sixth Street, occupies the northeast corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets in the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. While the building's initial grand design was never fully realized, it has still remained a significant anchor building for the North Sixth Street corridor and the Uptown area of the city since its construction was completed in 1932. During its heyday, North Sixth Street served as a significant secondary commercial corridor for the City of Harrisburg and was surrounded by a densely populated middle-class residential area.

The primary façade or west elevation of the B. R. & C. F. Building is composed of seven bays with three bays each flanking a central portico. The central portico is comprised of two sets of paired doors separated by a central light, flanked by side lights and capped with transoms and a molded architrave. Above the entryway architrave is a large, industrial-style steel frame casement window with a tripartite spandrel panel decorated with spoke motifs. Supporting the entablature at the portico and flanking the building's main entrance are coupled Ionic columns with voluted capitals, smooth shafts and attic bases. The frieze, inscribed with the phrase "B R & C F BUILDING," is overlain with dentils and a crown-molded cornice. A slightly stepped parapet caps the building's flat roofline. The entire façade and south elevation are constructed from precast concrete panels which mimic a rusticated stone finish. The cornerstone, laid at the building's southwest corner in 1923, is engraved with the year facing Maclay Street and the seal of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund facing North Sixth Street. The founder of the B. R. & C. F., Luther G. Smith, was reportedly a Freemason and designed the Brotherhood's seal using elements adopted from the Masonic Order.

At street level, each of the three bays which flank the building's central portico on the North Sixth Street façade are composed of stone bulkheads with splayed storefront windows and a recessed entrance and finished with a prism glass transom across each storefront and entrance. On the second floor above the storefront spaces in each of the three bays flanking the building's central portico are paired industrial-style steel frame windows with central, paired operable casements flanked by fixed side lights with operable center base hopper windows and fixed transoms. The secondary façade or south elevation of the building is arranged in six bays. It was constructed with six pairs of the aforementioned windows on the second floor and four pairs on the first floor with an adjacent single window and two separate entryways, one at street level and another atop an exterior staircase, closest to Elizabeth St. The latter provides access to the only retail space fronting Maclay Street. The front of this retail space is composed of a single, large storefront window capped with a prism glass transom flanking (on the right) a pair of recessed entry doors. An exterior basement stairwell also exists at center on the south elevation, with access available from the sidewalk.

The north and east elevations are secondary elevations and as such are much less ornate as the primary/public west and south elevations. These are composed of yellow brick and do not contain high finishes. The north elevation has regularly spaced industrial casement windows of the same style found on the first and second floor of the secondary façade and second floor of the primary façade. Windows and entrances on the east elevation were irregularly placed.

The interior of the building has likely always been mostly utilitarian in nature and currently exhibits marked deterioration due to substantial water damage and mold caused by several roof leaks. Wood finishes are mostly warped throughout the building and many of the building's industrial steel casement windows have rusted and have missing and/or broken panes. All of the building's windows are currently covered with plywood to prevent vandalism and further destruction, with the exception of the southernmost window on the first floor of the east elevation, where plywood has come loose and the elements and wild life now have access to the interior of the building. Chipped paint and ceiling tiles now litter the floors, and mold is visible in large amounts throughout the building. Minor alterations were apparently completed throughout the building in the decades prior to its near decade vacancy, including the addition of carpet in the former retail spaces (last used as contemporary churches). Several layers of paint have been applied over the decades, the majority of which is now being removed by neglect and water damage. Fluorescent lighting and suspended ceilings were also installed throughout much of the building,

as well as modern HVAC ductwork which mostly suspends from the ceiling but has fallen in many places due to water damage.

The interior of the building's main entrance retains much of its integrity; especially the wood finish of its entry doors, but it has been greatly impacted by water damage as well. The entrance is formed by a set of paired wood and full glass exterior doors flanked on either side by side lights and capped with transoms, which open to a small vestibule. Providing access from the vestibule to a small lobby is an identical set of paired wood and full glass doors with side lights on each side and transoms. Red, terra cotta-style tile with grouting currently finishes the floor in the vestibule and lobby, although it is not clear whether or not this is original to the building. Crown molding finishes the lobby, but the whole of the lobby is, and was, generally utilitarian. In the southeast corner of the lobby, a pair of double doors open up to a utilitarian stairwell leading to the second floor.

The second floor, having had some minor cosmetic changes applied over time, remains true to the floor plans/layout which existed at the time of building's construction. There exists one larger size room central to the northern half of the building on this floor and several medium-sized rooms central to the southern half of this floor. Around the perimeter of the second floor are approximately twenty-three smaller-size rooms which were originally used as offices by the Brotherhood and their lessees. Most of these units are accessible by a north-south corridor on both the west and east sides of the building, connected by a central east-west corridor. The large central room on the northern half of this floor was evidently last used by the various beauty schools which leased space in the building during the last two decades that the building was occupied. This room was last painted pink and many of the beauty salon-style wet booths remain mounted to the south wall, as does a steel safe which may be original to the building. In a medium-sized room on the southern half of the second floor, opposite the stairwell which provides access to this floor from the lobby, there is an original 7-pane by 5-pane prism glass skylight. Covered by a suspended ceiling at one time, the skylight is once again visible as the suspended ceiling has collapsed due to water damage (see photograph #20 from the selection of current photographs).

At the time of the survey, access was not provided to the basement level of the building. Therefore, it is uncertain whether or not its floor plan/layout has been altered over time. Based on the observation of minimal to no modifications to the layout of the ground and second floors since the building was constructed, it is generally assumed that the layout of the basement level has changed minimally as well. This has not been confirmed, however.

Overall, besides minor cosmetic changes made to the building's interior spaces over the years such as paint and carpeting and the addition of HVAC ductwork and modern electrical/lighting fittings, the floor plans and layout of the building's interior essentially remain unchanged from Fred Abbott's 1931 design. While the building is in poor condition, mostly in its interior spaces due to several years of neglect, it still retains much of its architectural integrity. The building's exterior retains nearly all of its integrity, with the exception of a few broken railings on the Maclay Street, or south, elevation. It is also uncertain whether the original storefront prism glass transoms remain, as they are currently covered by aluminum sheet metal on each of the six retail bays at ground level.

Key # _____

ER# _____

History and Significance (Item 39)

Provide an overview of the history of the property and its various resources. Do not substitute deeds, chapters from local history books, or newspaper articles. See page 14 of the Instructions for detailed directions. Continue on additional sheets as needed. Suggested outline for organizing this section:

- History [Summarize the evolution of the property from origin to present]
- Significance [Explain why the property is important]
- Context and Comparisons [Describe briefly similar properties in the area, and explain how this property compares]

(Text entered directly into form fields will not permit formatting adjustments, such as spell checking or italicizing. Instead, you may wish to cut-and-paste text from another document into the field below; “unprotect” the document for this section, or prepare the “History and Significance” narrative as a separate document.)

SEE HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHMENT -
PP. 1-4 of 4

The Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building stands on the northeast corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets in the City of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Constructed between the years 1923-1932, the structure serves as a major anchor building on the North Sixth Street corridor and helps to serve as a gateway to the area of the City known as Uptown. The building is located at approximately the site of the former entrance to Camp Curtin, the site of the Union Army's largest training ground during the American Civil War. Camp Curtin was decommissioned in November 1865 and the corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets, originally known as Ridge Road and Asylum Road, respectively, later became occupied by the Maple Grove Hotel and Saloon in the 1880s.¹ This building was demolished in anticipation of the construction of the B. R. & C. F. Headquarters and Bank Building. The B. R. & C. F. Building's site is approximately 1,500 feet west of major railroad lines and thus was seen as an ideal location for the international railroad workers' organization. The adjacent neighborhood, including what was originally known as Curtin Heights, located one block north of the site, was home to a large number of railroad workers for several generations until railroad operations in Harrisburg declined significantly in the mid-twentieth century.²

The B. R. & C. F., or B. R. & C. Fund, was founded in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on June 12, 1912, by Luther G. Smith. Smith, a Pennsylvania Railroad fireman and member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen & Enginemen, was concerned for the well-being of railroad workers and their families which was routinely threatened by harsh railroad discipline. Such discipline very often included suspension or dismissal for relatively minor infractions, regardless of the length of time a worker had been employed and even if they had no record of previous infractions. He thus formed the B. R. & C. Fund, contrary to the belief of the leaders of several railroad fraternal organizations that workers should not be compensated for income lost as a result of disciplinary action.³ An excerpt from *Progress: The Working Man's Journal*, the official publication of the B. R. & C. F. from June 1937, explains the significance of the creation of the new and innovative railroad worker job income protection available by the B. R. & C. F. beginning in 1912:

“An Organization such as the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund is an actual necessity in the life of railway workers and every man working on the railroad should have the protection this Organization has to offer...and should not be satisfied until every available and eligible railroad man has been identified with the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund, for this is, indeed, a new day socially. At no time in the history of our land and nation has the worker been able to enjoy, to the fullest extent, such protective features as are his in the year of Our Lord, 1937.”⁴ (sic)

According to current B. R. & C. F. International President J. Mark Robb, the railroad industry has long been infamous for the harsh discipline of its workers.⁵ The B. R. & C. F. has always provided income compensation for its members when they are disciplined, and only on a carefully reviewed case-by-case basis. Members of the B. R. & C. Fund must be railroad workers and must also be members of a recognized railroaders' fraternal organization such as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen. In 1912, the year the organization was formed in Altoona, the B. R. & C. F. chose the City of Harrisburg for its international headquarters due to the size and strength of its railroad industry. It has remained in the vicinity ever since. Relocating to the City of Harrisburg also strategically placed the organization in the state capital and closer to the legislature. That year, the organization drafted and ratified a constitution which explained the conditions by which funds from members' collective resources may be distributed to fellow members during financial hardship. In 2012, the organization celebrates its

¹ Thomas R. Deans Associates. Harrisburg Historic Sites Survey. (Milton, PA: Thomas R. Dean Associates, 1980), 11.

² Ibid.

³ *Progress: The Working Man's Journal* XXIV, Silver Edition, no. 6 (June 1937).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Interview with J. Mark Robb, Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund, February 10, 2012.

100th anniversary. The principal office of the B. R. & C. Fund is currently located at 2150 Linglestown Road in Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County.

In the first two decades prior to the construction of its home at Sixth and Maclay Streets, the B. R. & C. Fund operated out of various buildings throughout the City of Harrisburg, including the home of founder and International President Luther G. Smith at 2411 N. Sixth Street.⁶

The B. R. & C. F. building at Sixth and Maclay Streets, the first major commission by architect C. Harry Kain of Harrisburg, was designed to be much grander than the building that was eventually constructed. Originally designed in the Classical Revival style, the building was to be constructed of a stone and brick exterior with a steel frame internal structure. Deemed fireproof, the building was designed to rise ten stories high, complete with some of the best amenities of the day, including: a convention hall capable of seating 4,281 persons and complete with a stage 50-by-25 feet and a dance floor 50-by-100 feet; a 500-person banquet hall; eight large and several small retail spaces; a large first-floor bank complete with one of the largest vaults in the United States, capable of holding 10,000 deposit boxes; a fully-equipped restaurant and 500-loaf bakery in the basement; a 5-to-7-ton basement ice plant; a laundry; barber shop; a pool and billiard room; and a basement boiler room with a 150-ton coal capacity. Above the commercial space on the first few floors were intended to be family- and bachelor-style apartments, totaling 130 units and 30 units, respectively, and occupying the remaining stories of the building.⁷ “The building is so arranged that two extra stories may be added when necessary,” the *Evening News* reported.⁸

The laying of the cornerstone of the B. R. & C. Fund Building was a major event for the organization, as well as for the Harrisburg community and railroaders across the United States and Canada. The day prior to the event, a newspaper article printed in the *Harrisburg Telegraph* on August 22, 1923, recalls:

“Temporary bleachers [were] being built...at the southeast corner [of the building site]...and preparations [were] being made to take care of several thousand people. Hundreds of railroaders from all parts of the United States are expected to be in Harrisburg for the exercises and remain in this city over night so they can be on hand at Hershey Park for the picnic program the following day.”⁹

As anticipated, a crowd of several thousand people, including several hundred out-of-towners, attended the 4:30 p.m. cornerstone laying ceremony on the day of Thursday, August 23, 1923. Several high-ranking public officials also attended that day, including then-Governor of Pennsylvania Gifford Pinchot, Harrisburg Mayor George A. Hoverter, and Pennsylvania State Representative George B. Rowand, legislative representative for the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. There were also musical performances by the Harrisburg Moose Band and the Male Choruses of the nearby Sixth Street United Brethren and St. Matthews Lutheran Churches.¹⁰ One public official remarked on the building to be constructed, “The building being owned by the working class, as well as being conducted by them will be a monument to the workers not alone in Harrisburg, but all over the entire country.” Governor Pinchot, during his “enthusiastic” address to the crowd that day, was also recorded as saying:

“I am glad to be here because I have received some valuable information as to how the plans for this building were started and as to its purpose. It proves there has been great co-operation, and I am greatly impressed not only with the plans, but what it means when completed. In unison there is strength and there, men working together can accomplish much. You have been

⁶ *Progress: The Working Man's Journal* XXIV, Silver Edition, no. 6 (June 1937).

⁷ “Lay Cornerstone of Brotherhood Bank Building,” *Harrisburg Telegraph*, August 22, 1923, 1.

⁸ Mary O. Bradley, “In Era of Dreams, This One Was Huge,” *The Patriot-News*, July 18, 2000, D1.

⁹ “Decorators Prepare Large Platform for Cornerstone Event,” *Harrisburg Telegraph*, August 22, 1923.

¹⁰ “Lay Cornerstone of Brotherhood Bank Building,” *Harrisburg Telegraph*, August 22, 1923, 1.

working hard with your hands in your various vocations and now are using your brains to accomplish your ambition. I wish you success in your undertaking.”¹¹
(sic)

With a \$1 million¹² price tag in 1923, the building to be constructed on the corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets was indeed a monumental task for the working class to undertake. Regardless, construction began in earnest in 1924. The project began to take on some turbulence during that year, however, and construction of the building was halted after its foundation and just two stories of steel and concrete were built. It remains unclear to this day whether the B. R. & C. Fund ran into financial difficulties early on in the construction phase or if there were unresolved issues with some of the project’s contractors that caused construction to be halted. For approximately seven years, however, the two-story steel and concrete skeleton sat unfinished on a prime piece of real estate on the N. Sixth Street corridor in Harrisburg. Map #212 of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the City of Harrisburg from 1929, Volume 2, describes the unfinished building at Sixth and Maclay Streets as such: “UNFINISHED BUILDING. 2 STORIES HIGH - NO WALLS - NO ROOF - REIN CONCRETE & STEEL FRAME - CONC. FLRS. BUILT 1924 – WORK ABANDONED.”¹³ (sic)

In 1931, during the heart of the Great Depression, the B. R. & C. Fund was still seeking to make the corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets the home of their organization. It was during that year that they were able to secure the Philadelphia architecture firm Ritter & Shay to finish their project which had been delayed for the better part of a decade. Architect Fred Abbott was commissioned to complete the structure, and he was ordered to scale back the design tremendously.¹⁴ Although many of the building’s Classical Revival-style design features were generally preserved, Abbott capped the building off at two stories and downgraded the building’s exterior materials. For example, instead of constructing the façade of rusticated limestone or granite, Abbott finished the façade with precast concrete panels that mimicked stone. Also missing from the six storefront bays at street level on Sixth Street were copper finishes which the original plans had called for. McCloskey & Company, General Contractors of Philadelphia, completed the construction of the building which was begun by Morrow Bros. of Baltimore, Maryland.

After nearly nine years, construction of the B. R. & C. Fund was finally completed in early spring 1932 and the building opened for public inspection at 6:30 p.m. on April 21. In addition to the organization’s headquarters housed on the second floor of the building, there were 18 additional office units available for lease. On the first floor, there were seven retail spaces; six of which fronted N. Sixth Street at street level, and a seventh retail space located at the building’s southeast corner at Maclay and Elizabeth Streets. The 1933 Harrisburg City Directory lists tenants occupying the building when it first opened. On first floor, the U.S. Department of Agriculture held an office at 2101 N. Sixth Street; Clover Grass Dairy Products occupied the retail space at 2105 N. Sixth Street; and the Nancy Page Gift Shop occupied the space at 2111 N. Sixth Street. At the building’s southeast corner, Pennsylvania Press, Inc., Printers, occupied the sole retail space fronting Maclay Street where it meets Elizabeth Street. The building’s main entrance at 2107-2109 N. Sixth Street, provided access to some retail units on the first floor, as well as access to the Brotherhood headquarters on the second floor. Also occupying the second floor of the building in 1933 were the offices of the Commercial Advertising Corporation and the American Oil Company. There were at least four vacant office spaces on the second floor during this time.¹⁵ After the Depression, the building quickly reached full occupancy.

The Brotherhood’s dream of a building that would be a monument to the working class may have been greatly diminished, but the resolve and success of the organization itself was not. The organization continued to

¹¹ “Lay Cornerstone of Brotherhood Bank Building,” *Harrisburg Telegraph*, August 22, 1923, 1.

¹² Mary O. Bradley, “In Era of Dreams, This One Was Huge,” *The Patriot-News*, July 18, 2000, D1.

¹³ Map No. 212. *City of Harrisburg, Pa.* 1929, Vol. 2. New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

¹⁴ Ken Frew, *Building Harrisburg: The Architects and Builders, 1719-1941*, (Harrisburg, PA: Historical Society of Dauphin County and Historic Harrisburg Association, 2009), 198.

¹⁵ *Greater Harrisburg Directory*, (Boston: R. L. Polk & Co., 1933).

grow in members so rapidly that by 1937, it served “tens of thousands of railroad workers in more than two-thirds of the United States and in the Dominion of Canada.”¹⁶ The organization continues to serve in this capacity today, as there are over 30,000 active members throughout the U.S. and Canada. According to International President J. Mark Robb, the organization currently thrives, as it holds over \$48 million in assets and operates with a \$10 million-dollars-a-year cash flow.¹⁷

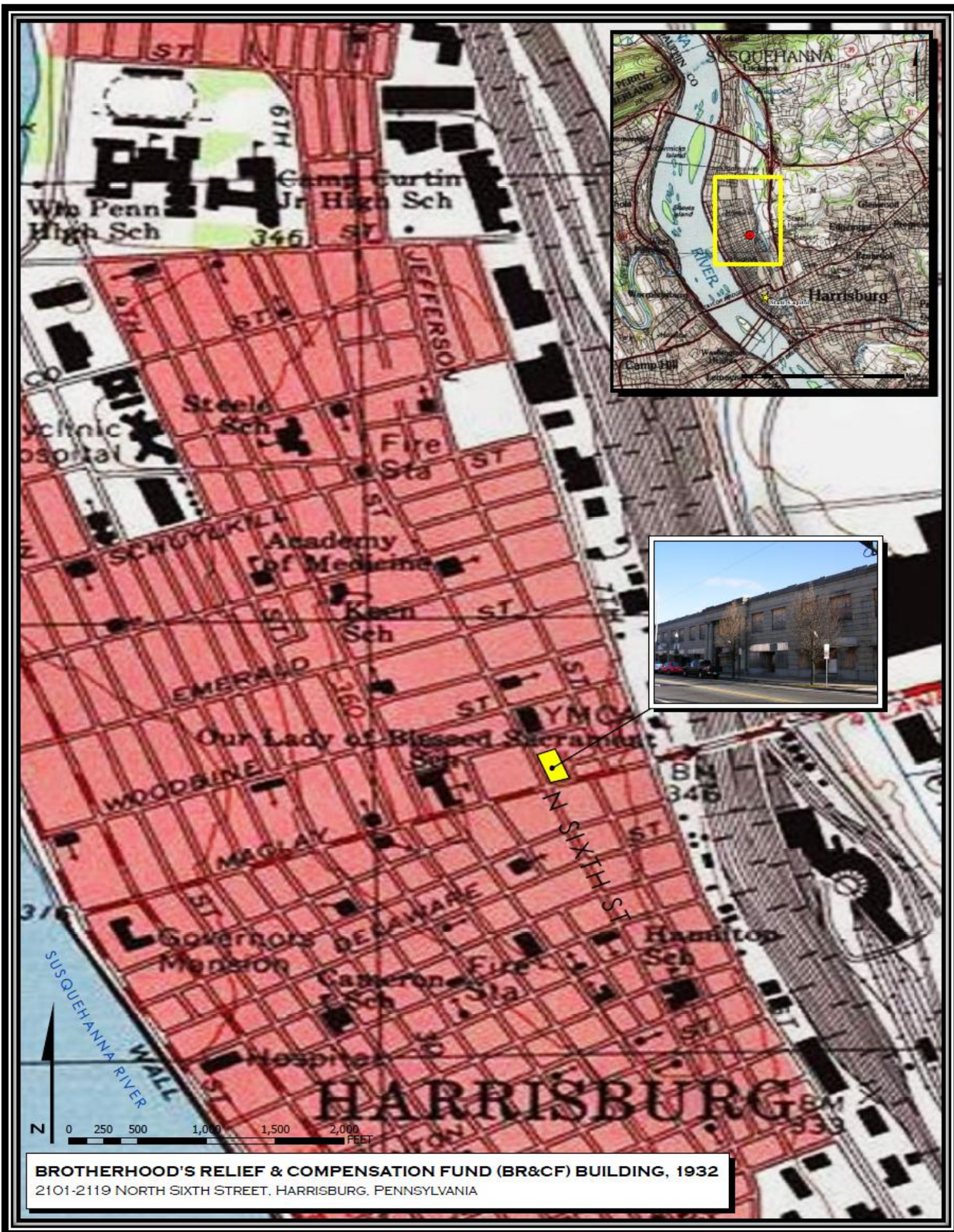
The B. R. & C. Fund remained in their building at Sixth and Maclay Streets in Uptown Harrisburg until the fall of 1977 when they decided to relocate to neighboring Susquehanna Township. By the 1970s, the neighborhood surrounding the building saw a significant decline and crime had become rampant. The Brotherhood sold the building after they relocated, and the building later became known as the Hudson Building, home of the Hudson Barber School and Beauty School. In the early 1990s, the building was purchased by Emma Woodyard, who converted several of the first floor retail spaces for church use and a daycare center. In the Brotherhood’s former office space on the second floor, a beauty school continued to operate. The building remained in use for these primary purposes for nearly a decade until it closed in the early part of the 2000s. Currently vacant, the building has been owned by Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation of King of Prussia, PA, since 2004. It is currently in a state of disrepair; especially the interior sections, due to severe water damage caused by a leaking roof. Most of the building’s exterior integrity remains, however.

Currently the Camp Curtin neighborhood, in which the B. R. & C. Fund Building stands, is one of the most economically distressed neighborhoods in the City of Harrisburg. The B. R. & C. F. Building continues to serve as a visual anchor marking the entrance to this neighborhood on North Sixth Street. It sits at the corner of two major transportation routes and remains a highly visible link to the area’s railroading history. Rehabilitation of the B.R. & C. F. Building is part of a strategy to spur economic development efforts in this area which has been in decline for at least half a century. National Register listing of the building is being sought to aid in the attraction of interested developers. The building’s grand scale and classical design make it an ideal candidate for reuse, offering the potential for both commercial and residential spaces in this once-vibrant mixed use neighborhood.

The B. R. & C. Fund Building, though not completed according to its original design, still remains significant at the local, state and national levels; not for its architectural significance, but under Criterion A for its important role in labor history. The Brotherhood’s Relief and Compensation Fund was created in 1912 to provide job income protection for unionized railroad workers facing perhaps unfair or harsh disciplinary action. The organization served and continues to serve as an ally of organized rail labor unions. At the time of its founding, the railroad industry was at the height of its power and influence, and workers were struggling to protect their rights through unionization. Despite the many changes in the industry and American society generally since that time, the role of this organization has stayed fundamentally the same. The B. R. & C. F. Building was designed expressly to serve as the headquarters of this railroad worker support organization. Its original uncompleted design represents that organization’s lofty goals and ambitions for its role in representing the rights of railroad workers. The scaled down reality of its construction tells the story of the difficulties such worker-supported organizations faced in raising capital and establishing themselves. This building served as the sole international headquarters of this organization for over 50 years, throughout the peak and decline of the railroad industry. The continued operation and solvency of this organization into present times, despite enormous changes in the rail industry demonstrates a continued need for such groups to represent the rights and needs of rail workers. The founding of the B R & C F and its location in Harrisburg, a major railroad hub and the state capital of Pennsylvania, the heart of the rail industry is most significant. It is symbolic of not only the city and state’s important role in the railroad industry, but also of the struggle for workers’ rights and the growing power of labor unions in the early 20th century.

¹⁶ *Progress: The Working Man’s Journal* XXIV, Silver Edition, no. 6 (June 1937).

¹⁷ Interview with J. Mark Robb, Brotherhood’s Relief and Compensation Fund, February 10, 2012.





Photograph #1, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing the central main entrance and 5 of the 6 total storefronts at street level. Camera facing northeast.*



Photograph #2, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing pairs of columns with ionic capitals and the frieze engraved with the phrase "B • R • & • C • F BUILDING". Camera facing east.*



Photograph #3, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the detail on the entablature and the ionic capitals of the leftmost columns, at the center of the west elevation of the building above the main entrance. Camera facing up and southeast.*



Photograph #4, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing the central main entrance and 4 of the 6 total storefronts at street level. Camera facing northeast.*



Photograph #5, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *West elevation of the building on North Sixth Street, showing a close-up of the fifth storefront entrance with an adjacent storefront and building main entrance. Camera facing north.*



Photograph #6, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the southernmost retail space entrance on the west elevation of the building. Camera facing east.*



Photograph #7, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the southwest corner of the building showing portions of the west and south elevations at the NE corner of North Sixth and Maclay Streets.*



Photograph #8, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the cornerstone at the southwest corner of the building, laid in 1923. Note the date and the seal of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund, designed by founder Luther G. Smith. Camera facing northeast.*



Photograph #9, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the cornerstone of the building at the building's southwest corner. The seal of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund is shown here, fronting North Sixth Street. Camera facing east.*



Photograph #10, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the date, 1923, on the cornerstone at the southwest corner of the building. Camera facing north.*

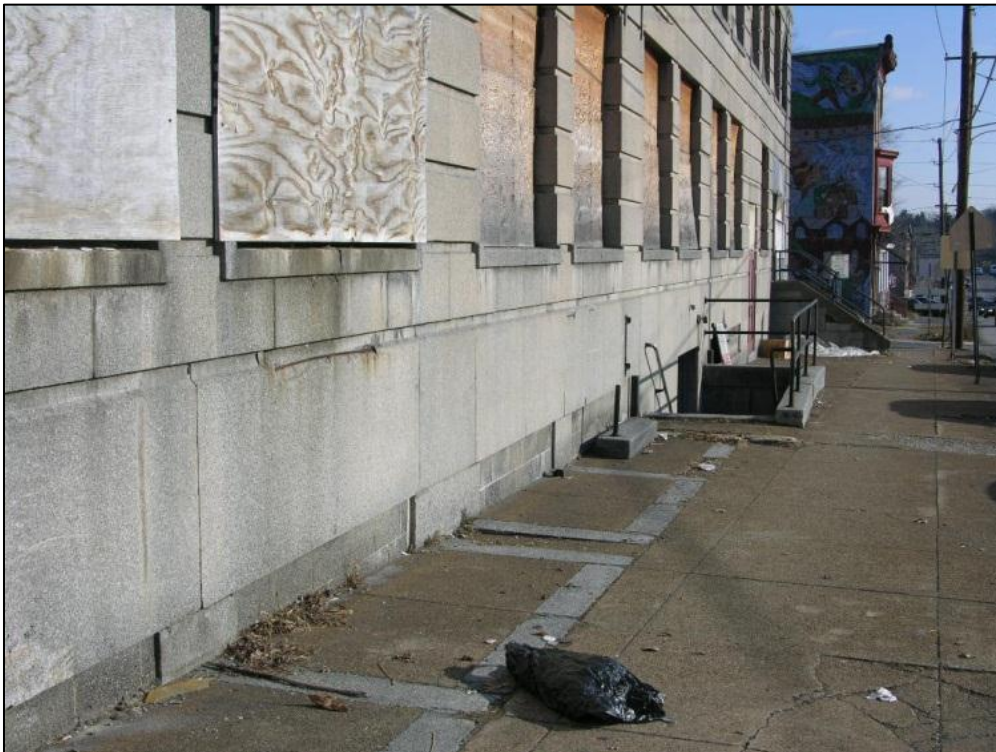


Photograph #11, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the south elevation of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building, fronting Maclay Street. Camera facing northeast.*



Photograph #12, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the south elevation of the B. R. & C. F. Building, showing an exterior basement stairwell and exterior staircase leading to the rear of the first floor from Maclay Street. Camera facing east.*



Photograph #13, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of the first floor exterior staircase on the south elevation of the building on Maclay Street. Elizabeth Street and adjacent parcels are visible in the background. Camera facing east.*



Photograph #14, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of Maclay Street exterior basement stairwell on the south elevation of the building, shown from Elizabeth Street. Camera facing west.*



Photograph #15, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the east elevation of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building. Elizabeth Street is off to the right of the picture. Camera facing north.*



Photograph #16, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the north elevation of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building. Camera facing southeast.*



Photograph #17, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the west elevation and northwest corner of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Building and the building's northernmost storefront. Camera facing east.*



Photograph #18, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the main entrance and foyer from the interior of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building. Camera facing west.*



Photograph #19, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *View of the interior of the second of five retail spaces at street level. Camera facing east.*



Photograph #20, 02-03-2012.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: *Close-up of a skylight on the second floor of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund Building. Camera facing up and east.*

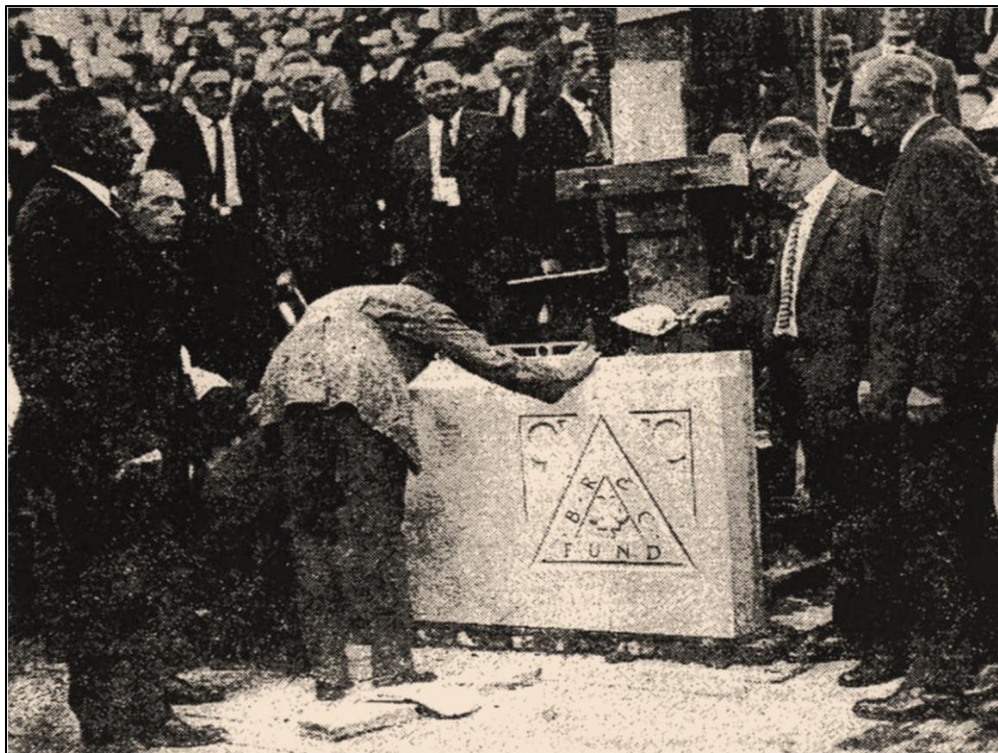


Photograph #1, circa early 1923.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Rendering of the original building design by Harrisburg architect C. Harry Kain, circa 1923. Image from *Harrisburg Telegraph*, June 2, 1923.



Photograph #2, August 23, 1923.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: B. R. & C. F. International President Luther G. Smith insuring the cornerstone of his organization's new headquarters at Sixth and Maclay Streets is level. Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot looks on at far right. Photograph from *Harrisburg Telegraph*, August 23, 1923, 1.



Photograph #3, October 25, 1931.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Photograph documenting construction of the building in the fall of 1931, as construction had begun after a seven year hiatus. View looking south toward Maclay Street. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #4, October 25, 1931.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Photograph documenting construction of the building in the fall of 1931, as construction had begun after a seven year hiatus. Camera facing south toward Maclay Street. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #5, December 15, 1931.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Photograph documenting the construction of the rear of the building, on Elizabeth Street, in December 1931. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #6, November 16, 1931.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph, taken at the corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets, illustrates the level of progress that had been achieved when the building's construction was halted in 1924. Camera facing northeast. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #7, January 15, 1932.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Construction of the building's façade was well underway at the time this photograph was taken. Camera facing northeast. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #8, February 1, 1932.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: The façade of this building is mostly finished at the time this photograph was taken, save for the storefronts. Camera facing northeast. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #9, April 1, 1932.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: The building was nearly ready for business when this photograph was taken in April 1932.

Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.

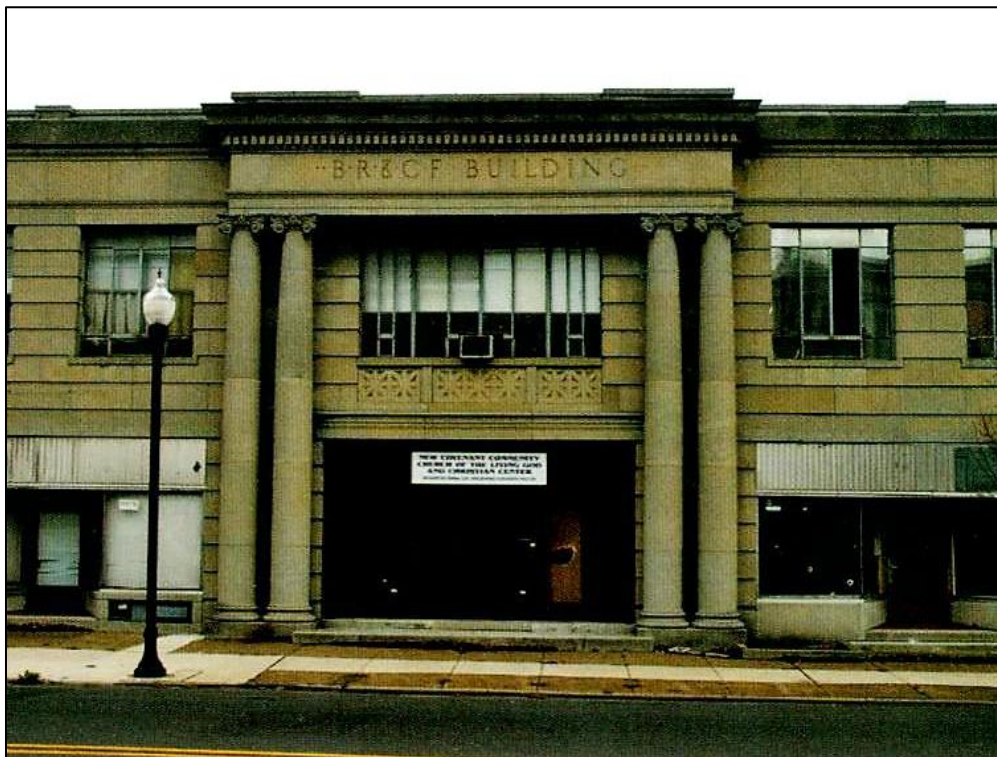


Photograph #10, circa late 1930s.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph shows the building in its glory days in the late 1930s. Note the Nancy Page Gift Shop to the left of the building's main entrance, and the Clover Grass Dairy Products Store and Luncheonette at right on street level. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #11, circa 2005.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: The same view of the building taken about 70 years after photograph #10 was taken. The building is beginning to exhibit signs of blight at this time. Photograph from *Building Harrisburg: The Architects and Builders, 1719-1941*, page 197 (Ken Frew).



Photograph #12, circa 1930s.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: The auditorium and ballroom of the B. R. & C. F. Building. It is uncertain whether this room was located in the building's basement or on the second floor. The room hosted many of the organization's events including the Victory Rallies which brought hundreds of members to the building from all over North America. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #13, January 15, 1938.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: International President Luther G. Smith calls members in the audience to order during the 1938 Victory Rally. Members of the board are seated on both sides of Mr. Smith on the stage. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #14, January 15, 1938.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Brotherhood members and their wives are seated in the auditorium and ballroom of the B. R. & C. F.'s 1938 Victory Rally. Photograph courtesy of the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund.



Photograph #15, circa 1932-1936.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Aerial photograph taken by Samuel W. Kuhnert, looking south over Uptown Harrisburg with the newly-constructed State Farm Show Building at lower left and the railroad at center. Note the B. R. & C. F.'s close proximity to the railroad. The building is circled above in yellow. Photograph courtesy of the PA State Archives (MG-281, Samuel W. Kuhnert Collection).



Photograph #16, circa 1932-1936.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Zoomed view of the Camp Curtin neighborhood of Uptown Harrisburg, circa 1932-1936. Located at the northeast corner of Sixth and Maclay Streets, the B. R. & C. F. Building is circled above in yellow. Photograph courtesy of the PA State Archives (MG-281, Samuel W. Kuhnert Collection).



Photograph #17, circa 1910.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: Trains sit on the tracks at the Pennsylvania Railroad terminal in Harrisburg in the early twentieth century under the Mulberry Street Viaduct. This photograph captures the strength of the railroad industry at this time and their significance to Harrisburg's economy and the Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (B 00044).



Photograph #18, circa 1940.

Brotherhood's Relief and Compensation Fund (B. R. & C. F.) Building

2101-2119 North Sixth Street, City of Harrisburg, County of Dauphin, Pennsylvania

Description: This photograph, looking west, captures traffic moving across the busy Maclay Street Bridge in 1940. The Brotherhood Building is not visible here, but is located at the next intersection on the right of the street. Photograph courtesy of the Historical Society of Dauphin County (MG 698-2873).