

Western State Penitentiary

Historic Resource Survey Form

May 2018

Clio Consulting

Pfaffmann + Associates

Halderman Historic Preservation Consulting



Historic Resource Survey Form

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION
Bureau for Historic Preservation

Key # _____
ER# _____
Date Prepared _____

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

HISTORIC NAME Western State Penitentiary, Western Penitentiary, Riverside Penitentiary

CURRENT/Common Name State Correctional Institution-Pittsburgh, SCI-Pittsburgh

OWNER NAME/ADDRESS Pennsylvania Department of General Services

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESOURCES 37

COUNTY Allegheny MUNICIPALITY Pittsburgh

USGS QUAD Pittsburgh West Quadrangle

LOCATION _____

STREET ADDRESS 3001 Beaver Ave, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA ZIP 15233

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY Building District Object Site Structure

OWNERSHIP Private Corporate
 Public/Local Public/County Public/State Public/Federal

TAX PARCEL #/YEAR _____

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

Historic Function	Subcategory	Particular Type
<u>Government</u>	<u>Government - Correctional Facility</u>	<u>State Penitentiary</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Domestic - Institutional Housing</u>	<u>Inmate Housing</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Domestic - Single Dwelling</u>	<u>Warden's Residence</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Current Function	Subcategory	Particular Type
<u>Vacant/Not In Use</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Property Features *(Items 15-17; see Instructions, pages 7-8)*

Setting Institutional; Industrial

Ancillary Features

Ohio River _____

Three Rivers Heritage Trail _____

Acreage (round to nearest tenth) 22.5

Key # _____

ER# _____

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

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION

Late Victorian _____ Art Deco _____
Romanesque _____ Industrial _____
Chateausque _____ _____

EXTERIOR MATERIALS and STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Foundation Stone _____ Concrete _____
Walls Stone _____ Brick _____
Roof Slate _____ Asphalt _____
Other Terra Cotta _____ Steel _____
Structural System Reinforced Concrete _____ Steel _____

WIDTH _____ (feet) or _____ (# bays) **DEPTH** _____ (feet) or _____ (# rooms) **STORIES/HEIGHT** _____

Historical Information (Items 18-21; see Instructions, page 8)

Year Construction Began 1878 Circa **Year Completed** 2007 Circa
Date of Major Additions, Alterations 1921 Circa 1938 Circa 1984 Circa
Basis for Dating Documentary Physical
Explain Historic maps and archival research
Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation(s) _____
Associated Individual(s) _____
Associated Event(s) Penological reforms
Architect(s) Edward M. Butz, Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr., Harry Viehman, Theodore Eichholz, TKA/HDR, Roach Walfish Lettrich, CRA-BKA-NHA
Builder(s) John Schreiner, Morris Knowles Company, Blaw-Knox Company

Submission Information (Items 22-23; see Instructions, page 8)

Previous Survey/Determinations Determined eligible in 3/22/93; Key # 009595
Threats None Neglect Public Development Private Development Other
Explain Resource is being transferred out of Commonwealth ownership
This submission is related to a non-profit grant application business tax incentive
 NHPA/PA History Code Project Review other

Preparer Information (Items 24-30; see Instructions, page 9)

Name & Title Jeff Slack, Senior Associate; Angelique Bamberg, Principal; Cara Halderman, Principal
Date Surveyed Spring 2018 **Project Name** Western State Penitentiary
Organization/Company Pfaffmann+Associates, Clio Consulting, Halderman Historic Preservation Consulting
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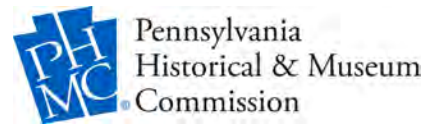
Figure 1, cover photo: West facade of the recently finished Western State Penitentiary, ca. 1893 (Carnegie Museum of Art).



Figure 2. View of the recently finished penitentiary from across the Ohio River, 1897.

Acknowledgments

The documentation team expresses its appreciation to the many people and organizations who helped make this project possible. A special thank you is extended to the staff of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office at the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the staff of the PA Department of Corrections—especially those who supported our work on-site at SCI-Pittsburgh; and the staff of the PA Department of General Services. Additional thanks go to photographer Matthew Christopher of Abandoned America, whose images help clarify existing conditions at this large and complex site.



Documentation Team

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pfaffmann.com

Primary Roles:
Physical Description and Document
Design

Angelique Bamberg
Principal
Clio Consulting

Primary Roles:
History and Significance

Cara Halderman
Halderman Historic Preservation Consulting

Primary Roles:
Historical Research and Preliminary Writing

Methodology

Purpose of Documentation

In February 2018, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) sought consultants to document the history and significance of Western State Penitentiary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (State Correctional Institution-Pittsburgh) as part of the proposed transfer of the penitentiary out of Commonwealth ownership. The Department of General Services (the property owner) worked closely with SHPO staff to provide this unique documentation opportunity. The deliverable of this documentation effort is this Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form.

Documentation Team

The documentation of Western State Penitentiary was divided into two distinct phases and was awarded to two separate consultants. Clio Consulting, led by principal Angelique Bamberg, was selected for Phase 1, History and Significance, and Pfaffmann + Associates, led by Jeff Slack, Senior Associate, AICP, was selected for Phase 2, Field Survey and Physical Description. Cara Halderman of Halderman Historic Preservation Consulting was hired as a research assistant by both consultants in an effort to streamline information across the project. Team members worked collaboratively throughout the process and attended regular meetings with SHPO staff.

Repositories Visited

The documentation team visited several important information repositories for the project. The team worked on site at the penitentiary multiple times, with SCI staff providing tours and access to the buildings and the facilities archive.

The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh provided important primary sources, including most of the annual penitentiary Inspector Reports. The State Library in Harrisburg yielded published historic accounts not contained elsewhere. Pennsylvania State Archives proved invaluable for primary source documents and photographs detailing the penitentiary's history.

Photographs

All existing condition photographs in this report are the work of Matthew Christopher of Abandoned America, unless noted otherwise. Christopher photographed the penitentiary on two occasions, including a day spent with members of the documentation team.

Areas for Further Study

Acknowledging the importance of the site, the documentation team committed time and resources beyond that initially anticipated in the Request for Proposals. Even so, there are limitations to this report. Areas for further study that would enhance the understanding of the penitentiary's significance include:

- Comparisons to institutions of similar age, size, and import across the country in order to better understand the penitentiary's leadership and significance within a national context;

- Examination of the penitentiary's significance from 1969-present. Due to National Register guidelines for establishing a period of significance, recent decades were not explored as thoroughly as the penitentiary's first century. The latter half of the 20th century was a time of unrest for many correctional institutions across the country, including Western State Penitentiary. The documentation team simply did not have time to gain a full understanding of late 20th century themes in Western State Penitentiary's history such as racial tensions, funding limitations, and administrative practices within the scope of this project; and
- Critical investigation into conflicting accounts from the early 20th century about reforms (often by penitentiary management) in light of inmate claims of abuse and policies created for political benefit.

Executive Summary

Western State Penitentiary is a former state prison originally constructed between 1878 and 1893 on the east banks of the Ohio River in Pittsburgh. At the time of its completion, it was the most expensive and modern prison in the world. It replaced two earlier Western State Penitentiaries built in 1826 and 1836, respectively, on a site about three miles away in the former Allegheny City and represents an evolution in thinking about prison design since the initiation of the state penitentiary system in 1790. The transformation of the Commons into a landscaped public park after the Civil War, along with desires for a larger site and programmatic reforms, influenced the relocation of Western State to its present site and provided an opportunity for its warden in the late 19th century, Edward S. Wright, and its governing Board of Inspectors to implement new ideas.

Wright and the Inspectors viewed the prison not only as a place of punishment but as a humanitarian institution of reform. They subscribed to contemporary theories about the causes and remedies of criminal behavior and strove to implement innovations in the housing, treatment, employment, and rehabilitation of inmates at Western State. Largely through Wright's efforts, Western State Penitentiary emerged as a leader in penology in Pennsylvania during the late 19th century. However, limitations of its land-locked and flood-prone site soon caused administrators to seek alternatives. At the same time, legal restrictions on inmate labor curtailed lofty ambitions to rehabilitate inmates through vocational activity and to enable the prison to fund itself. Nevertheless, despite numerous



Photo 1. Western State Penitentiary, front facade, looking southeast, showing the close proximity to the Ohio River in the foreground and Downtown Pittsburgh in the background (Charles Rosenblum).

recommendations for its closure and the reorganization of the state prison system to favor rural sites, Western State Penitentiary continued to operate through the early 21st century. It ceased to innovate and, instead, adapted to changing needs by constructing industrial, maintenance, and other facilities in the prison yard. After 1893, major periods of construction were the 1920s-30s and the 1980s-90s.

Western State Penitentiary is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its exemplification of a variety of penological reforms which led Pennsylvania's approach to the treatment of prisoners and design of modern prisons during the 19th century. Because this theme does not fit neatly into one of the National Register's established Areas of Significance, the Area of Significance for this resource is Other: Penology.

Western State Penitentiary is also recommended eligible under Criterion C as a significant example of a Victorian-era penitentiary that combined historical architectural forms and methods of construction with modern advances in infrastructure, utilities, sanitation, and features of prison design influenced by the industrial revolution.

Western State Penitentiary's period of significance is 1878-1968. The first year marks the beginning of the penitentiary's construction on its present site. From 1878 to 1900, Western State led the state in a variety of penological reforms and their architectural expressions. After 1900, prison funding in Pennsylvania—already insufficient—shifted to other sites in the system, while innovation in penology lagged nationwide. However, Western State continued to play an important role in Pennsylvania corrections and so maintains state-level significance during the 20th century. In the absence of any definitive event to mark the end of this significance, 1968 ends the period of significance in accordance with the National Register's 50 year guideline.

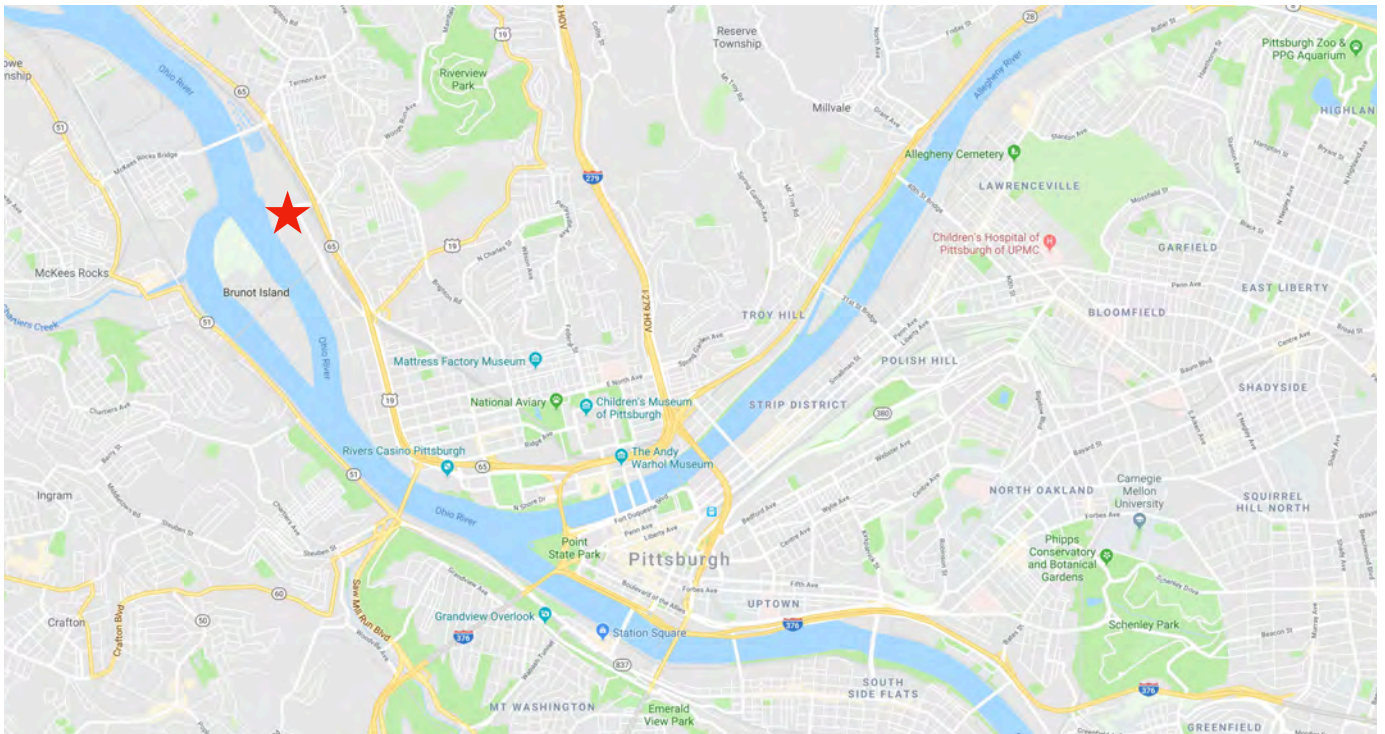
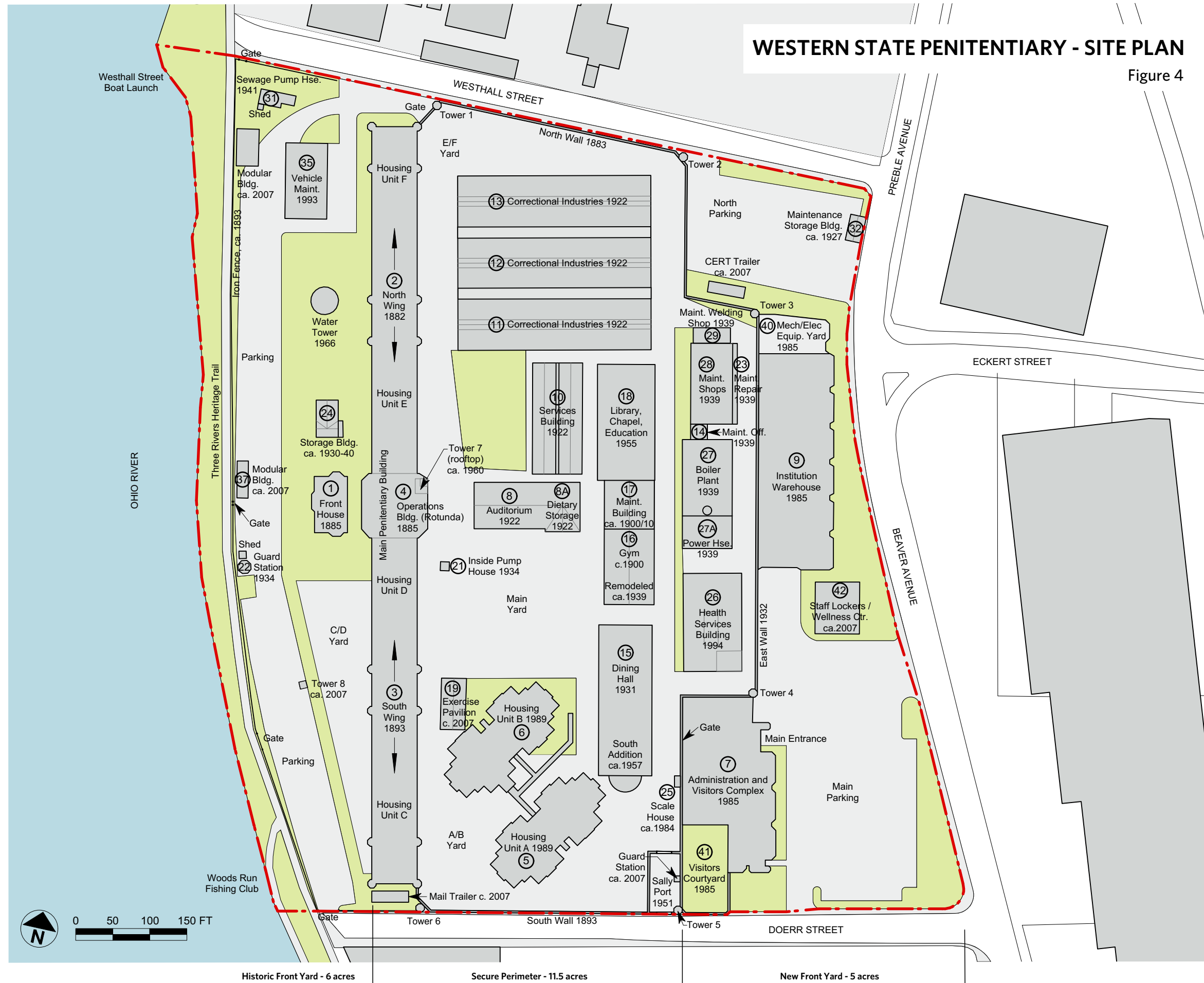


Figure 3. Vicinity map, showing the location of Western State Penitentiary on the banks of the Ohio River 2.5 miles from Downtown Pittsburgh (Google).

WESTERN STATE PENITENTIARY - SITE PLAN

Figure 4

Proposed National Register Boundary
(approximately 22.5 acres)



WESTERN STATE PENITENTIARY - PHOTO KEY

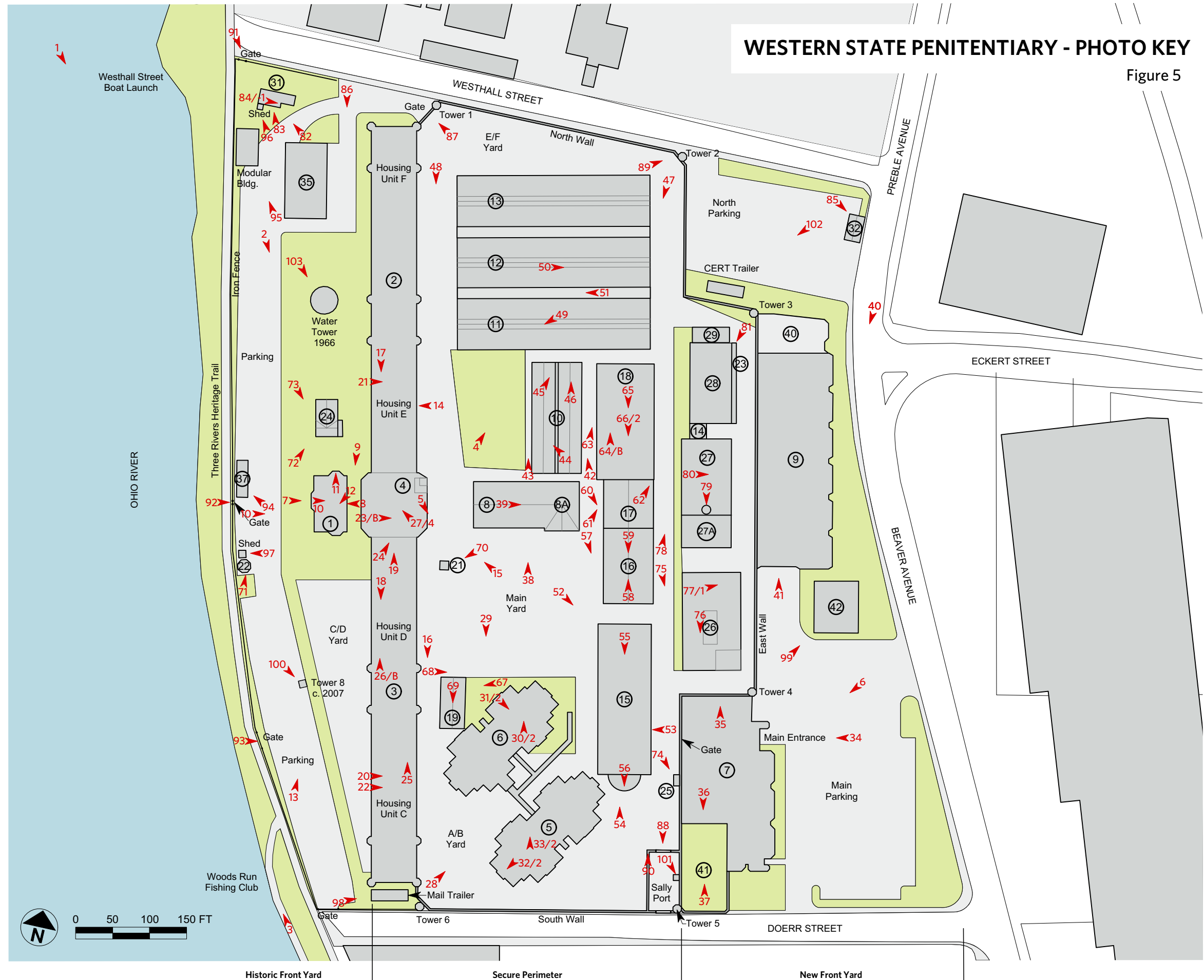
Figure 5

Key Buildings

- (1) Front House
- (2) North Wing
- (3) Operations Building / Rotunda
- (4) South Wing
- (5) Housing Unit A
- (6) Housing Unit B
- (7) Administration and Visitors Complex
- (8) Auditorium
- (8A) Dietary Storage
- (9) Institution Warehouse
- (10) Services Building
- (11) Correctional Industries Tag Shop
- (12) Correctional Industries Metal Shop
- (13) Correctional Industries Welding Shop
- (14) Maintenance Office
- (15) Dining Hall
- (16) Gymnasium
- (17) Maintenance Building
- (18) Library, Chapel and Education Building
- (19) Exercise Pavilion
- (21) Inside Pump House
- (22) Guard Station
- (23) Maintenance Repair Shop
- (24) Storage Building
- (25) Scale House
- (26) Health Services Building
- (27) Boiler Plant
- (27A) Power House
- (28) Maintenance Shops
- (29) Maintenance Welding Shop
- (31) Sewage Pump House
- (32) Maintenance Storage Building
- (35) Vehicle Maintenance Building
- (37) Modular Building
- (40) Mechanical Electrical Equipment Yard
- (41) Visitors Courtyard

NOTE: All interior photos are of the primary floor of a given building unless indicated by a suffix following the photo number. For example:

- 23/B ➔ Photo 23 / Basement
- 84/-1 ➔ Photo 84 / First sub-floor
- 10 ➔ Photo 10 (No suffix) / First floor
- 77/2 ➔ Photo 77 / Second floor



Physical Description

Site

Western State Penitentiary is located on the Ohio River in the Marshall-Shadeland neighborhood of Pittsburgh, approximately 2.5 miles downstream (or northwest) from “The Point,” where the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers meet to form the Ohio. The site is roughly rectangular and is bounded by West-hall Street to the north, Preble and Beaver Avenues to the east, Doerr Street to the south, and the Ohio River to the west. Adjacent blocks are dominated by large industrial, warehouse and offices uses, mostly one story in height. The majority of the site not covered by buildings has been paved. Trees are located only at the river’s edge, along Beaver Street and the eastern part of Doerr Street and in the Visitors Courtyard. From the river’s edge to Beaver Avenue, the land slopes gradually up to the east, gaining approximately eight feet in altitude.

The site contains approximately 22.5 acres and is divided into three main areas:

Historic Front Yard—6 Acres

Located on the western side of the site, the Historic Front Yard of the penitentiary contains roughly six acres of flat flood plain approximately eight feet above the water line. The yard extends from the river to the front façade of the Main Penitentiary Building (2, 3, 4), which was designed by Edward M. Butz and constructed between 1878 and 1893. Set back roughly two hundred feet from the river, the imposing ashlar-faced Romanesque façade measures over one thousand feet wide and over sixty feet high. Immediately in front, on the central axis, is the large, 4-1/2-story stone Front House, or historic Warden’s Residence and Offices (1). It was completed in 1885 and also designed by Butz (in a more Chateausque style). For the first century of operation, prisoners arrived at the penitentiary via the Historic Front Yard and disembarked in a two-story porte cochere . On the ground level, prisoners would be transferred to the Operations Building, or historic Rotunda (4). The second floor served as a bridge that connected the Front House to the Rotunda.

Building Names

Buildings are generally introduced by current names used by SCI-Pittsburgh staff, followed by historic names.

Building Numbers

Building numbers are those used by SCI and posted clearly on walls and roofs of most buildings to aid outsiders in identifying locations (e.g., if local emergency responders were called to the site).

Throughout the text, building numbers follow building names in parentheses.



Figure 6. Maintenance Storage Building (32), looking east, showing typical building designations used on walls and roofs (Google).

Photographs

Unless noted otherwise, all photographs of existing conditions were created by Matthew Christopher of Abandoned America.



Photo 2. Historic Front Yard, looking southeast, showing the expansive Main Penitentiary Building (left) with water tower in foreground. The Warden’s Residence is visible to the right).

At the northwest corner of the Front Yard is the Westhall Street Launch—a public river access point for kayakers and canoers. At the southwest corner a ramp and stone steps lead down to a series of concrete pads at the river's edge designated by a stone marker as The Woods Run Fishing Club. Adjacent to the river is the Three Rivers Heritage Trail (originally the right-of-way of the Pittsburgh & Western Railroad), a paved recreation trail which affords views of Brunot's Island and the Borough of McKees Rocks to the west. Bordering the eastern edge of the trail is a historic iron fence (ca. 1893) that returns to enclose a paved parking lot with access from Westhall and Doerr Streets. On the north and west sides are historic wrought iron pedestrian gates supported on cast iron posts; a more modern vehicular gate provides access on the south side. Two sets of modern chain link gates provide vehicular access at the north end of the parking lot. A grass lawn abuts the north end of the Main Penitentiary Building (2, 3, 4), while a paved recreation yard for inmates of Housing Units C and D (ca. 2007) abuts the south end and is bounded by double rows of razor wire.

In the lawn to the north of the Front House is a single-story Storage Building (24), which was constructed of cast concrete around 1930 as the garage for the Warden's House; it was enlarged by a concrete block addition to the north in the around 1940. To its north is a bulb-shaped water tower constructed in 1966, which replaced the water tower inside the prison walls that was scaled by rioting prisoners in 1962.

North of the water tower is the single-story Vehicle Maintenance Building (35), designed by CRA-BKA-NHA (joint venture) and constructed in 1993. To its northwest, tucked inside the corner of the iron fence, is the Art Deco Sewage Pump House (31), designed by Morris Knowles Company and completed in 1941. It contains one story above grade and three that extend underground below the river level. To the southwest of the Front House, on the edge of the parking lot, is an octagonal one-story Guard Station (22), which was constructed ca. 1934 and originally served as the Outside Pump House.



Photo 3. The Wood's Run Fishing Club's dock at the southwest corner of the property, looking north.

A number of minor structures dating from ca. 2007 are scattered across the Front Yard and include Modular Building (37) across from the Front House, Tower 8 in the parking lot overlooking Recreation Yard C/D, a Mail Trailer at the south end of the Main Penitentiary Building, and small sheds adjacent to the Guard Station and Sewage Pump House.

Secure Perimeter—11.5 Acres

Located in the center of the site, the Secure Perimeter contains roughly 11.5 acres of densely packed buildings bounded on the west by (and including) the Main Penitentiary Building and bounded on the north, east and south by a perimeter wall of stone and concrete. The wall measures twenty-five feet high, three feet thick at its top, and four feet thick at its base (which extends approximately eight feet below ground level). Atop the wall is a railed walkway that connects to six observation towers at strategic corners. Butz designed the wall as part of his vision for the original facility. The north wall and northern end of the east wall are constructed of Massillon sandstone block and were finished by 1883. The south wall and southern end of the east wall, also of Massillon sandstone, were completed by 1893. The remainder of the east wall is cast concrete and was constructed in 1932 as part of an expansion of the penitentiary grounds.

The Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building (8/8A) is located on the center axis of the Main Penitentiary Building and essentially divides the Secure Perimeter in two. Constructed of brick, the Auditorium portion is one story in height, while the attached storeroom contains two floors. This building and most of the buildings to its north date from 1922 and are replacements for buildings destroyed by fires set by rioting prisoners in July of 1921. The largest building in this part of the campus is the Correctional Industries Shop Building (11, 12, 13) once used for inmate labor, which was originally constructed as three separate single-story sheds of steel plate sidewalls and clerestory roofs. They were joined in the 1950s to create one large inter-connected space.

Between the Correctional Industries Shop Building and the Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building is a large grass lawn for inmate recreation. The largest green space within the secure perimeter, the lawn is bounded on its east side by the one-story Services Building (10), which is also of brick and steel shed construction and also dates from 1922. Just east of the Services Building is the two-story



Photo 4. Grass yard north of the Auditorium, looking northeast, showing the Correctional Industries Shop Building (left) and the Services Building (right).



Photo 5. South end of the Secure Perimeter, looking southeast from the roof of the Rotunda, showing the Main Yard (center).

brick Library, Chapel and Education Building (18), designed by Charles M. & Edward Stotz, Jr., and constructed in 1954. In the northwest corner is a paved Recreation Yard for inmates in Housing Units E and F.

To the south is the Main Yard, the largest paved recreation area at the penitentiary. On its western edge is the small, one-story Inside Pump House (21) from 1934. Further south are the newest inmate housing buildings—the nearly identical, six-story, concrete block Housing Unit A (5) and Housing Unit B (6), both designed by Tasso Katselas Associates and Henningson, Durham & Richardson (joint venture, a.k.a. TKA/HDR) constructed in 1989. On the southwest side of the former is a Recreation Yard for inmates of Housing Units A and B; on the west side of the latter is an open Exercise Pavilion (19), ca. 2007.

The east side of the Main Yard is bounded by a series of buildings from the 1930s, that includes the single-story Dining Hall (15) designed by Harry Viehman and constructed in 1931 (with a south addition in 1957 designed by Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.); one-story brick Gymnasium (16) built ca. 1900 and enlarged in 1939; and Maintenance Building (17), ca. 1900, with later modifications.

The eastern edge of the Secure Perimeter was expanded in the 1930s in order to place critical infrastructure as high above historic water levels as possible. Completed in 1939 were a new Boiler Plant/Power House (27/27A), Maintenance Shops/Offices (14, 23, 28, 29) and a hospital designed by Theodore Eichholz and Harry Viehman. The latter was subsequently replaced by the three-story, brick, Health Services Building (26) designed by Roach Walfish Lettrich, completed in 1994.

During recent operation of the facility, there were two main access points into the secure perimeter. Vehicular access was provided through the Sally Port (enlarged ca. 1951) in the southeast corner of the perimeter wall. Here, a vehicle would pass through the first gate and stop at a Guard Station (ca. 2007). After inspection by penitentiary staff, it would be allowed to proceed through the sec-

ond gate. Just north of the Sally Port is the Scale House, dating from ca. 1984. A second vehicular access point existed in the northwest corner of the perimeter wall adjacent to the Main Penitentiary Building. However, the opening has been filled with steel plates and masonry (which appears from photographs to have occurred as early as 1921). Primary pedestrian access during recent operations was via the Administration Building and Visitors Complex (7), which took on many of the inmate processing and visitation functions that originally occurred in the Warden's Residence and Office Building and Rotunda—effectively flipping the front façade of the facility from the river side to Beaver Avenue.

Throughout the Secure Perimeter, fences and gates of razor wire crisscross the site to create secure, manageable spaces and provide controlled access.

New Front Yard—5 Acres

Located on the eastern side of the site, the New Front Yard of the penitentiary contains roughly five acres of flat land that extends from the perimeter wall east to Preble and Beaver Avenues. This area contained blocks of dense residential buildings dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries that were largely razed and redeveloped as part of 1960s-70s urban redevelopment work and a 1984 master plan for the penitentiary. The current alignments of Preble and Beaver Avenues date from the time of this plan.

The Main Parking Lot on the corner of Beaver Avenue and Doerr Street dominates the New Front Yard and accommodates the re-orientation of the facility from its historic river side entrance. The parking lot provides visitor access to the two-story concrete block Administration Building and Visitors Complex (7) designed by TKA/HDR and completed in 1985. A Visitors Courtyard (41) on the south side of the building allowed for meetings in a secure, outdoor, landscaped space.



Photo 6. The New Front Yard of the Penitentiary, created as part of the 1984 master plan, looking southwest, showing the Administration and Visitors Complex at center.

The north side of the Main Parking Lot also provides access to the one-story concrete block Institution Warehouse (9), designed by TKA/HDR and completed in 1985. One of the goals of its construction was to provide loading and storage outside the secure perimeter so that the movement of supplies into the penitentiary could be better controlled. At its north end is a walled Mechanical/Electrical Equipment Yard (40).

Near the southwest corner of the Institution Warehouse is a modular building that served as Staff Lockers/Wellness Center (42), dating from ca. 2007.

In the northeast corner of the New Front Yard is the North Parking Lot, site of the former Roberta Lang Parklet and Swimming Pool. The pool was constructed in 1927 and closed sixty years later. On the eastern edge of the lot is the Maintenance Storage Building (32), ca. 1927—originally the filter house for the pool complex. On the south side of the lot, abutting the penitentiary wall is the Corrections Emergency Response Trailer (CERT), ca. 2007. The western edge of the lot once contained a house designated as the Warden’s Chauffeur’s Residence (demolished ca. 1960).

Parcels

The site bounded by Westhall and Doerr Streets, Preble and Beaver Avenues and the Ohio River consists of sixteen tax parcels owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of General Services. They are designated as follows:

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 44-B-20 | 44-C-60 | 44-G-1 |
| 44-B-25 | 44-C-68 | 44-G-2 |
| 44-B-26 | 44-C-90 | 44-G-20 |
| 44-B-50 | 44-C-122 | 44-G-298 |
| 44-B-60 | 44-C-124 | |
| 44-B-70 | | |
| 44-B-100 | | |

One additional parcel is owned by the City of Pittsburgh and is the location of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail:

44-B-125

See Parcel Map, next page.

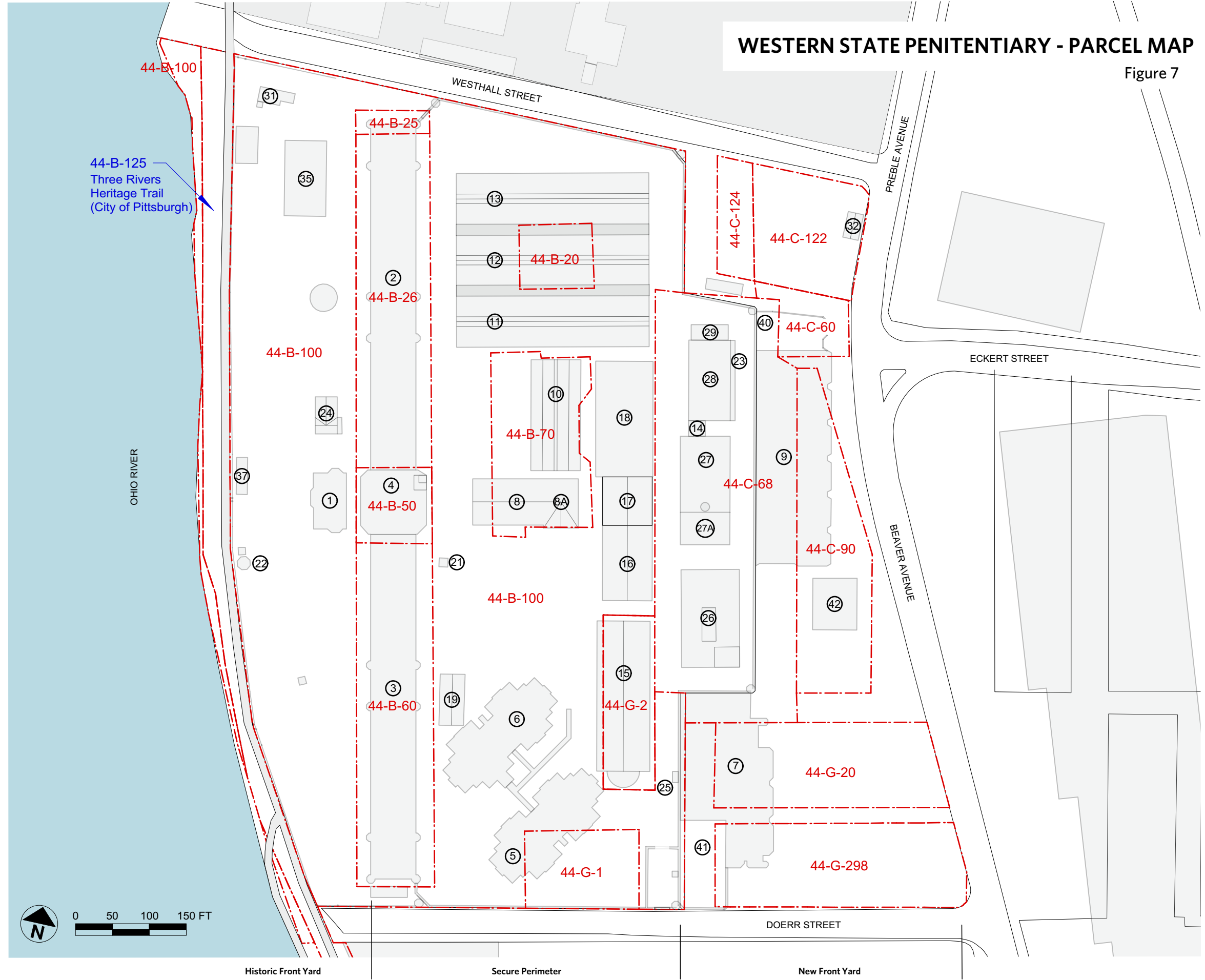
NOTE: Parcel lines and building footprints are approximations derived from GIS data and are for reference only. For more detailed and current information, a property survey should be obtained.

WESTERN STATE PENITENTIARY - PARCEL MAP

Figure 7

Key Buildings

- (1) Front House
- (2) North Wing
- (3) Operations Building / Rotunda
- (4) South Wing
- (5) Housing Unit A
- (6) Housing Unit B
- (7) Administration and Visitors Complex
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- (37) Modular Building
- (40) Mechanical Electrical Equipment Yard
- (41) Visitors Courtyard



① Front House (Warden's Residence)



Location map



Photo 7. Front House, front facade, looking east, with the North and South Wings of the Main Penitentiary Building visible behind.

Constructed:	1885
Architect:	Edward M. Butz; Frederick C. Sauer, supervising architect
Contractor:	John Schreiner
Original function:	Warden's Residence and Offices
Recent function:	Staff lockers and storage, ca. 2005
Construction:	Brick bearing walls (18" exterior walls)
Number of floors:	4.5 (ground, first, second, third, attic)
Approximate footprint:	3,670 SF ¹
Approximate area:	10,530 SF ²
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Front House is a 4-1/2-story building clad in ashlar Massillon sandstone that originally served as the Warden's residence and offices. Like the Main Penitentiary Building just a dozen feet behind it, the massing of the Front House is wide when viewed from the river, but rather narrow when viewed from the side. The building measures approximately 88-feet wide by 43-feet deep by 58-feet high. From any angle, the Front House has a strong sense of verticality resulting from what normally would be the basement having been designed at grade since the house is built in a flood plain. Verticality is further emphasized by the steeply pitched, hexagonal hipped slate roof with multiple cross gables and dormers and by prominent (though now foreshortened) end chimneys, which form part of octagonal bays on the north and south ends of each floor. Copper flashing remains on the roof as do parts of three decorative copper finials.

The front facade is three bays wide. In the center is an engaged octagonal tower. To its north on the first floor level is an enclosed one-story solarium with an open arcade below. The solarium is covered by a hipped standing seam metal roof. Above, a gabled wall dormer rises beyond the roof line. South of the tower is an

¹ Approximate footprint figures are generally derived from GIS/CAD data.

² Approximate area figures are generally derived from Department of Corrections documentation.

① Front House (Warden's Residence)



Figure 8. Warden's Residence, 1893, looking north, showing the porte cochere and bridge to the Rotunda.

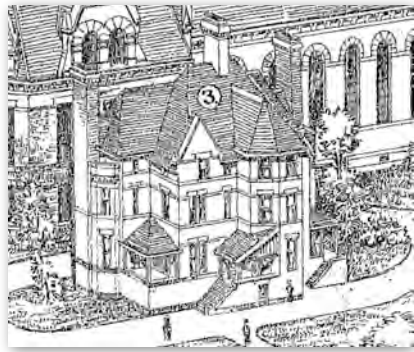


Figure 9. Warden's Residence looking south-east, showing the stair to the family quarters, center, and stair to the penitentiary offices, right, (from E.M. Butz Birdseye view), 1883.



Photo 8. Warden's Residence, rear facade, looking west, showing where the porte cochere and bridge once existed.

open one-story porch (with temporary corrugated fiberglass panels inserted into the openings) also covered by a hipped standing seam metal roof. Above is a small gabled dormer with a wooden verge board decorated with trefoil patterns. Both of these structures were added in the mid-twentieth century.

On all facades, stone belt courses delineate floor levels. On the east facade, the shadow of the former porte cochere and bridge are clearly visible. This structure was removed sometime after 1983 and little patching was done to conceal its former presence. Photographs show that it contained a large stone arched opening on its north and south facades along with large ornate wrought iron gates that acted as a sally port.

Most window sashes throughout the building are missing or extremely damaged. Those that remain are wood, one-over-one, double-hung sashes. Historic photographs indicate that this one-over-one configuration was original. Window openings have stone lintels and sills.

There is currently no access to the building from the front facade. However, historic drawings and photographs show that there were originally two front entrances: one for guests to the residence via a small porch where the solarium is today; and one for staff and people having business at the penitentiary via a small porch where the large open porch is located.

Building Style

While the the Front House is similar in style and materials to the Main Penitentiary Building and both were designed by Butz, the former lacks any of the round-arched details so prevalent on the latter and so common to the Romanesque style. In many ways the Front House is Chateausque, a style loosely based on monumental 16th-century chateaus of France, which combined earlier Gothic elements with that century's increasingly fashionable trend toward Renaissance



Photo 9. Warden's Residence, north facade, looking south, showing the narrow gap between the house and the Main Penitentiary Building. Also visible is one of the three-story, octagonal bay windows with integral end chimney.

① Front House (Warden's Residence)



Figure 10. Porte cochere of the Warden's Residence and Offices, 1966, looking north, showing one of the ornate iron gates that originally created a secure sally porte. The porte cochere and gates were removed sometime after 1983 (Pittsburgh Press, 28 November 1966).

detailing. The style was popularized in the United States by Richard Morris Hunt, the first American architect to study at France's prestigious Ecole des Beaux-Arts. Upon Hunt's return, he advocated similar buildings for his wealthy clients. Among these were the Vanderbilts, for whom he designed several Chateausque houses, culminating in Biltmore, George W. Vanderbilt's North Carolina country house completed in 1895.³

The Chateausque style was almost always architect-designed and was intended to impress. It typically featured massive masonry construction, steeply pitched roofs with many vertical elements (spires, finials, shaped chimneys), multiple dormers (especially wall dormers extending through the cornice line), towers, belt courses, and elaborate, expensive detailing.

Not surprisingly, a number of Chateausque style houses were built in Pittsburgh, with the most famous perhaps being Clayton, the home of industrialist Henry Clay Frick (remodeled in the Chateausque style by architect Andrew Peebles in 1881, with further alterations by Frederick J. Osterling in 1892). Another example is the Willock House at 705 Brighton Road in the Allegheny West neighborhood on the Northside; designed by William Ross Proctor and completed in 1891.

Interior of the Warden's Residence

In plan, the building is roughly T-shaped, consisting of rooms in and adjacent to the projecting tower at the front, with a block of adjacent spaces running across the rear.

Audits of the penitentiary from 1908 along with the original first floor plan from Butz from 1883 help explain original uses of each floor:

Ground floor: Coachman's room; back cellar; breakfast room; ice room; kitchen and pantry; finished hall (providing access to the porte cochere and public stairs). All with tile floor, except for wood in the hall.

First floor (shown on next page): Parlor; hall (vestibules and stairs); library; reception room; dining room and pantry. The building was served by three staircases: one in the public hall; one in the private hall for family use, and one in the pantry for servants.

Second floor: Inspector's room; hall and store room; three bedrooms; and a bath room.

Third floor: Hallway; south bedroom; bath room; guest bedroom and bath; north bedroom and dressing room.

Attic: Maid's room; store room; hall.

While access to the house for the current study was limited, it appears that the plan of rooms remains largely the same. However, two noteworthy alterations have occurred. First, significant amounts of interior trim have been removed from the house (following the 2005 closing of the facility), including most fire-place mantels, balustrades, much of the window and door trim, and the entire U-shaped private staircase that originally served the the residence. Second, a number of large murals have been painted on walls throughout the building. Current staff indicate that these were created by inmates.

³ Adapted from McAlester and McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 373-4).

① Front House (Warden's Residence)

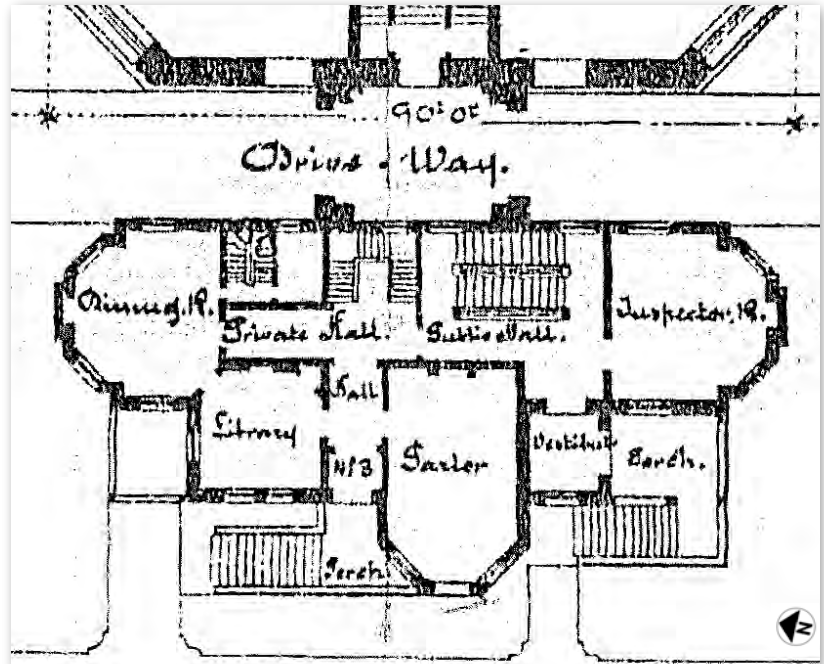


Figure 11. Proposed first floor plan of the Warden's Residence by E. M. Butz from 1883, showing the driveway/port cochere that separated the Front House from the Main Penitentiary Building as well as the original entrance stairs at the front. This iteration suggests that the Inspector's Room would have been on the first floor. However, the 1908 audit indicates that a reception room replaced this function by that time.



Figures 12 and 13. Interior views of the Warden's Residence, ca. 1900 (PA State Archives).



Photo 10. Warden's Residence interior, main hall, first floor, looking east, showing the former library on the left and former parlor on the right. Murals painted by inmates can be seen in all three rooms. A shadow of the former family staircase can be seen at the center rear beyond the archway.

① Front House (Warden's Residence)



Photo 11. Warden's Residence interior, dining room, looking north, showing the brick bearing wall construction (left), missing mantel with mural above (center) and remaining window trim throughout (including interior shutters).

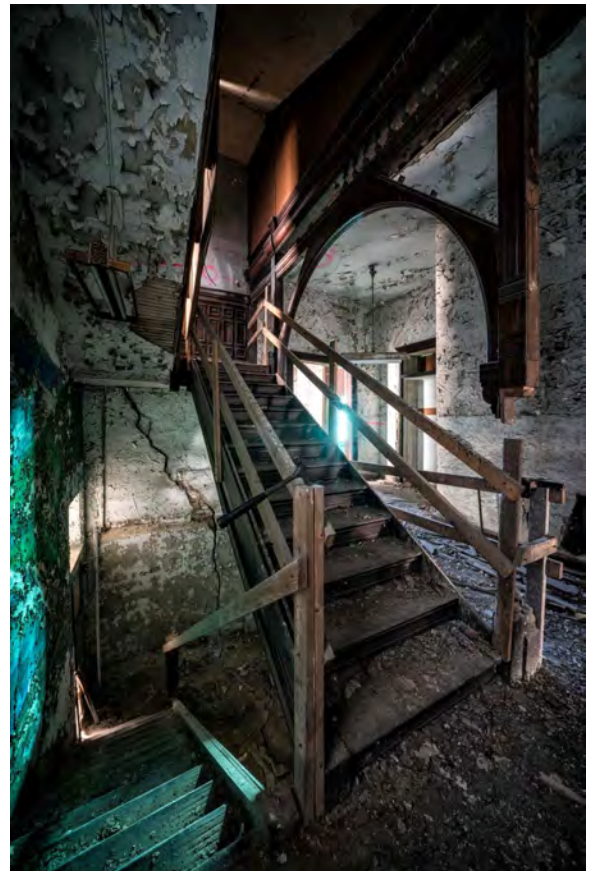


Photo 12. Warden's Residence interior, public staircase, looking southwest, showing the loss of many elements of historic wood trim. The flight of stairs at left led down to the finished ground floor level and the hall that would have welcomed visitors entering from the porte cochere. In the distance (through the wooden arch) can be seen what was originally the reception room.

Edward M. Butz (ca. 1845-1916)



E. M. Butz was born in Allegheny City around 1845-46. However, all published obituaries erroneously list his age at time of death as fifty-seven (i.e., born around 1859). The 1859 birth year is implausible based on known milestones throughout his career. For example, there are articles that indicate his career was underway in the early 1870s (which would have made him about thirteen) and that he began designing the Penitentiary in 1876 (which would have made him seventeen). A more accurate date of birth can be derived from the 1870 US Census, which indicates that Butz was twenty-four years old then and working as an architect (i.e, born in either 1845 or 1846). This would place his age at time of death around seventy.

In addition to the Western Penitentiary, his noted designs include the the Tradesmen's Industrial Institute, the State Reform School at Morganza (successor to the House of Refuge), courthouses for Clarion and Westmoreland Counties, the Lawrence County Jail in New Castle, a Masonic Temple in Chicago, and a power station in New York City. It was his success with large commissions such as the Tradesmen's Industrial Institute and the buildings at Morganza that prompted the Board of Inspectors of the Penitentiary to hire him. In addition to being an architect, Butz was the founder of the Columbia Iron & Steel Company and was the holder of a number of patents for structural steel elements and fireproof construction. He married Mary Yeager of Allegheny City in 1876 and the couple had three children.



Figure 14. Rendering of the Clarion County Courthouse (1885). The ashlar masonry, belt courses and steeply pitched slate roof are reminiscent of the Main Penitentiary Building.

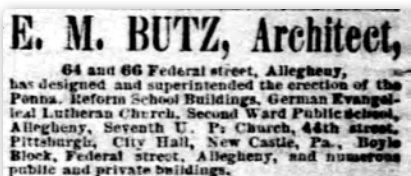


Figure 15. Advertisement for the architecture firm of E. M. Butz from the Pittsburgh Weekly Gazette, December 18, 1875.

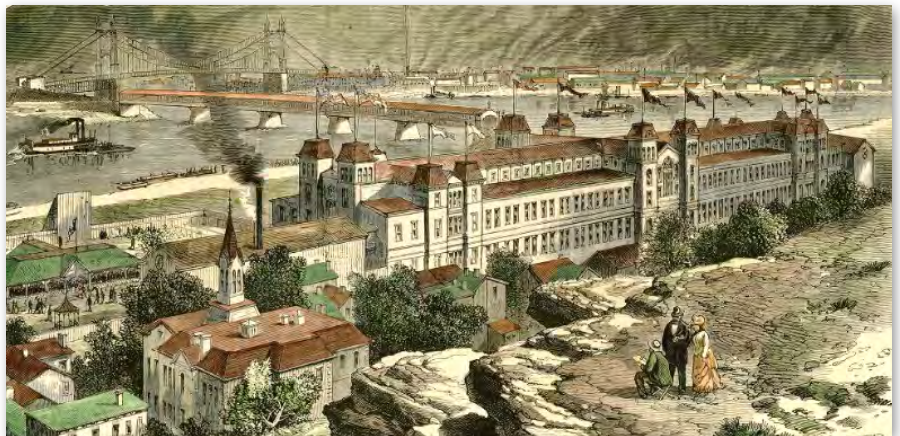


Figure 16. The Tradesmen's Industrial Institute in Allegheny City (right), looking southwest with Pittsburgh's "Point" in the background. Constructed 1875; destroyed by fire 1883. The building and Exhibition Ground were located in what is today the parking lot east of Heinz Field (Harper's Weekly, 1878).

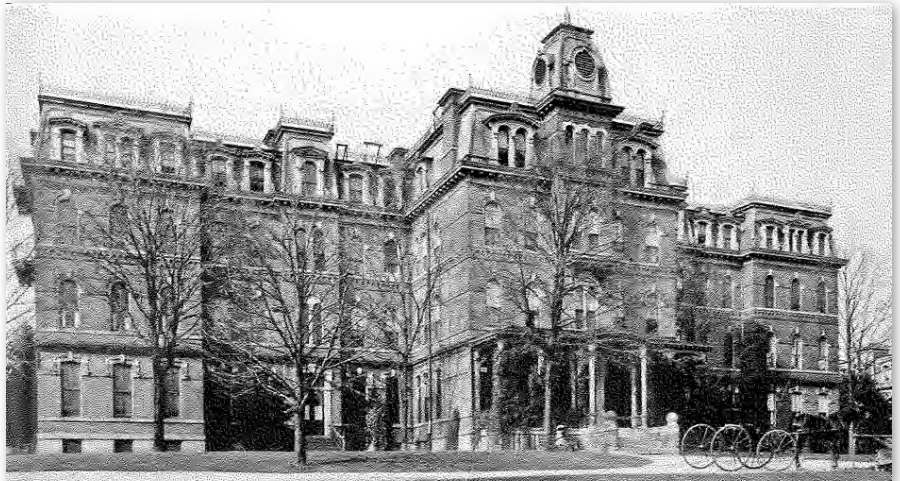
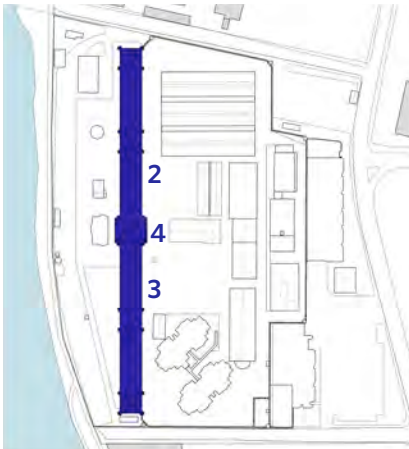


Figure 17 The Administration Building at the Pennsylvania Reform School at Morganza (1873-1927).

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building



Location map

Main Penitentiary Building:

- (2) North Wing, Housing Units E & F
- (3) South Wing, Housing Units C & D
- (4) Operations Building (Rotunda)



Photo 13. Main Penitentiary Building, front facade, looking northeast, showing Recreation Yard C/D (behind the razor wire fence) and the Warden's Residence and water tower (far left).

Constructed:	(2) North Wing: 1878-82; (4) Operations Building (Rotunda): 1883-85; (3) South Wing: 1887-93
Architect:	Original building: E. M. Butz; Frederick C. Sauer, supervising architect (for part); Additional floors in Rotunda: Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr., 1959
Contractor:	John Schreiner
Original function:	Cell blocks and administration
Recent function:	Cell blocks and administration, until ca. 2005
Construction:	Brick bearing walls, stone, steel beams
Number of floors:	Cell blocks: 5 tiers; Operations: 4 floors; basement underneath all
Approximate footprint:	65,790 SF
Approximate area:	127,000 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

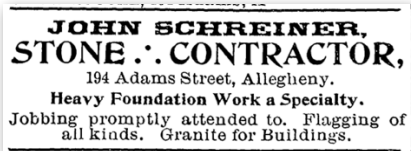


Figure 18. Advertisement for John Schreiner, the stone contractor for the original penitentiary buildings and walls.

Exterior

The Main Penitentiary Building consists of three parts: The North Wing (2), which was the first major building to be completed under Butz (1882); the Operations Building (4), or historic Rotunda (1885) originally connected to the Front House; and the South Wing (3, completed in 1893). Constructed of brick with an ashlar sandstone face (except for the east facade of brick), the building measures 1,025 feet wide by 64 feet deep by approximately 60 feet high. The Rotunda is an octagon in the center measuring 90 feet square.

The building was designed by Butz in the Romanesque style and originally featured elaborate, steeply pitched roofs and turrets that visually divided the great width of the building into a series of pavilions—two for each wing—with the Rotunda rising in the middle to a height of over 120 feet. All features above the main cornice were removed in 1959 (due to inadequate maintenance and leaks)

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building



Photo 14. Main Penitentiary Building, North Wing, east facade of Housing Unit E, looking west, showing the battered stone base of the wall with arched windows and brick walls above topped by a cornice of stone modillions. Only the east facade is finished in brick; the others are clad in stone.

and were replaced with a flat roof of prestressed concrete slabs built by The Pittsburgh Flexicore Company (see advertisement on next page).



Figure 19. This photo, taken after riots in 1953, shows the mechanical operators that allowed multiple sashes to be opened and closed from the floor (Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph).

Today, the engaged octagonal bases of the turrets remain and divide the north and south wings into four bays on each side of the Rotunda. Each bay contains a series of tall arched windows covered with bars—three windows in each of the two smaller bays and eleven in each larger bay (for a total of fifty-six windows on each of the long facades). Window openings generally measure 6-1/2 feet wide by 35 feet tall and contain multi-lite industrial steel sash windows with six operable hopper windows per opening. The current windows date from ca. 1937 and originally contained mechanical openers that could be operated from the floor inside each wing. Those devices have been removed and windows are now opened or closed by a person suspended from an overhead hoist. Three similar windows are located on the north and south facades. The window openings are uninterrupted by interior floors, which are set back from the exterior walls. The chamfered walls of the Rotunda each contain two large, rectangular barred windows that start at the level of the first floor and rise to the same height as the adjacent arched windows.

The base of the exterior walls are battered for a height of approximately seven feet. At this height, the north, west and south walls are 42 inches thick. The east wall, which lacks the ashlar facing, is 28 inches thick. Ten feet above the first floor line is a stone belt course, which also acts as the sill for each window. A similar belt course is present about thirty feet above the first one. At the cornice, encircling the building, is a band of heavily carved modillions. Atop the Rotunda is a cast concrete parapet (ca. 1959) that rises to a height of approximately three feet.

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building

There are three entry points into the building on the west facade: A door at grade level at the Rotunda and a concrete ADA ramp and door (ca. 2007) providing emergency egress from Housing Units E and F. On the west facade there is a concrete ADA ramp and two doors and at the south end of Housing Unit C, at the north and south ends of Unit D, at the north and south end of Unit E, and at the north end of Unit F. Access at the Rotunda is via concrete stairs leading to a double door. There are no doors on the north and south facades.



Photo 15. Main Penitentiary Building, east facade, looking northwest from the Main Yard, showing the Rotunda (center) and Auditorium (8) to the right.



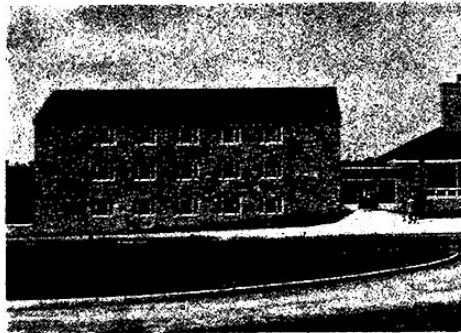
Photo 16. Main Penitentiary Building, east facade, looking south, showing a close up of the stone base of the building and one of the ADA ramps to the housing units.

② ③ ④ Main Penitentiary Building

flexicore floor and roof slabs

- LONG SPAN
- PRECAST
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Institute
At Pittsburgh
(Western Penitentiary)
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CONTRACTOR:
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← Mens' Dormitory Group
Moravian College
Bethlehem, Pa.
ARCHITECTS:
Trautwein & Howard
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E. C. Machin, Inc.
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When the old roof on the State Correctional Institute at Pittsburgh had to be replaced, the Engineer and Contractor faced an unusual problem. Complete security had to be maintained during the installation of the new roof, and there could be no interruption to internal activities, no scaffolding, and no dirt. Speed was also vital. Flexicore solved the problem.

The new Flexicore roof slabs were completely installed under the old roof, creating a secure, weather-tight roof deck before removal of the old roof, and a finished ceiling inside. Flexicore again provided a fire safe, highly efficient, economical job, in minimum time.

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Figure 20. Advertisement for Flexicore proclaiming the benefits of the new flat roof at the Penitentiary (Charette Magazine, November 1960).



Before

New Roof For The Penitentiary

PUTTING a new roof on a building without exposing the residents to the elements is quite an engineering feat. That's particularly true when the building is a penitentiary, and the residents can't very well be moved.

But that job has now been finished at Western State Penitentiary at a cost of \$435,000, and not a prisoner is missing.

A new roof for the 1878 structure was

necessary because the slate on the old peaked roof with its foreboding spires and cupolas was loosened in heavy storms. The roof leaked and pieces of the parapet tumbled down without warning.

To meet the problems, engineers of Crump, Inc., placed structural steel and reinforced concrete supports at the tops of the cell blocks. Foundations for pre-cast concrete roof slabs

were built in the three-foot thick walls, and the roof slabs were installed. A temporary composition roof and drainage system was constructed to keep the penitentiary dry while the old roof was ripped off. Later, the permanent roofing was installed, and the structure now has a flat roof. With a new drainage system in operation, workmen then removed vertical drain pipes, another possible escape route.

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After

*34 The Pittsburgh Press, Sunday, April 12, 1959

Figure 21. The removal of the ornate roof of the Penitentiary was covered by the local press. Here, an article in the Pittsburgh Press focuses on roof leaks and the fact that no prisoners escaped. There is no sense of cultural or architectural loss.

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building

Frederick C. Sauer (1860-1942)

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, Frederick C. Sauer worked as a stone-cutter, carpenter, and bricklayer for three years before studying architecture at the Stuttgart Technical School. After graduating in 1879, Sauer emigrated to Pittsburgh. Among his early employers was E.M. Butz who entrusted Sauer to supervise parts of the work at the new Western Penitentiary. By 1884 Sauer had established his own office from which he designed dozens of churches in the area. Among his notable works are St. Stanislaus Kostka Church (1891) in the Strip District, St. Mary of the Mount Church (1896) on Mount Washington, Saint Mary Magdalene Church in Homestead (1895), Latimer School (1898) in East Allegheny, and the St. Nicholas Croatian Church in Millvale (1922). In 1898, Sauer built a home for himself in Aspinwall and gradually transformed a wooded hillside into an architectural fantasy with a complex of castlesque buildings to which he progressively added until his death in 1942.



Photo 17. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit E, North Wing, looking south, showing the five tiers of cells (left) set back from the exterior wall. The wire mesh ceiling (upper left) was installed to protect staff from thrown objects.

Interior

In plan, the North and South Wings are nearly identical, consisting of five tiers of cells arranged back-to-back with a utility chase in between. As was typical in Auburn-style prisons, the cell blocks are set back from the exterior walls, which are constructed of brick. On the first floor, this set back area served as a narrow common area, or day room. On the east side, this area also contains guard stations with impact-resistant glass walls and ceilings and adjacent support and storage rooms of concrete block (ca. 1980).

Theories about cell block design were evolving in the early years of Western Penitentiary, leading to the construction of larger cells when the South Wing was completed a decade after the North Wing. Specifically, the north wing has 640 cells: 540 of which measure five feet by eight feet in plan and 100 of which measure seven feet by eight feet. The south wing has 500 cells all measuring seven feet by eight feet. In both wings, cell walls are brick, measuring eighteen inches thick, and painted. Cell floors are limestone, which is also the case for the common areas on the first floor—though large areas have been covered with a sealant and there are some areas of concrete patching. The balconies, or ranges, along the cell fronts are 37 inches deep with a four-pipe railing measuring 47 inches high. Each range is supported from below by decorative iron brackets. Extending about seven feet out from the lowest range is a ceiling of wire mesh intended to protect staff from objects thrown by prisoners from above.

A typical cell contains a steel bed frame, desk with attached stool, shelf, locking cabinet, sink and toilet—all bolted to the floor and/or walls. Some cells contain bunk beds. Larger cells originally contained a barred window looking out onto the range and the windows of the outer wall beyond. However, these were filled

② ③ ④ Main Penitentiary Building



Figure 24. Cells in the South Wing in 1897. Note the original iron-barred door (left), the ladder/scaffold that was employed to open and close the original windows (right), and the uninterrupted length of the cell block (PA State Archives).

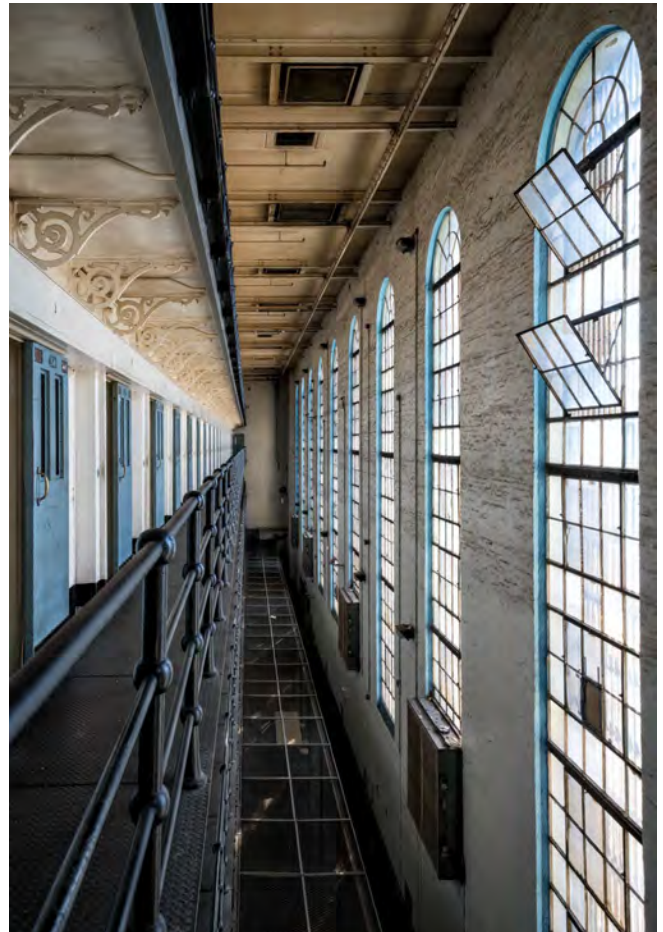


Photo 18. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit D, looking south, showing the fourth tier of cells (left), decorative iron brackets supporting the fifth tier, and the setback of the cells from the outer wall. Above can be seen ventilators in the Flexicore ceiling and the trolley way that allows windows to be adjusted.

with concrete block ca. 1983 as part of HVAC improvements (new smoke ex-truders could not function properly with the window openings in place). At the same time, the cell doors, which were originally made of open iron bars were replaced by solid, steel-plated, automatic sliding doors with two small wire mesh openings that could be operated from a guard station in each housing unit.

During this same time period the single cell blocks in each wing (which measure over 450 feet in length) were partitioned into two more manageable housing units (i.e., C/D in the South Wing and E/F in the North Wing). Accompanying the latter change was the installation of stainless steel shower stalls (either at partitions or end walls) to accommodate hygiene needs within the now smaller housing units.

Vertical circulation to the five tiers within each cell block is provided by open steel stairs containing stringers marked "Carnegie," indicating they were provided by Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Company. Stairs are protected by single pipe rails that terminate into ornate cast iron newel posts.

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building



Photo 19. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit D, looking north, showing typical stainless steel shower units.



Photo 20. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit C, looking east, showing a typical original window opening into a cell (center) that was filled with concrete block ca. 1983.

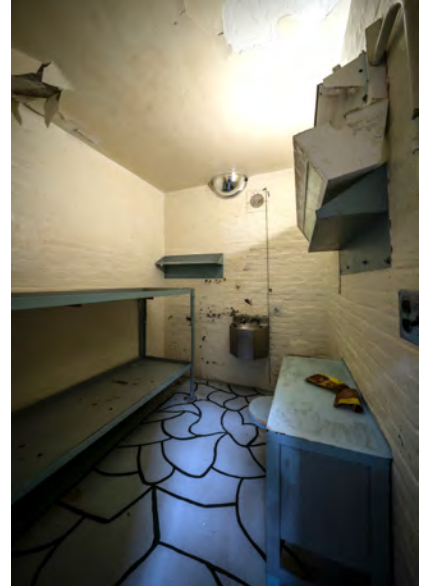


Photo 21. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit E, looking east, showing the inside of a typical cell in the North Wing.



Photo 22. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit C, looking east, showing the inside of a typical cell in the South Wing.

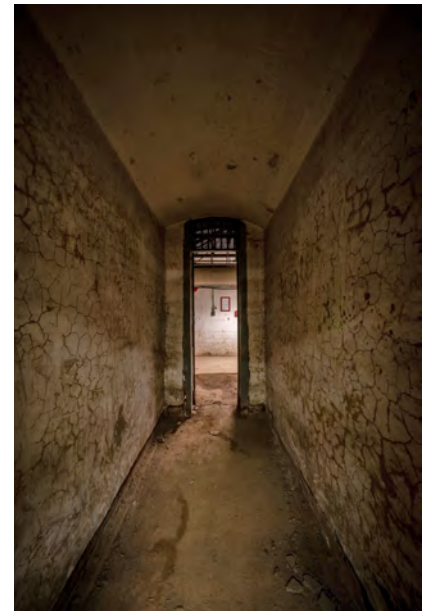


Photo 23. Main Penitentiary Building interior, basement of the Rotunda, looking east, showing the inside of one of the solitary confinement cells that was used into the early twentieth century.

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building

The interior of the Rotunda is supported on 16 cast iron columns that are 14 inches in diameter and sheathed in ornamental cast iron casings. When first designed, there were only two floors (above the basement). The first floor, which originally contained a reception area and mess room, has a ceiling height of 17 feet (now obscured throughout by lay-in ceiling tiles). The second floor, which originally served as the guard room, originally had a ceiling height of approximately 35 feet. The height of the guard room was the same as the height of the bridge to the Warden's Residence and Offices as well as the third tier of cells in the adjacent wings. Iron grating on the north and south ends of the guard room allowed the guards to survey all five tiers for the entire length of each cell block.

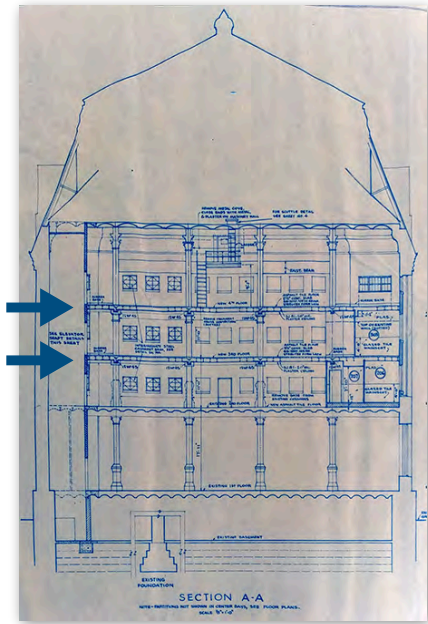


Figure 25. Section drawing showing the third and fourth floors to be inserted into the Rotunda, ca. 1959 (Facilities Archive, SCI Pittsburgh).

Following riots in 1953, prison reforms were enacted statewide. In 1959, the penitentiary formally became the State Correctional Institution at Pittsburgh and a diagnostic and classification center was mandated. To accommodate this new service, a third and fourth floor were added in the Rotunda (designed by the firm of Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.). This was the first of a number of renovations that have left the Rotunda interior devoid of almost any visible historic features. Drywall partitions subdivide the first three floors into a warren of small spaces and corridors, all containing contemporary finishes. The fourth floor contains mechanical equipment set on a concrete floor. The cast iron columns and their ornate capitals remain (but they are hidden above drop ceilings or out of public view on the top floor).

A continuous basement extends beneath the Main Penitentiary Building and is used primarily to distribute utilities. In the North and South Wings, this takes the form of five long, parallel, brick-arched vaults. Beneath the Rotunda, a group of small solitary confinement cells remain. This was historically referred to as the "hole" or "dungeon," where prisoners were sent for extreme isolation before the former women's cell block took on this function. The smallest of these cells measures less than eight feet by four feet and consists of a concrete floor and arched concrete ceiling, painted stone walls, a steel door at one end and an open doorway at the other (that originally contained a wood door according to historic accounts).

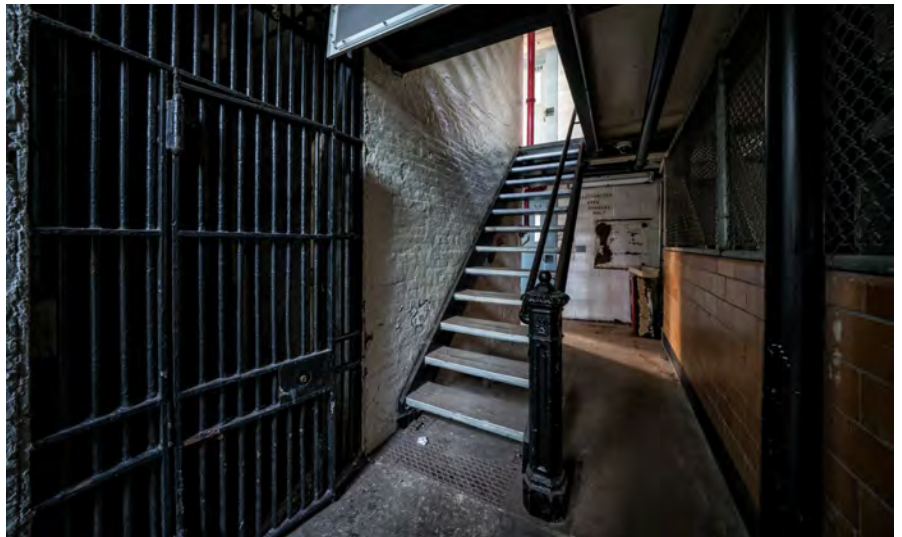


Photo 24. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit D, first floor, looking northeast showing a typical stairwell.

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building



Photo 25. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit C, first floor, looking north, showing a typical guard station with its impact-resistant glass windows and ceiling. On the table in the center is a control panel that allowed guards to remotely operate all of the cell doors.



Photo 26. Main Penitentiary Building interior, basement under Housing Unit D, looking north, showing the distribution of mechanical, electrical and plumbing services, stone walls and floor, and arched brick ceiling

②③④ Main Penitentiary Building



Figure 26, showing the escape route through the upper floor of the Rotunda taken by inmate Andrew Kaczynski in May 1951 (he was recaptured a month later). Note the clear ceiling height of over 35 feet—this was two years before the floors were inserted for the diagnostic and classification center (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette).



Photo 27. Main Penitentiary Building interior, fourth floor of Rotunda, looking northwest, showing the mechanical space with its floor slab that was inserted into the building in 1959 and the original cast iron columns with their decorative capitals. Similar capitals remain above the dropped ceiling on the first floor.

② ③ ④ Main Penitentiary Building

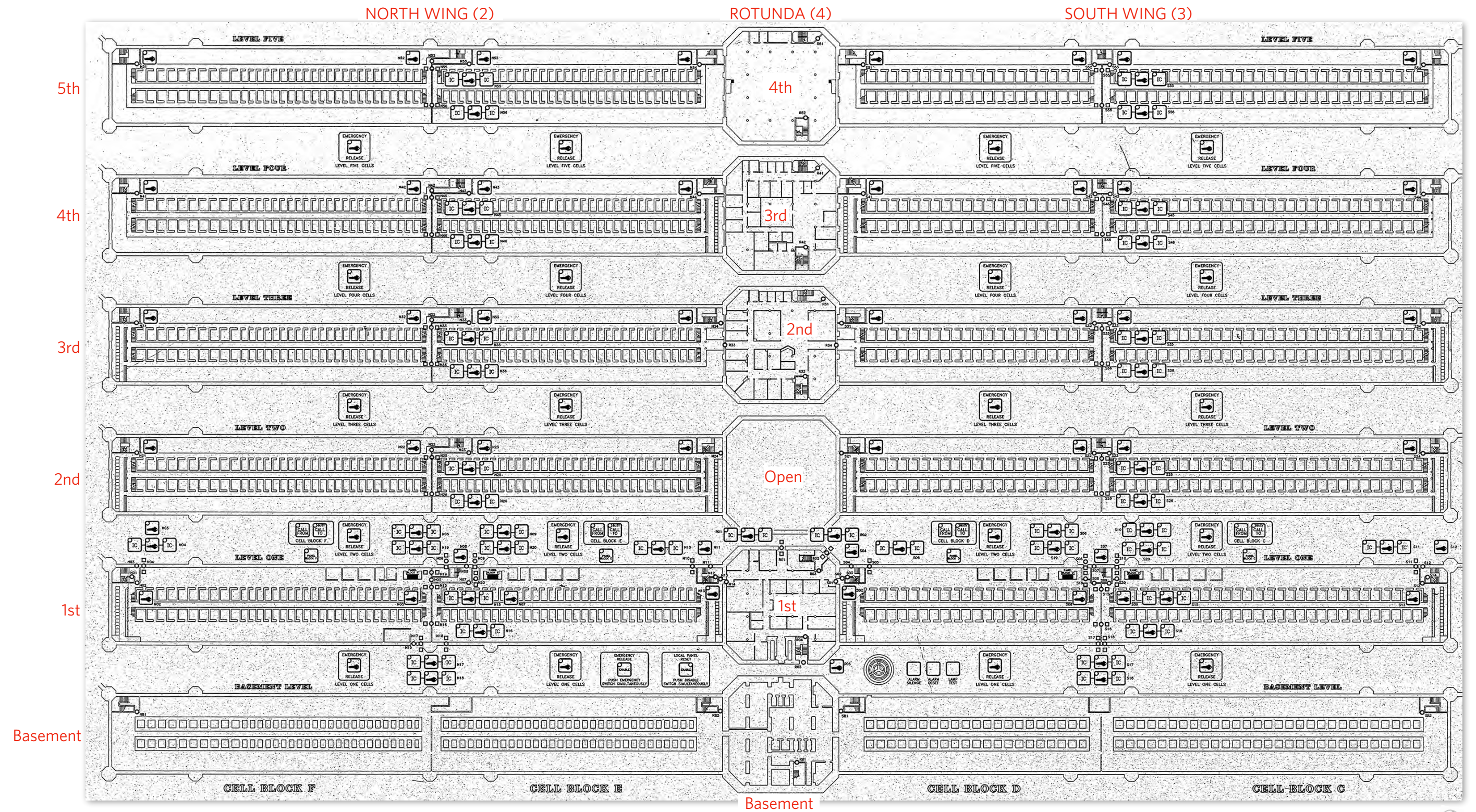


Figure 27. 1993 floor plans of Main Penitentiary Building—from the project that replaced the cell doors and provided centralized control of the doors (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

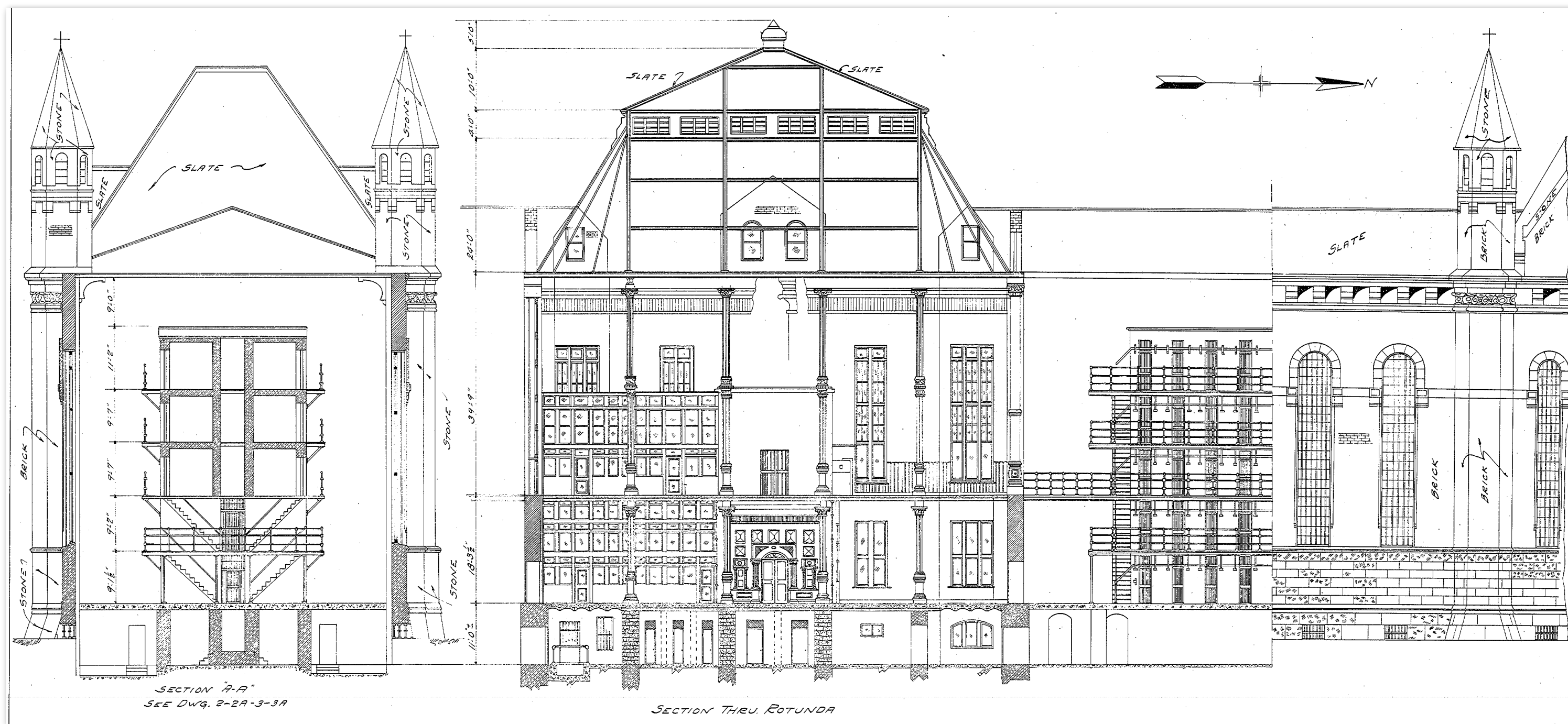


Figure 28. Sections through the Rotunda and cell block. This reference drawing is presumed to be a copy of an original architectural drawing by Edward M. Butz (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

Above left: A section through a cell block of the Main Penitentiary Building, looking south. The five tiers of cell blocks can be seen in the center, setback from the exterior walls. Also visible is the original roof plan with turrets.

Above center: A section through the Rotunda and North Wing, looking west, showing the two original floors of the Rotunda supported by elongated cast iron columns, doors on both floors at the center of the building leading to the porte cochere and bridge to the Warden's Residence, and the original gambrel roof.

Above right: A partial elevation of the east facade, looking west, showing the arched windows and full height of a typical turret.

⑤ ⑥ Housing Units A and B



Location map



Photo 28. Housing Unit A/Building 5 (right) and Housing Unit B/Building 6 (left), looking northeast from Tower 7, showing recreation yards in the foreground.

Constructed:	1989
Architect:	Tasso Katselas Associates and Henningson, Durham & Richardson (joint venture, a.k.a. TKA/HDR)
Original function:	Inmate housing
Recent function:	Inmate housing
Construction:	Cast concrete, clad in concrete block
Number of floors:	6 in each building (five tiers of cell blocks and one mechanical equipment floor)
Approximate footprint:	12,300 SF each building
Approximate area:	68,000 SF each building
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

Exterior

One of the main outcomes of the 1984 master plan was construction of Housing Units A and B (or buildings 5 and 6). They were designed to remedy the problem with overcrowding that the penitentiary faced throughout the twentieth century. The original cells in the Main Penitentiary Building were designed to house one person, but were often cramped with multiple inmates. This overcrowding, inadequate staff-to-inmate ratio, and several riots contributed to major security concerns and calls for new thinking about inmate accommodations. As a result, Units A and B were designed to feature a vastly different cell block arrangement than the North and South Wings.

Units A and B are nearly identical from the exterior and sit at an angle to the original South Wing. They are clad in rough faced concrete masonry units (CMUs) with a vertical score on each block (also known as single score grid

⑤⑥ Housing Units A and B



Photo 29. Housing Unit B (6), looking south from the Main Yard.



Tasso Katselas (b. 1927)

Tasso Katselas founded TKA in 1956 and has served as its principal architect and planner. The firm is known for its large-scale, mid-century residential work as well as for its planning and facility design. Among the firm's most notable works is the Pittsburgh International Airport, which opened in 1992. Other projects include the Carnegie Science Center, Allegheny Community College, and St. Vincent Monastery and College Buildings. The firm has won numerous design awards, most notable being a finalist in the national competition for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC.

block)—a common design element in many buildings designed by Tasso Katselas. Each unit is 6 stories high and roughly shaped like a figure “8” or hour glass with numerous angular bays. Windows are narrow horizontal or vertical openings fortified with security bars fastened to the exterior. Flat EPDM roofs cover both buildings and are set behind low parapets.

An elaborate exterior stairway connects the two buildings in the middle. It is constructed of cast concrete sections supported on cast concrete posts. It is partially protected from the weather by an arched galvanized metal roof. Chain link fencing is attached to the sides to protect from falls.

Interior

Unit B contains 240 cells in 48-cell and 24-cell clusters. In the center of a typical floor with 48-cell clusters is a central core for administration, vertical circulation and utilities. To each side, but separated from one another, is a large day room for inmates. Surrounding each day room are two tiers of 24 cells. Stairs on three sides of the day room provide access between the tiers. Floors with 24-cell clusters are similar in plan, but contain only one tier of cells on the same floor level as the day room. The resulting number of cells adjacent to one another in Unit B is much smaller than in the North and South Wings, even after the latter were subdivided in the 1980s, so that security threats could be contained within a smaller area.

Unit A has a somewhat similar plan. However, since it was designed to house high security inmates, clusters are smaller (sixteen cells in two tiers) and freedom of movement was designed to be more limited by additional locking doors and partitions of steel mesh. This is where inmates were sent for administrative segregation or disciplinary custody (i.e., segregation for the safety of individual

⑤⑥ Housing Units A and B

inmates or others). The Capital Case Unit was housed on the third floor, where prisoners on death row were confined.

Individual cells in Units A and B are larger than those in the Main Penitentiary Building with typical cells measuring 79 square feet compared to 56 square feet for the largest in the older building. Each cell has its own window and contains similar furnishings and equipment as in the Main Penitentiary Building, but with locking cabinets bolted to the floor rather than attached to the wall.

Day rooms in both buildings contain rectangular steel tables bolted to the floor with integral steel stools. Finishes throughout are simple, consisting of vinyl tile floors, painted walls, unfinished cast concrete columns and ceilings that are typically just the painted underside of the concrete deck above.

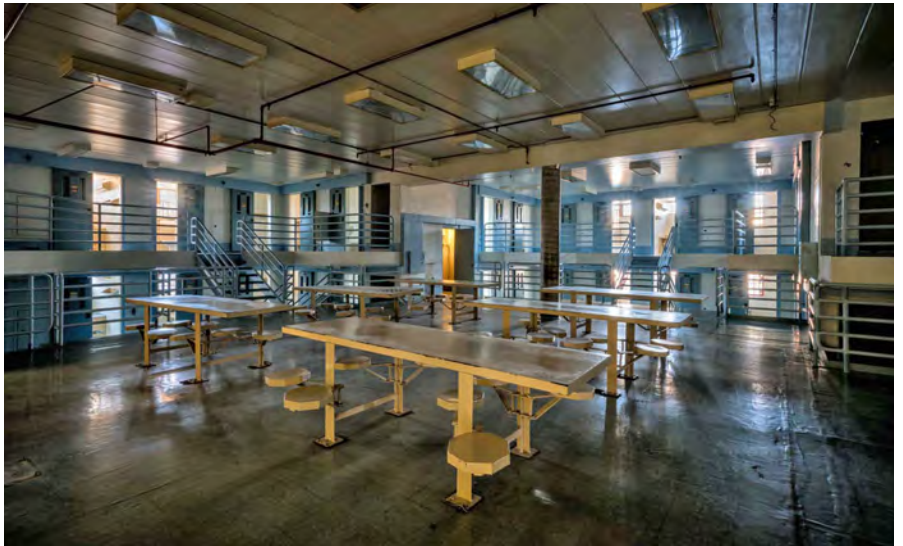


Photo 30. Housing Unit B/Building 6 interior, showing a second floor day room surrounded by two tiers of cells.

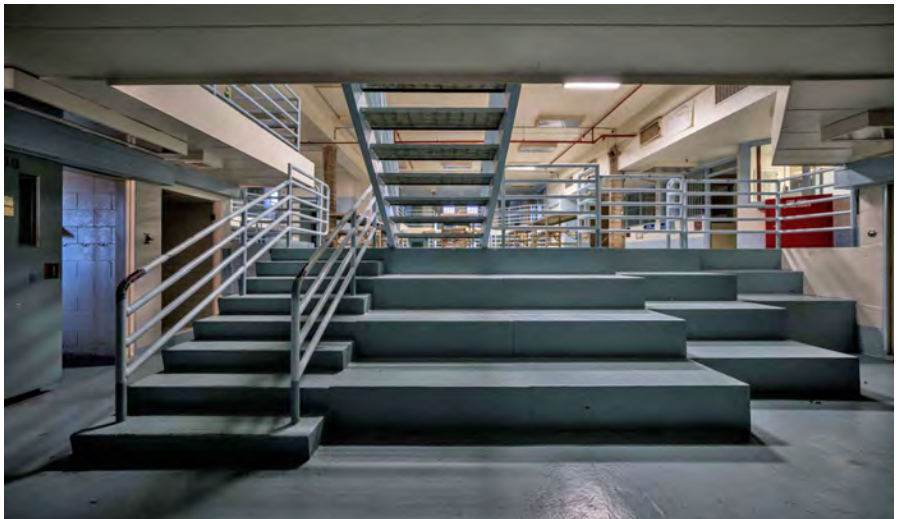


Photo 31. Housing Unit B/Building 6 interior, showing tiered seating integrated into the stairs adjacent to a second floor day room.

⑤⑥ Housing Units A and B



Photo 32. Housing Unit A/Building 5 interior, showing a typical second floor corridor with sliding doors and the inside of a typical cell. The fold-down panel in the center of the door was a safety feature. With the inmate inside the cell and the door locked, the inmate would place his arms through the opening. Guards could then safely attach handcuffs before opening the door. This particular unit retains considerable graffiti from its last inmate in 2017.



Photo 33. Housing Unit A/Building 5 interior, second floor, showing a smaller cluster of cells and a higher level of security (e.g., steel mesh-enclosed day room) than found in Housing Unit B.

⑤ ⑥ Housing Units A and B

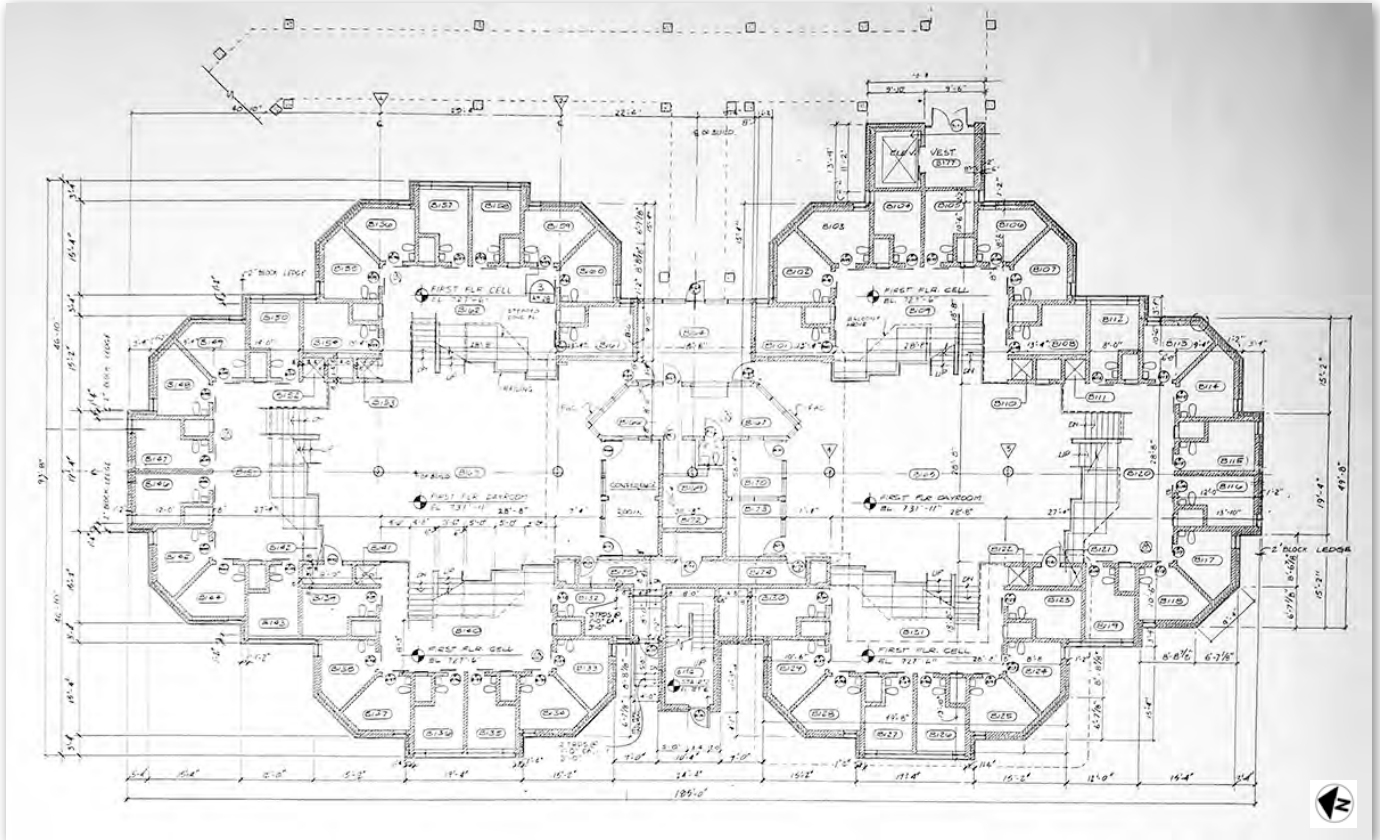


Figure 29. Housing Unit B/Building 6, showing two first floor day rooms each surrounded by 24 cells. An additional tier of cells directly above created a cluster of 48 cells served by each day room (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

⑦ Administration and Visitors Complex



Location map

Administrative and Visitors Complex:

(7) Administration and Visitors Center

(41) Visitors Courtyard



Photo 34. Administrative and Visitors Complex, east facade, looking west, showing the vehicle access door (at right) where prisoners would enter the facility for processing.

Constructed:	1985
Architect:	Tasso Katselas Associates and Henningson, Durham & Richardson (joint venture, a.k.a. TKA/HDR)
Original function:	Administrative offices, inmate processing, visiting area
Recent function:	Administrative offices, inmate processing, visiting area
Construction:	Cast concrete, clad in concrete block
Number of floors:	2
Approximate footprint:	23,700 SF building; 7,000 SF courtyard
Approximate area:	39,000 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

Exterior

The Administration and Visitors Complex was designed as part of the 1984 master plan to provide an improved inmate processing center, main entrance and visitors experience. Prior to completion of this building, the primary entry to the penitentiary was through the porte cochere of the Warden's Residence on the river side of the facility.

The Administration and Visitors Complex is a two-story building with irregular footprint that abuts the penitentiary walls. It is clad in rough faced concrete masonry units (CMUs) with a vertical score on each block (also known as single score grid block)—a common design element in many buildings designed by Tasso Katselas. This gives the appearance of two squares per block. The majority of the main façade is comprised of three large bays with the primary entrance recessed to the north. Bays are three-sided and contain ribbon windows on both floors with black aluminum frames topped by concrete lintels. Between the bays are two vertical glass block openings. The main entrance consists of full height storefront windows and a central glass double door.

⑦ Administration and Visitors Complex

A tall, narrow stair tower containing three vertical glass block openings is located at the north and south ends of the front facade. Adjacent to the north tower is the vehicle entrance with metal overhead service door, where inmates would be brought into the penitentiary. In the southwest corner, a CMU wall encloses the visitors' courtyard to the south. The original south wall for the penitentiary serves as its west wall.

Interior

The interior is constructed of the same rough faced CMUs as the exterior. In plan, the first floor is divided into four main sections. The central section contains the main entrance followed by a sally port and central control room, or guards station. To the southeast is an administrative suite with offices, meetings rooms and storerooms. To the southwest is the visitor day room and enclosed landscaped courtyard. To the north are inmate processing rooms, with direct access to the secure vehicle entrance. Adjacent to the north stair tower is an elevator. The second floor extends above only the east half of the building and contains staff training and locker space to the south and mechanical room to the north. The western portion of the second floor is uncovered rooftop space.

Finishes throughout are simple, consisting of vinyl tile floors, walls of CMU or painted drywall, and ceilings that are either painted drywall, lay-in tiles or the underside of the concrete deck above.

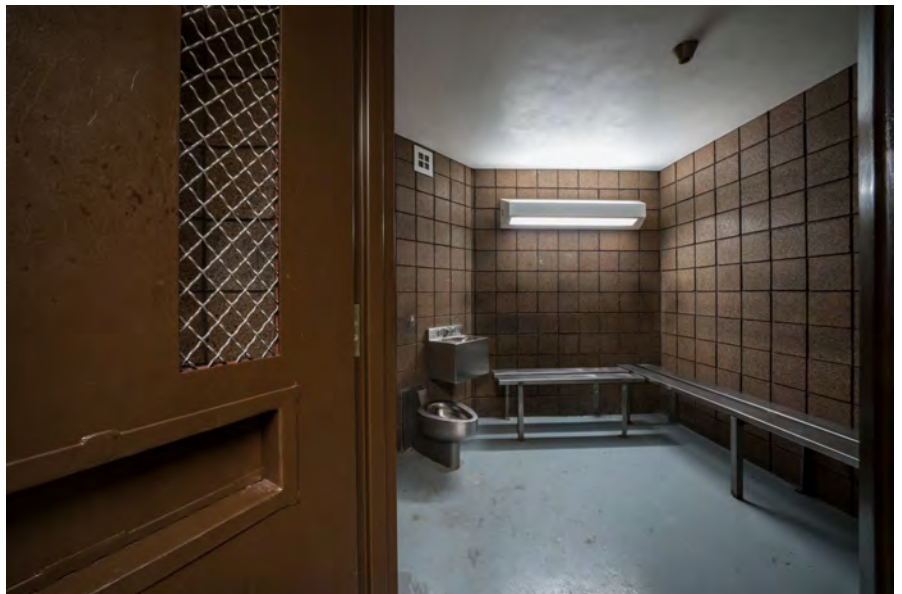


Photo 35. Administration and Visitors Complex interior, looking north, showing a holding cell in the processing section.

⑦ Administration and Visitors Complex

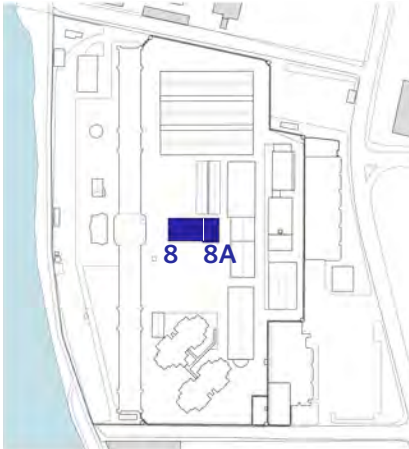


Photo 36. Administration and Visitors Complex interior, first floor, looking south, showing the visitor day room with courtyard beyond.



Photo 37. Administration and Visitors Complex, Visitors Courtyard, looking north, showing the original west wall of the penitentiary (left) and the visitor day room in the background.

8 8A Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building



Location map



Photo 38. Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building, looking north from the Main Yard.

Constructed:	1922
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Chapel and Kitchen
Recent function:	Auditorium and dietary supply storage
Construction:	Brick with steel trusses
Number of floors:	1 in Auditorium; 2 in Dietary Storage; basement under 8A
Approximate footprint:	9,200 SF total
Approximate area:	14,400 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing



Figure 30. A view from the Main Yard in 1905 looking northeast, showing the L-shaped East Wing (at left), which housed the Kitchen, the Boiler House with its ten smokestacks, and the Bake House. To the right is the Hospital (PA State Archives).

Exterior

The Auditorium/Dietary Supply Building consists of the remains of a once larger building. In the early days of the penitentiary, this was the site of the East Wing (originally part of the House of Refuge's east wing), which was connected to the Rotunda and housed the Chapel and Kitchen with a connecting ell containing the original Boiler House and Bake House. Most of this complex was burned to the ground in 1921 by rioting inmates.

The present building was rebuilt on the same footprint in 1922, and likely incorporated some surviving sections of the original building, especially where it joined the Rotunda (newspaper accounts indicate that the west end of this wing survived the fires). A Sanborn map from 1926 indicates that the reconstructed building housed the same functions as its predecessor. Subsequent maps and aerial photographs indicate that the south end of the ell that contained the Boiler House and Bake Shop was removed sometime between 1983 and 1993, leaving the truncated ell that extends just a few feet to the south. The western connection to the Rotunda, which historically housed the prison library and contained an arched passageway for pedestrian movement, was removed sometime between 1993 and 2007. What remains is a single-story auditorium with a gable roof (Building 8, west end) and a two-story storage area (Building 8A, east end) that are not connected on the interior.

8 8A Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building



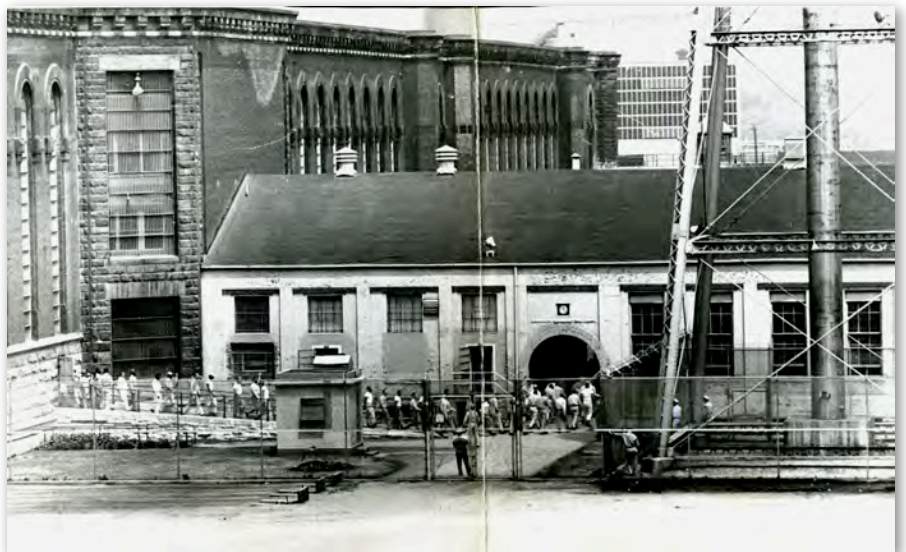
Figure 31. Remains of the historic East Wing, looking east, after rioting inmates burned down most of the buildings in the north half of the Secure Perimeter in 1921. The current building was rebuilt on this site (PA State Archive).

The entire building is clad in brick. The south facade is ten bays wide plus the adjacent blank wall of the removed ell (concrete block first story with brick in the gable). Bays seven and nine (counting from west to east, as seen in the photo above) contain doors to the auditorium with large transoms above. The remaining bays contain large rectangular openings with stone sills and steel beam lintels. The transoms and windows are all infilled with glass block that surrounds two aluminum hopper windows, one stacked over the other. Extending across the middle of bays three, four and five is a shed roof, beneath which banks of telephones were once located for use by inmates. At the base of bay eight is a set of concrete stairs to the basement. This stairway, and two similar ones on the north facade, provide the only egress to the basement, which extends only beneath the auditorium part of the building.

The north facade is of similar design, but with fifteen bays that extend evenly across the entire facade. The first ten bays (again counting from west to east) mirror the door/window design of the ten bays on the south facade. Bays eleven and twelve have been filled with brick; bay thirteen contains mechanical equipment; and bays fourteen and fifteen contain original (or early) multi-lite, industrial, steel sash windows.

The east facade (the primary facade of Building 8A) is six bays wide. From south to north, the first, fifth and sixth bays each contain a six-lite, wood awning window. The second bay contains a pair of hinge-folded doors (one hinges off the other, rather than both hinged from the side jambs) with each leaf containing four glass lites. The third bay has been filled with concrete block. The fourth bay contains a pair of wood, two-lite casement windows. A steel stair provides access to the second floor via a steel door. This floor contains five window openings. The three to the south have been filled with concrete block; the two to the north contain single sheets of plexiglas. In the brick gable is a pair of wood two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. The west facade, facing the Rotunda, is brick and contains three pairs of narrow steel doors at grade. The brick gable above contains a pair of window openings that have been filled with plywood.

Figure 32. Western end of the Auditorium in 1962 when the building still connected to the Rotunda. Note the arched passageway that allowed inmates to be marched through the building to activities on the north end of the Secure Perimeter. In the foreground is the Inside Pump House (21) from 1934 (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette).



⑧ ⑧A Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building



Photo 39. Auditorium interior, looking east, showing the raised stage (center) and control booth (right).

Interior

The interior of the auditorium contains a large open area for seating and multi-purpose events. Walls are brick to the tops of the doors, with painted plaster above. The ceiling of lay-in tiles is 20 feet high and is suspended from the bottom chord of the steel trusses that support the roof. At the east end is a raised stage with two-story control booth on its south end (for controlling audiovisual effects as well as prisoners). The front of the stage and the control booth are faced in mint green glazed brick, which is also used to clad the 1931 Dining Hall (15)—suggesting a similar date for this interior alteration.

The ground floor of Dietary Storage (8A) contains two utilitarian storerooms with concrete floors, brick walls and arched concrete vaults overhead. The second floor contains two additional storerooms, also with concrete floors and brick walls. Overhead, the ceiling is open and the steel roof trusses and wood slat roof deck are visible.

9 Institution Warehouse



Location map

(9) Institution Warehouse (40) Mechanical Electrical Equipment Yard



Photo 40. Institution Warehouse, looking southwest, showing the Beaver Avenue facade (left) and the entrance to the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Yard (right).

Constructed:	1985
Architect:	Tasso Katselas Associates and Henningson, Durham & Richardson (joint venture, a.k.a. TKA/HDR)
Original function:	Warehouse; mechanical equipment
Recent function:	Warehouse; mechanical equipment
Construction:	Steel frame clad with concrete block
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	29,500 SF warehouse; 4,500 SF equipment yard
Approximate area:	29,500 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

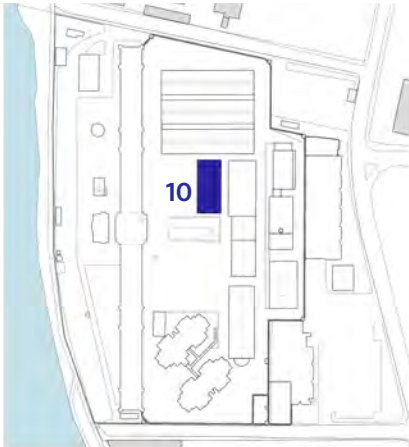


Figure 33. Site of the present Institution Warehouse as seen in 1921, looking northwest from what was then Petrel Street (as a result of the 1984 master plan, this street no longer exists). The Woods Run Settlement House (ca. 1902-04) dominates the view. To the left can be seen the original east wall of the penitentiary and the roof of the North Wing behind it. The Settlement House served the community until being demolished ca. 1957-67 for neighborhood redevelopment plans (University of Pittsburgh).

Exterior

The Institution Warehouse was designed as part of the 1984 master plan. Located outside the Secure Perimeter on the eastern side of the site, the warehouse was constructed to better control the movement of goods into the secure area. The Warehouse is a one-story space, though it is the same height as the nearby two-story Administration and Visitors Complex and adjacent east wall of the penitentiary. Like all of TKA's buildings at the penitentiary, it is clad with rough faced concrete masonry units with a vertical score on the face. The east façade, which faces Beaver Avenue, is comprised of six bays, which are three-sided. Between the bays are two vertical glass block openings capped by concrete lintels. On the building's north end is the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Yard (40), which is enclosed by a one-story wall of the same cladding. One vehicle door and one pedestrian door provide access from the eastern side.

The main entrance to the Warehouse is through the building's south façade, which consists of a single pedestrian door reached by a short flight of concrete



Location map



Photo 42. Services Building, east facade, looking northwest.



Photo 43. Services Building, west facade, looking north.

Constructed:	1922
Architect:	Blaw-Knox Company
Original function:	Dining Hall; later, Tailor Shop, Educational Building
Recent function:	Inmate services, commissary, CAD lab
Construction:	Steel frame, brick, terra cotta, steel siding
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	9,200 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Services Building was rushed to completion shortly after the 1921 riot and fires that started in the dining hall that previously occupied the site. A report from 1925 indicated that “The mess hall is a one-story building with a steel roof. . . .The erection of this building was an emergency measure. While somewhat rough in construction, it is clean and well cared for, and both lighting and ventilation are good.”⁴

The building is one story high, clad in brick and covered by a double-gable roof (i.e., the roof is composed of two parallel gables forming roughly the shape of the letter “M” at the end wall). The building is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 60 feet by 150 feet in plan.

Primary access is from the east facade, which contains four steel doors; the southernmost being accessible by a short concrete ramp. Two wide window openings are set high in the wall. At the south end the opening has been filled with concrete block and two ventilators. To the north, the opening contains steel, multi-lite industrial sash windows into which three ventilators have been inserted.

⁴ Handbook of American Prisons. 506.



Figure 35. An article from the Philadelphia Inquirer from September 6, 1921, indicates that the dining hall (present Services Building) would be the first building to be replaced after the 1921 riot.

The west facade contains three groups of steel, multi-lite industrial sash windows with an opening at the south end infilled with glass block.

The south facade contains one overhead service door at grade with four openings above containing glass block with inserted ventilators.

The north facade contains a pair of double wood doors on the central axis. To the west is a six-lite, steel, industrial sash window. To the east is a projecting metal awning. Above, each gable contains a ventilator.

Historic descriptions indicate that walls were originally pre-fabricated steel plate and not brick (designed for speedy installation and potential relocation). Today, the wall construction is a more permanent assembly of brick backed with structural terra cotta. While the date for this renovation has not been determined, it is interesting to note that the oversized red brick is the same as that used on the 1955 Library, Chapel and Education Building (18), suggesting that improvements at this time were widespread. The same more permanent upgrade was made to the Correctional Industries Shop Building (11, 12, 13). Similarly, when alterations were made to enlarge the Gymnasium, the same brick was used on the exterior (16). Even if these alterations were not all concurrent, they seem to reflect an acceptance on behalf of penitentiary management at this time that Western State was not going to be relocated.

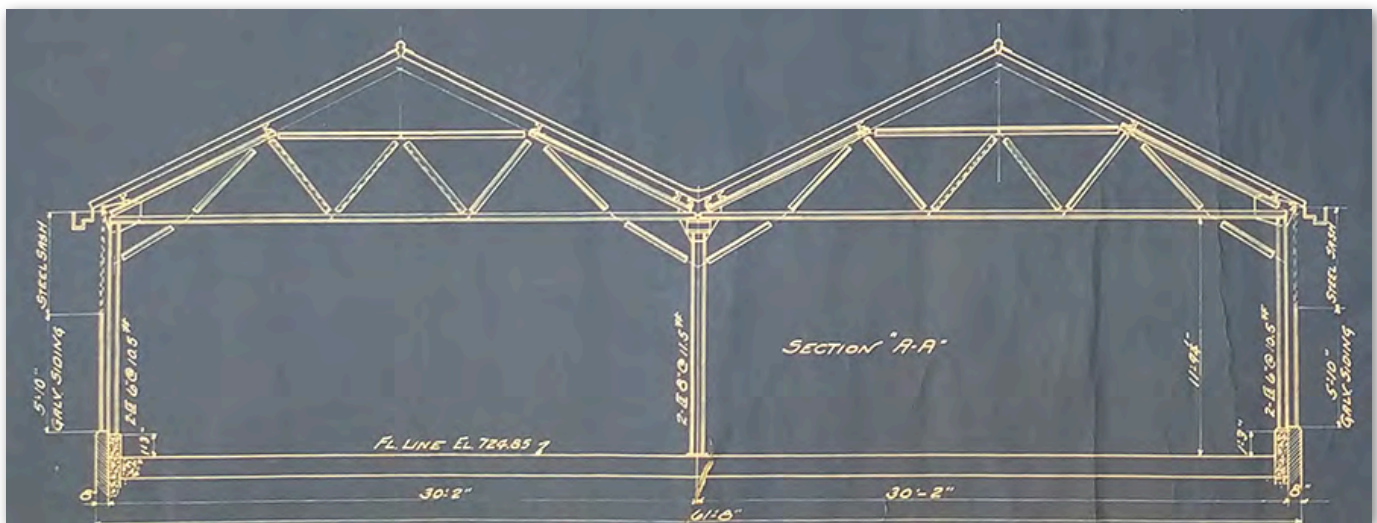


Figure 36. Section drawing through the Services Building, 1937, showing the double gable roof and steel trusses; excerpted from a set of blueprints for conversion of the building's function from dining hall to tailor shop. The notes on the left and right side indicate that the building was clad at that time in galvanized siding with steel sash windows above (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

Interior

Perimeter walls are constructed of brown structural glazed terra cotta tile (some of which has been painted white). A brick partition running east-west divides the interior into two main sections. The resulting southern third of the plan housed the commissary. The floor is vinyl tile on concrete. Overhead, the ceiling on the eastern half is open to roof deck and the western section has a finished plaster ceiling.

The northern two-thirds of the building is further subdivided by lightweight steel and glass partitions (ca. 1937) creating a series of shops and work spaces on the west side of the building for activities such as a sewing and shoe repair. The latter retains much of its equipment, some manufactured by the Chandler & Price Company. The floor is concrete. The ceiling is open in these areas allowing the trusses and underside of the metal roof deck to be seen. On the east side, a computer training area was created that contained two rooms finished with vinyl tile over concrete, drywall partitions and lay-in ceiling tiles.



Photo 44. Services Building interior, south end, looking northwest, showing the Commissary area.

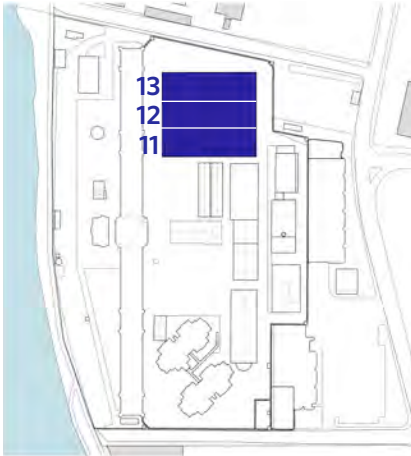


Photo 45. Services Building interior, north end, looking northeast, showing the shoe repair area.



Photo 46. Services Building interior, north end, looking north, showing the computer training area.

⑪ ⑫ ⑬ Correctional Industries Shop Building



Location map



Photo 47. Correctional Industries Shop Building, looking southwest, showing (from right to left) the Welding Shop (13), the Metal Shop (12) and the Tag Shop (11).

Correctional Industries Shop Building:

- (11) Tag Shop
- (12) Metal Shop
- (13) Welding Shop



Figure 37. A Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article from October 11, 1921 discusses construction of the new buildings (albeit with inaccurate dimensions) and how they will be bolted together rather than riveted for future disassembly and relocation.

Constructed:	1922
Architect/Contractor:	Blaw-Knox Company
Original function:	(11) Tag Shop (12) Tailoring, then Blacksmith and Construction Shops (13) Weave Shop
Recent function:	(11) Tag Shop, (12) Metal Shop, (13) Welding Shop
Construction:	Steel frame, brick, terra cotta, steel siding
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	15,500 SF in each of the three large shops; 60,000 SF total footprint including the two infill connectors
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Correctional Industries Shop Building was completed as three separate shops in 1922 following the 1921 riot and fires. At the same time, a small electrical substation was built between Buildings 11 and 12 to provide power. In the 1950s, single-story additions with long gable roofs behind stepped brick parapets were constructed in the roughly 22-foot gaps between the shops to create one sprawling interconnected building.

The first story of the building is brick with steel plate in the end gables. Similar to the Services Building (10) noted above, historic descriptions indicate that the exterior walls of the Correctional Industries Shop Building were originally prefabricated steel plate, but were upgraded to more permanent brick backed with structural terra cotta. As noted, this most likely occurred in the mid-1950s—a theory further supported by the construction date of the single-story additions (i.e., when the gaps between the original shops were filled in, the entire facade was reconstructed).

From the top of each shop, a nine-foot high gabled monitor with operable, steel, multi-lite, industrial sash windows provides natural light into the interior. Each

⑪ ⑫ ⑬ Correctional Industries Shop Building



Photo 48. Correctional Industries Shop Building, looking south, showing the Tag Shop (11) at left.

shop measures approximately 62 feet by 261 feet, with an overall height of 31 feet. Primary access is via large overhead service doors in the east end of each shop as well as in the infill additions. The west facade contains one pedestrian door into Building 11 and rolling doors into Buildings 12 and 13. The latter are enclosed on the exterior by metal mesh panels.

Doors in the east end of the shop are flanked on each side by a pair of wide, steel, multi-lite, industrial sash windows set approximately six feet above grade. On the long sides of the shops, similar bands of industrial steel sash windows remain and are high enough that the roofs of the 1950s infill additions do not obscure the natural light. Throughout the building some of the industrial steel sashes have been replaced with glass block. In general, windows are covered on the exterior with wire mesh hoods that provide security, but still allow windows to open.

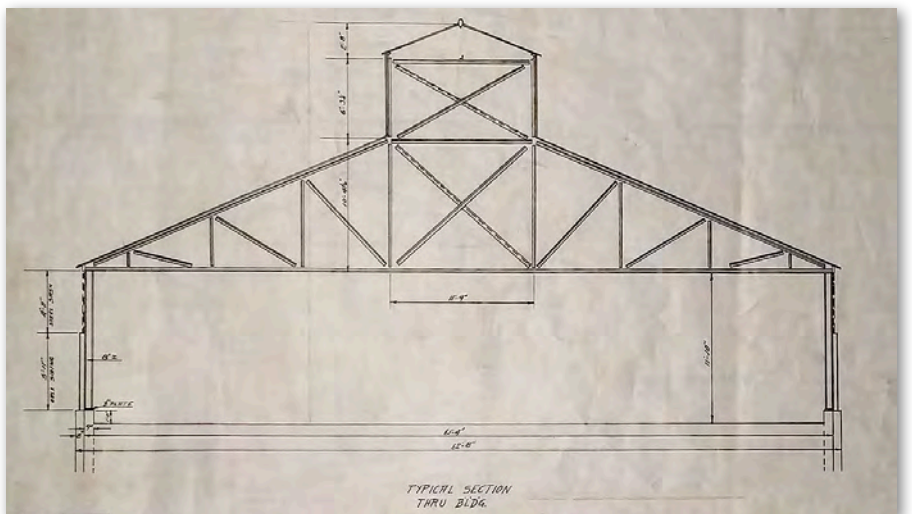


Figure 38. Section drawing through the Weave Shop, Building 13, showing the configuration of a typical steel truss, the 5'-11" height of side windows, and the 11'-10" clear interior height; excerpted from a 1936 drawing set for interior renovations (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

⑪ ⑫ ⑬ Correctional Industries Shop Building

Interior

Perimeter walls are constructed of brown structural glazed terra cotta tile (some of which has been painted white). Floors are concrete throughout and ceilings are open to reveal the steel trusses and the underside of the steel roof decks. Newspaper accounts from 1921 indicate that portions of the concrete slab from the previous shop buildings were able to be reused as the floor for the new shops. In the three shops, 11'-10" of clear space exists from the floor to the underside of the trusses. Equipment and assembly lines remain throughout the building, which were in operation until 2017.

Building 11 contained the Tag Shop, where license plates were manufactured for the State of Pennsylvania. In plan, this space is divided into three sections by partitions made of speed tile (unglazed, structural terra cotta block). Additionally, the southeast corner contains the Tag Plant Office, constructed of structural glazed terra cotta tile. A steel mezzanine spans the west end of the space.

Building 12 contained the Metal Shop. In plan it consists of one large interior space with three rooms in the northeast corner constructed of structural glazed terra cotta. Stairs and an overhead hatch provide access to a storage mezzanine above these rooms. The mezzanine contains a wood floor set into the spaces between the trusses.

Building 13 contained the Welding Shop. In plan it is divided north-south by a brick partition containing a steel rolling door with glass lites. On the north side of the eastern section is a square office constructed of structural glazed terra cotta tile. It has an elevated wood floor and steel industrial sash windows.

As noted, the infill additions were constructed to sit below the windows of the shops. Like the shops, floors in these space are concrete. Walls are generally brick. There is no natural light.



Photo 49. Correctional Industries Shop Building interior, Tag Shop (11), looking southwest, showing license plate-making equipment.

⑪ ⑫ ⑬ Correctional Industries Shop Building



Photo 50. Correctional Industries Shop Building interior, Metal Shop (12), looking east, showing more license plate-making equipment.



Photo 51. Correctional Industries Shop Building interior, infill connector between the Tag and Metal Shops, looking west. The electrical substation is beyond the end wall.

①① ①② ①③ Correctional Industries Shop Building

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Blaw-Knox Multiple Unit Inspection Shed. Erected for the New York
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Handy Houses



Interior of building used as weaving
department at Western Penitentiary



Interior of Blaw-Knox building erected for the
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Figure 39. 1926 advertisement for the Blaw-Knox Company of Pittsburgh highlighting the advantages of their economical and easy-to-erect steel buildings. The middle photo shows the interior of the recently completed Weaving Shop at Western Penitentiary (Nation's Business, June 1926).

⑪ ⑫ ⑬ Correctional Industries Shop Building

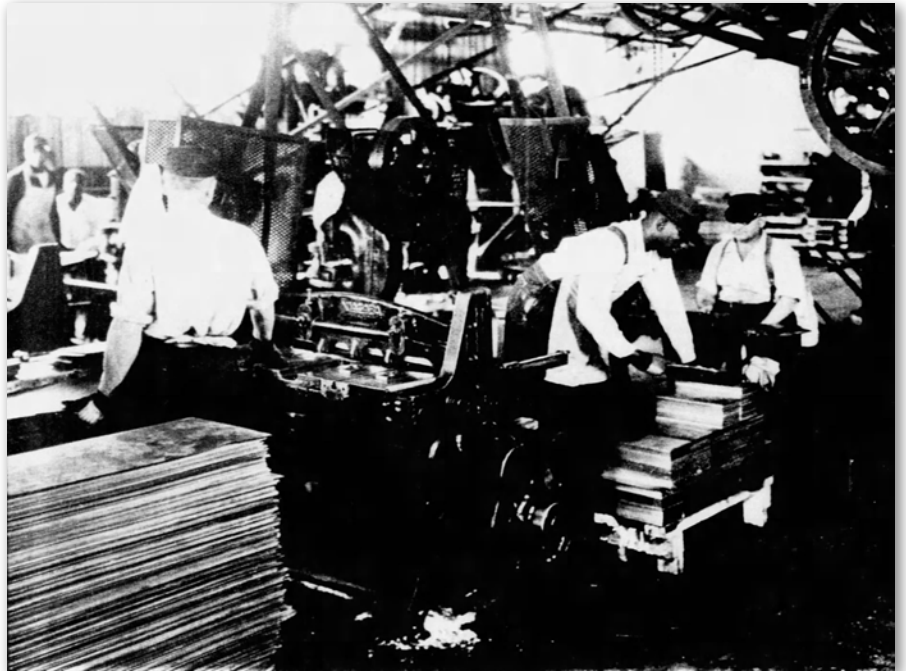


Figure 40. 1937 image of inmates in the Metal Shop shearing sheet steel to the proper size for license plates (Pittsburgh Press).



Figure 41. Press coverage of the 1921 riot and fire, showing the site of the present Correctional Industries Shop Building, looking east with the east wall of the penitentiary in the background.

⑭ Maintenance Office—See ⑳ Maintenance Shops

⑮ Dining Hall



Location map



Photo 52. Dining Hall, looking southeast, showing the primary entrances to the building (left).

Constructed:	1931
Architect:	Harry Viehman; south addition by Charles M. & Edward Stotz, Jr., 1957
Original function:	Dining Hall
Recent function:	Dining Hall
Construction:	Cast concrete, brick, steel trusses
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	15,500 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Dining Hall is a one story, rectangular building with a gable roof of gray slate. When originally constructed, the building was nine bays deep (on the east and west facades) and these bays were clad in mint green glazed brick, which remain today between rusticated cast concrete piers that have been painted white. The piers support steel trusses, which support the roof. Above the brick are wide glass block windows into which have been inserted a variety of ventilators, operable aluminum windows (typically two-lite sliding sashes) and glass block. The east facade contains two metal doors with projecting cast concrete roofs. The west facade contains two similar metal doors with roofs along with two recessed steel doors at the south end.

Harry W. Viehman (1887-1972)

Pittsburgh-born architect Harry Viehman earned his engineering degree from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1910 and his architecture degree in 1912. In the early years of his career he was associated with architects E. B. Lee and Frederick Bigger before launching his own firm in 1915. Among his notable designs are the Brentwood High School, the bath house at the Dormant Municipal Pool, buildings at the Rockview State Penitentiary and a number of residences throughout Pittsburgh's South Hills. He was married to Alice M. Shiffman and the couple had three daughters and a son.



Figure 42. In 1938, long before the trend in residential downsizing and tiny houses, Viehman displayed a collection of forty, small, 5- and 6-room houses that he designed “for better living at lower cost.” The exhibit was featured at the flagship Kaufmann’s department store in Pittsburgh.

In 1957, the building was enlarged with a tenth bay to the south and the kitchen was moved from its original location at the north end of the building to the new larger south end. At this time, a small single-story, half-round bay with glass block windows was also constructed on the new south facade (it originally served as a dishwashing room and most recently as a vegetable preparation space). The main walls of the addition are clad in red brick, but the round wall of the south bay is clad in mint green glazed brick, matching that of the original building. The firm of Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr., designed the addition. In the 1950s, the firm also designed the present Library, Chapel and Education Building (18) as well as additional floors in the Rotunda (4).

The primary entrance to the Dining Hall is on the north facade, which is five bays wide and constructed primarily of cast concrete painted white that rises above the roofline to form a parapet. Bays one, three and five (counting from



Photo 53. Dining Hall, east facade, looking west, showing a side entrance and typical building materials, such as mint green glazed brick, painted concrete piers and glass block.



Photo 54. Dining Hall, south facade, looking northeast, showing the red brick south wall of the 1957 addition and the half-round dish washing room in mint green glazed brick and glass block.

east to west) are recessed and contain glass block windows above mint green glazed brick (similar to the bays on the east and west sides). The other two bays each contain a single metal door.

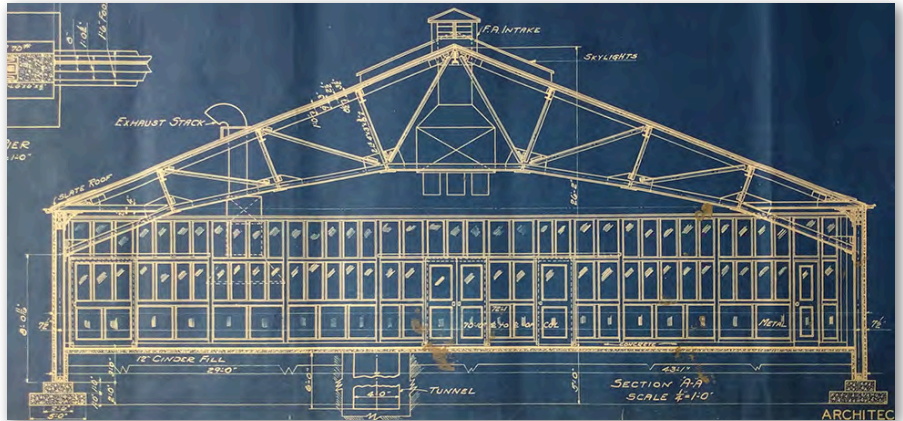


Figure 43. Section drawing through the Dining Hall, showing the configuration of a typical steel roof truss. Beyond is a glass partition design by Charles and Edward Stotz, Jr. (removed ca. 1984) (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

Interior

Perimeter walls are constructed of light mint-colored structural glazed terra cotta tile with glass block above. The floor is vinyl tile on concrete. The ceiling is finished with plaster and follows the curve of the steel roof truss except at the perimeter, where the ceiling flattens out and the ends of the truss are visible where they anchor into the walls. Adhesive residue across the entirety of the ceiling presents a rough textured appearance and suggests that the ceiling was at one time covered with 12" x 12" acoustic tiles (a few tiles of this type remain above the north entrance).

In plan the building is divided into five primary areas. The northern two-thirds of the building contains the largest space—an open dining area with a lightweight aluminum and glass partition (ca. 1984) on the south end through which inmates were served their meals. Ten rectangular and seventy-one octagonal steel tables are anchored to the floor. They have white laminate tops with metal bases and attached red metal seats. Flanking the north entrance are two support spaces constructed of glazed brick. The northwest corner contains a small office; the northeast corner contains a food tray washing area.

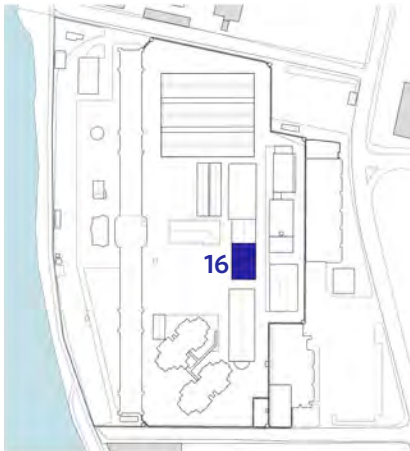
Beyond the glass partition, from north to south are a series of spaces that generally have concrete floors and structural terra cotta tile walls: food serving (ceiling of lay-in tiles); kitchen (brick floor and plaster ceiling that follows the curve of the roof trusses); bake shop in the later tenth bay of the building (flat ceiling showing the adhesive residue of former tiles); and the half-round vegetable prep room. The latter has mint green glazed brick walls (matching that of the exterior) and a painted drywall ceiling.



Photo 55. Dining Hall interior, looking south, showing the dining area. Above, the ceiling can be seen following the curved roof trusses (except at the perimeter where the ends of the roof trusses protrude).



Photo 56. Dining Hall interior, looking south, showing the interior of the 1957 dishwashing room that most recently served as a vegetable prep space.



Location map



Photo 57. Gymnasium, west facade, looking southeast.

Constructed:	Ca. 1900; enlarged and remodeled ca. 1939
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Electric plant, ca. 1900
Recent function:	Gymnasium, since ca. 1939
Construction:	Brick with steel trusses
Number of floors:	1, with mezzanine at north end
Approximate footprint:	7,100 SF
Approximate area:	7,400 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Gymnasium began as the long-awaited electric plant for the penitentiary, which was completed sometime around 1900. With the completion of the new Power House (27A) in 1939, the old building was gutted, expanded to the south and fully renovated for its current use.

The Gymnasium is a one story, rectangular building clad in red brick with a gable roof. It measures 70 feet wide by 102 feet deep by 40 feet high. Primary access is via the south facade, which contains two pairs of metal doors. The east facade is seven bays wide with each bay measuring approximately 14 feet. The southernmost six bays contain large glass block windows, two of which have operable metal hopper windows inserted into them and four contain louvered ventilators. The sills for the windows are roughly nine feet above grade. The remaining bay to the north is solid brick, to account for the office and mezzanine spaces on the interior.

The west facade is similar, except that only windows are inset into the glass block (no ventilators) and the third bay from the north contains a pair of metal doors beneath the window.



Figure 44. February 1, 1898 request for proposals to build the penitentiary's new electric plant (Pittsburgh Press).



Figure 45. Ca. 1938 image of the newly constructed second hospital at the penitentiary, looking northeast. At left can be seen the electric plant shortly before it was renovated into the gymnasium (PA State Archives).

The north facade is connected to the Maintenance Building (17). Since the gym is taller, some of its brick north facade is visible above the neighboring roof line.

Interior

Perimeter walls are constructed of caramel colored structural glazed terra cotta tile that rises to the ceiling—a height of approximately 20 feet. The floor is concrete covered with rubberized tiles that demark boundaries for various games. The ceiling is finished plaster and is flat, but steel anchors connected to the steel trusses puncture the ceiling and extend to the side walls.

The north end of the first floor contains shallow, interconnected office space and a small dressing room. Above this is an open mezzanine with a wire mesh front wall, which is reached by a straight-run steel stair on the west side of the building.

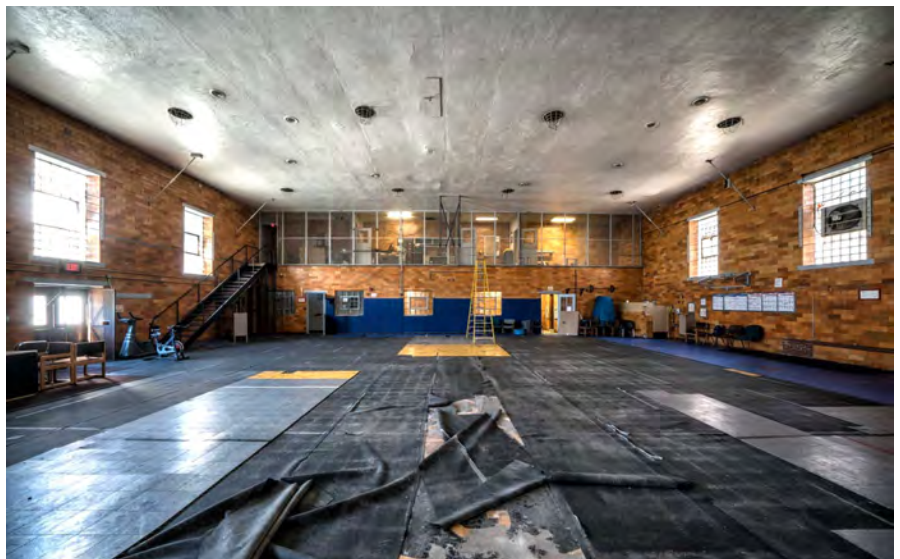


Photo 58. Gymnasium interior, looking north, showing the offices and mezzanine at rear.



Photo 59. Gymnasium interior, looking south, showing the playing surface and primary entrance doors.



Figure 46. Detail from a ca. 1939 panoramic photo, looking west, showing the new south addition to the Gymnasium indicated by the lighter colored roofing material (University of Pittsburgh Archives).



Figure 47. Detail from a ca. photo, looking northwest, showing construction of the old hospital in the foreground and the new south addition to the Gymnasium. Note that the 127-foot chimney of the old electric plant has not yet been removed (University of Pittsburgh Archives).

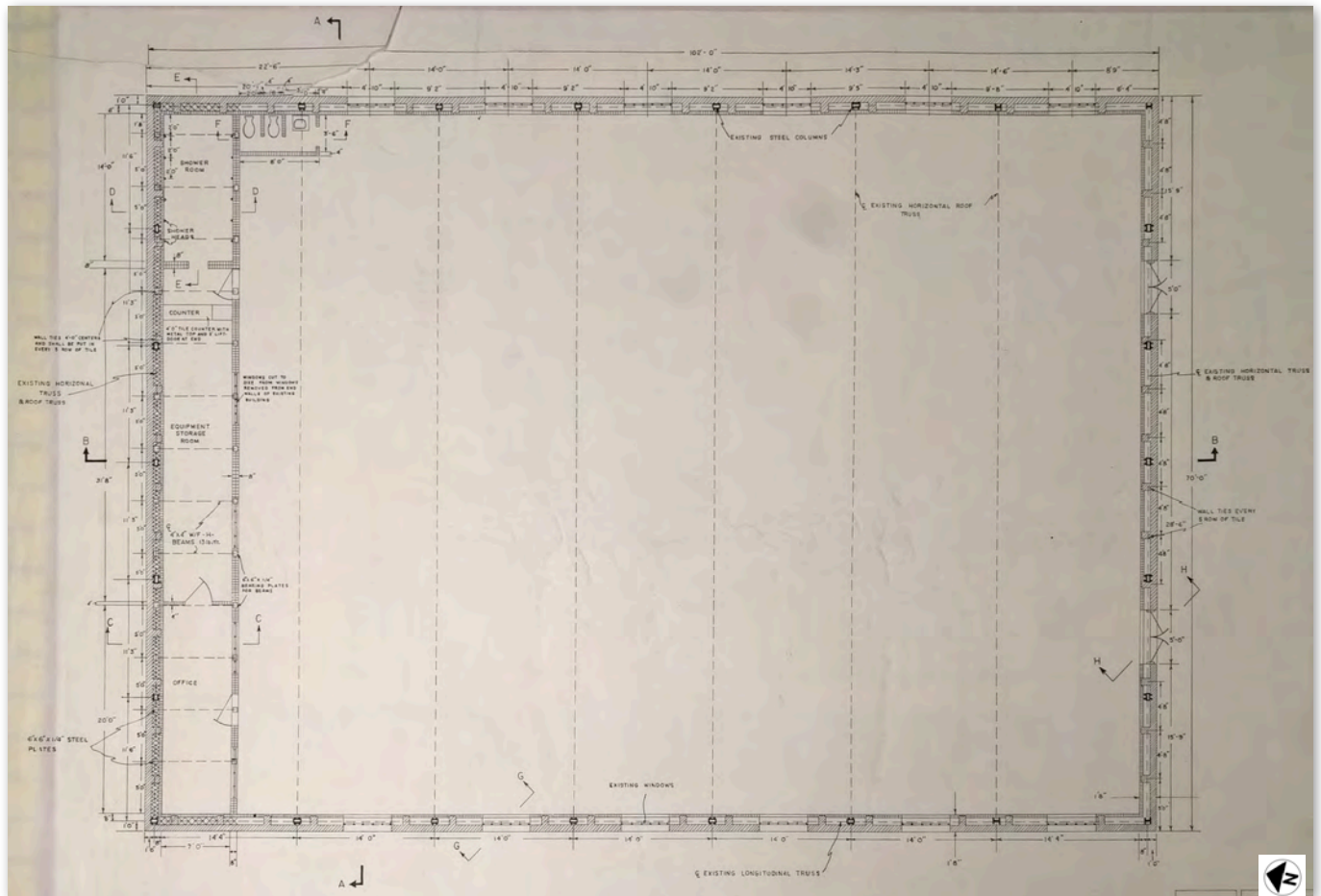


Figure 48. Plan of the Gymnasium from ca. 1960, showing alterations to the north end of the interior (left side of drawing). This drawing, combined with information from historic maps and site plans, suggests that the north bay was added and the building joined to Building 17 at this time (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

17 Maintenance Building



Location map



Photo 60. Maintenance Building, west facade, looking southeast, with the Gymnasium shown at the far right.

Constructed:	Ca. 1900; remodeled ca. 1939
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Electrical dynamo room, ca. 1900; pump house, ca. 1902
Recent function:	Maintenance Building
Construction:	Brick with steel trusses
Number of floors:	1 plus basement
Approximate footprint:	4,000 SF
Approximate area:	6,800 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

Like the Gymnasium to its south, historic records suggest that the Maintenance Building began as part of the electric plant for the penitentiary, which was completed sometime around 1900. An analysis of historic maps indicates that the southern half of the Maintenance Building was completed around 1900 to house the electrical dynamo room and a northern addition was completed around 1910 to accommodate a pump house. With the completion of the new Power House (27A) in 1939, the old building was renovated for its current use.

The Maintenance Building is a one story, rectangular building clad in red brick with a gable roof. Its south side adjoins the Gymnasium (16); and its north side adjoins the Library, Chapel and Education Building (18). Primary access is from the west facade, where a wooden ramp (ca. 2007) leads to a steel pedestrian door and an wide overhead service door. This facade contains five glass block windows into which operable aluminum sash windows (with blue plexiglas lites) and/or window air conditioner units have been inserted along with a former service door that has been filled in with brick. The east facade contains four similar glass block windows, two similar but shorter windows located higher in the wall, and a former service door that has been infilled with brick along with a steel pedestrian door, which is reached via a concrete ramp.

17 Maintenance Building



Photo 61. Maintenance Building, west facade, looking northeast.

Interior

Perimeter walls and original partitions are constructed of caramel colored structural glazed terra cotta tile, some of which has been painted beige. Later partitions are concrete block, which has been painted white. The floor is concrete and the ceiling is painted drywall.

In plan, there are two primary spaces separated by an entry hall from the west side of the building. To the north is the plumbing shop; to the south is the property room storage.

A steel hatch and ladder near the center of the building provide access to a basement mechanical space.



Photo 62. Maintenance Building interior, looking northeast, showing the Plumbing Shop.

18 Library, Chapel and Education Building



Location map



Photo 63. Library, Chapel and Education Building, west facade, looking northeast.



Figure 49. Construction of the Security Warehouse, 1954, showing erection of the steel posts and beams (Two Centuries of Corrections).

Constructed:	1955
Architect:	Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.
Original function:	Security Warehouse
Recent function:	Library, chapel and education services
Construction:	Steel frame with brick veneer
Number of floors:	2 plus basement
Approximate footprint:	11,000 SF
Approximate area:	30,000 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Library, Chapel and Education building was designed by Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr. Completed in 1955, it served its original purpose as the Security Warehouse only until 1963, when it was converted (at least in part) to certain educational uses. When Housing Units A and B were constructed in the 1980s, the freestanding chapel and school were demolished and those functions were fully incorporated into Building 18.

The red brick building is two stories tall plus a full basement. It measures approximately 155 feet wide by 70 feet deep by 28 feet high. It is covered by a flat roof through which extends a penthouse to provide roof access from the center stair. The building is constructed so that steel posts form a structural grid measuring roughly 17 feet x 23 feet per bay.

Primary access is from the west facade, which is approximately eight bays wide (fenestration is irregular from floor to floor). The first story contains seven steel doors and two windows with multi-lite, industrial steel sashes. The doors at the the north and south end provide access into stairwells, which lead up or down, but not directly into the first floor. The second story contains eight similar win-

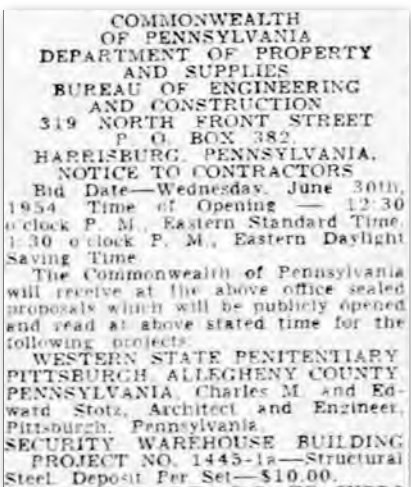


Figure 50. June 8, 1954 request for proposals for structural steel to erect the new Security Warehouse (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette).

18 Library, Chapel and Education Building



Charles Morse Stotz (1898-1985)

Charles Stotz was an architect, architectural historian, and preservationist. He is known for his extensive study of the architectural history of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania, particularly his 1936 book *The Early Architecture of Western Pennsylvania*. He earned his M. Arch. degree from Cornell in 1922 then joined the firm of his father, Edward Stotz, in Pittsburgh. Upon his father's retirement in 1936, the firm became Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.

Edward Stotz, Jr. (1896-1964)

Edward Stotz, Jr. began working for his father's firm in 1917 and earned his civil engineering degree from Lehigh University in 1919.

Together, the brothers are perhaps best known for their preservation projects, such as the restoration of Old Economy Village in Ambridge, PA, and collaboration on the design of Point State Park and its Portal Bridge and Fort Pitt Museum.

dows with industrial steel sashes. Some of the windows have been modified to accommodate air conditioner units.

The first story of the east facade contains one industrial steel sash window, two overhead service doors, and five steel pedestrian doors (some of which provide access to mechanical spaces not connected to the interior of the building). The second story contains eight windows with industrial steel sashes similar to those on the west facade. The north facade is all brick with one industrial steel sash window in the center of the second story plus one former window opening now filled in with brick. The south side of the building adjoins Building 17.

Interior

The basement is divided into two primary functions. The western third served as the penitentiary's barber shop. The floor in this area is vinyl tile; walls are light yellow structural glazed terra cotta tile; the ceiling is interlocking tile between the structural beams (which have been encased in concrete for fireproofing and painted white). The eastern two-thirds was utilized for dietary storage. In the north half, the floor is covered with vinyl tile, perimeter walls and columns are clad in tan structural glazed terra cotta tile, and the ceiling is similar to that in the barber shop. The south half is more utilitarian, with a concrete floor, unpainted beams and ceilings, and the same tan wall tile.



Photo 64. Library, Chapel and Education Building interior, basement, looking northwest, showing the barber shop.

The first floor housed two primary functions reached by separate entrances: the library at the north end and the chapel at the south end. Walls in the library are constructed of the same tan glazed structural tile as the basement; the floor is carpeted and the ceiling consists of lay-in tiles. Red steel library shelving is attached to most walls with some additional low freestanding shelving. Along the north wall is a series of three interconnected offices. To the south is a one-room law library with similar finishes.

⑱ Library, Chapel and Education Building



Photo 65. Library, Chapel and Education Building interior, first floor interior, looking south, showing the library. The door in the far wall leads to the facility's law library.

The chapel has similar finishes and is devoid of any permanent fixtures that would indicate its function as a religious space. Lockers in the space provided storage for the supplies needed by each religious group to perform their services. Flanking the entrance are three office/meeting spaces. To the east are two storage bays, accessible only from the exterior via overhead service doors.

The second floor, which housed the educational services of the penitentiary has similar wall materials, but most have been painted white. Floors are covered with 9" x 9" gray vinyl tiles (likely original). Ceilings are painted drywall. The dozen or so spaces are divided based on the structural grid using lightweight steel and glass partitions.



Photo 66. Library, Chapel and Education Building interior, second floor interior, looking south, showing the common area in the center of the educational space and adjacent classrooms.

⑱ Library, Chapel and Education Building

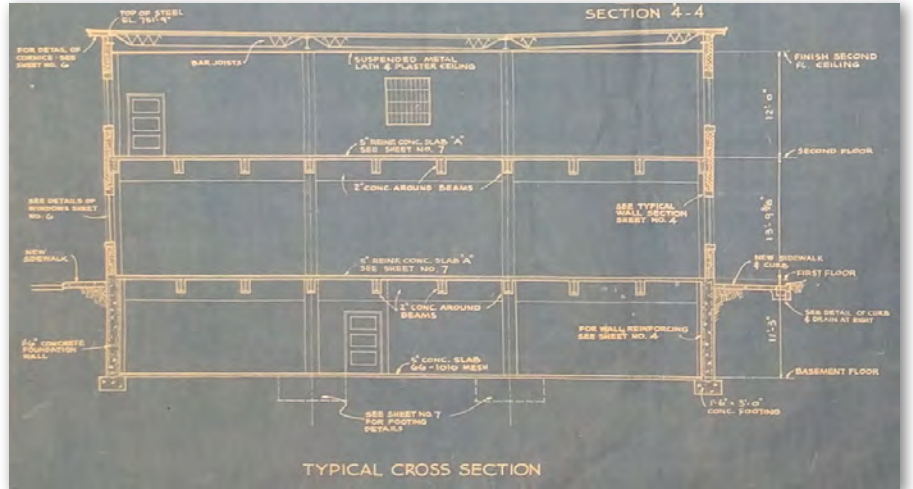


Figure 51. Typical cross section through the building from 1953 blueprints (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

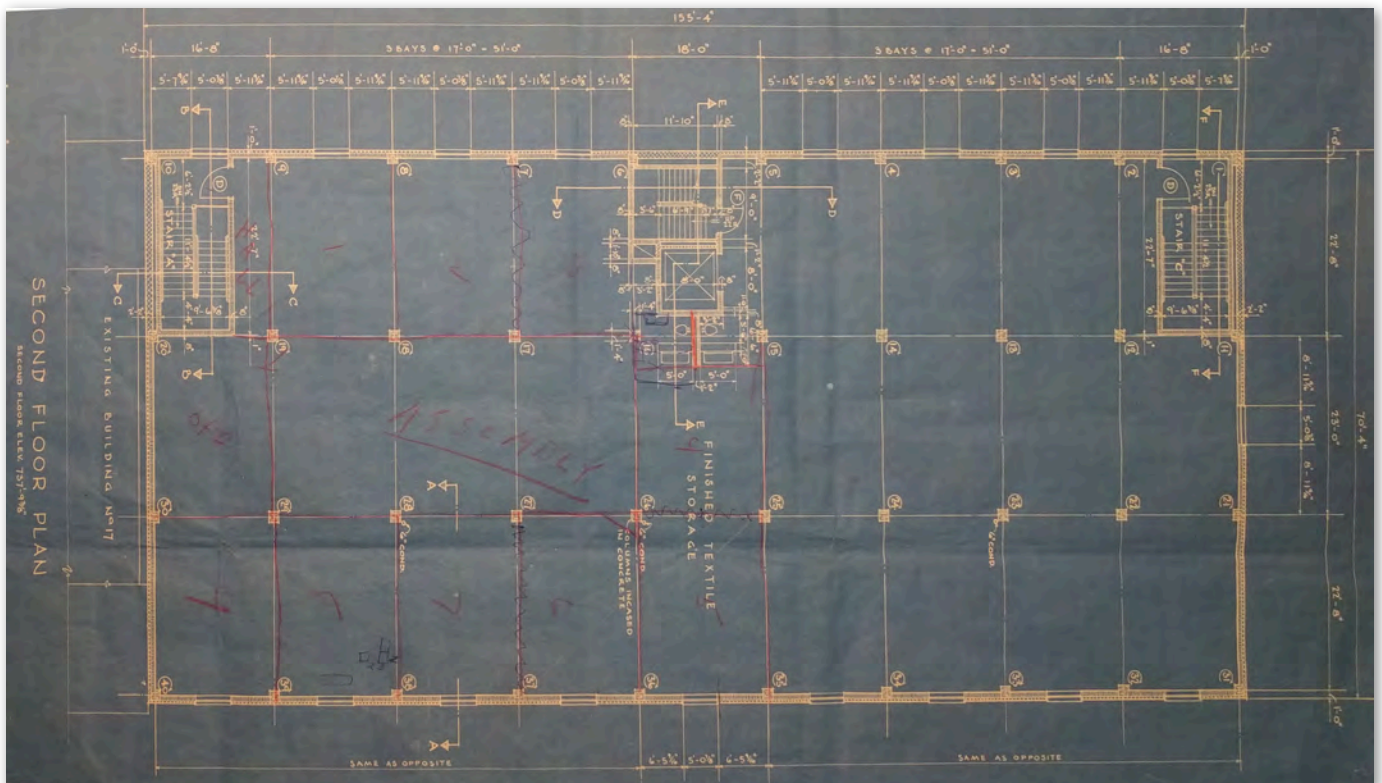


Figure 52. Plan of the second floor from 1953 blueprints, showing the structural grid and three staircases. At the time, in keeping with the original use of the building (a warehouse for prison-made goods), the second floor appears to have been conceived of as an open space intended for the storage of finished textiles created at the penitentiary (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).



Location map



Photo 67. Exercise Pavilion (center), looking west.

Constructed:	Ca. 2007
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Outdoor exercise pavilion
Recent function:	Outdoor exercise pavilion
Construction:	Wood frame
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	2,400 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

Description

The exercise building is a rectangular shed constructed of wood posts set in a concrete slab floor and covered with a shingled gable roof. In plan, the posts create nine bays on the east and west sides and three bays on the north and south ends. The sides are open (but covered with chain link fencing) and the ceiling is constructed of painted plywood panels. No exercise equipment remains.



Photo 68. Exercise Pavilion, looking southeast.



Photo 69. Exercise Pavilion interior, looking south.

②① Inside Pump House



Location map



Photo 70. Inside Pump House (right), looking southwest.

Constructed:	1934
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Pump house
Recent function:	Abandoned
Construction:	Cast concrete
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	100 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Inside Pump House (named for its location inside the Secure Perimeter) is a small, square building constructed of cast concrete (floor, walls, ceiling and roof). The base of the walls projects slightly forming a water table. Corresponding to the height of the ceiling, there is a projecting concrete band that extends around the building. A concrete ramp leads to a single-lite wood door in the east facades. Each of the remaining facades contains a six-lite, industrial, steel sash window.

Interior

As noted, interior surfaces are all concrete. Some mechanical equipment remains.



Location map



Photo 71. Guard Station (left), looking northeast, showing the octagonal building across from the Warden's Residence that originally served as a pump house.

Constructed:	1934
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Outside pump house
Recent function:	Guard house
Construction:	Cast concrete
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	100 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

Originally designed as the outside pump house, the Guard Station is a one-story, octagonal, cast concrete building with an 8-plane hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles and capped by a copper finial. The eaves of the roof are supported by decorative wooden brackets. A wood door with single lite provides egress from the east facade. A six-lite, steel, center-pivot sash window is centered in each of the other facades. At the west facade, the window has been covered on the exterior by signage that indicates the building number.

Interior

The floor and walls are constructed of concrete; the ceiling is tongue-and-groove bead board. Some electrical equipment remains and partially covers the west window.

②③ Maintenance Repair Shop—See ②⑧ Maintenance Shops

②④ Storage Building



Location map



Photo 72. Storage Building, looking northeast, showing the former garage of the Warden's Residence with the North Wing of the Main Penitentiary Building and water tower in the rear.

Constructed:	Ca. 1930, with ca. 1940 north and east additions
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Garage for Warden's Residence
Recent function:	Storage
Construction:	Cast concrete scored to imitate stone blocks; concrete block
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	1,200 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-Contributing



Photo 73. Storage Building, looking southeast, showing the Warden's Residence in the rear.

Exterior

The Storage Building consists of an original single-car, cast concrete garage that was constructed ca. 1930 as the garage for the Warden's Residence; a ca. 1940 concrete block addition with shed roof to the east; and a ca. 1940 two-bay addition of concrete block to the north. The west facade contains (from north to south) a steel pedestrian door, a two-lite aluminum hopper window, and a large vehicle opening (though no overhead door remains). The south facade contains three barred windows and a wood pedestrian door. The east facade contains the remains of a wood pedestrian door and a four-lite steel hopper window in the east addition and a two-lite aluminum hopper window in the north addition. The north facade contains two large overhead garage doors.

Interior

Each section of the building has concrete floors, concrete or concrete block walls, and a ceiling open to the roof structure above.



Location map



Photo 74. Scale House exterior, looking southeast.

Constructed:	Ca. 1984
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Scale house
Recent function:	Guard space
Construction:	Concrete block
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	80 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

Exterior

The Scale House originally served to weigh items entering and leaving the penitentiary. Until about 1984, the Scale House was located further to the west, so that it would be on the driver's side as vehicles entered the grounds from the sally port. The current building does not appear to be a relocation of a historic building, nor does it appear to have any function related to weights and measures.

The Scale House is a single-story concrete block building with front-facing gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The west facade contains a wood pedestrian door and two-lite, aluminum hopper window. The north and south facades each contain a single aluminum double-hung sash window. The east facade abuts the east wall of the Secure Perimeter.

Interior

The floor is concrete; walls are painted concrete block; and the ceiling is constructed of painted homosote panels.



Location map



Photo 75. Health Services Building, west facade, looking southeast.

Roach Walfish Lettrich

Founded by William Roach, an architectural engineer, RWL was well known for its work on schools, hospitals, and other institutional buildings. Roach was born in 1925 and graduated from Penn State University. He died in 2007. Among his notable works are the Westmoreland County Court House Dome and Court House Square Addition, the Palace Theater, the Greensburg Train Station, and the Ligonier YMCA.

Constructed:	1994
Architect:	Roach Walfish Lettrich
Original function:	Hospital
Recent function:	Hospital
Construction:	Steel frame, brick veneer, concrete block
Number of floors:	3
Approximate footprint:	10,400 SF
Approximate area:	33,700 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

Exterior

The Health Services Building, constructed in 1994, replaced a hospital on the same site from 1939. This is the third hospital to serve the penitentiary. The current structure is a three-story, rectangular block clad in brown brick on a concrete masonry unit (CMU) base. A recessed brick stringcourse extends around the building between each story. The primary entrance is on the west facade, which is three bays wide with a slightly projecting central bay. Accentuating the entrance is a one-story covered porch and concrete ramp supported by four brick and CMU piers. All facades contain window openings that are approximately 4-feet wide by 6-feet high. However, some of the openings contain a full pane of glass while the rest have a pane about 1/6 the size with the remainder of the opening infilled with decorative brickwork. These smaller openings typically correspond to cells on the interior. The east facade contains the only other egress to the building, consisting of two pairs of steel pedestrian doors. The roof is flat and contains mechanical and stair penthouses and a gabled wire mesh roof that covers an outdoor recreation yard on the top floor.

26 Health Services Building

Interior

Floors are designated as ground, first and second. On the ground floor, the entrance opens into a central lobby/waiting area. East of this is a main corridor that runs north-south that leads at each end to elevators and stairwells that serve all floors. This floor contains a series of rooms divided by painted concrete block and drywall partitions that accommodated reception, sick call, triage, medication delivery, medical records, telemedicine and lab and X-ray services. The first floor housed the mental health treatment unit and consists primarily of cells organized around a central day room partitioned by concrete block walls. At the southwest corner there is a suite of staff offices. The second floor housed oncology services, wards for inmate recuperation, two isolation cells with negative air pressure to prevent the spread of air-borne infections, offices in the southwest corner, and the aforementioned outdoor recreation room in the northeast corner. Throughout the building, public spaces are decorated with painted murals created by inmates of the penitentiary.

Photo 76. Health Services Building interior, ground floor, looking south, showing lobby seating surrounded by inmate-created murals.



Photo 77. Health Services Building interior, first floor, looking northeast, showing a typical corridor (right) and patient cell (left) with its narrow window.



27 27A Boiler Plant and Power House



Location map



Photo 78. Exterior of Power House (right) and Boiler Plant (connected at left), looking northeast, showing the elevated site and foundation that aimed to keep equipment above flood waters.

Constructed:	1939
Architect:	Theodore Eichholz and Harry Viehman
Original function:	Boiler plant and power house
Recent function:	Boiler plant and power house
Construction:	Steel frame, brick veneer
Number of floors:	1 plus basement transformer room and mezzanine
Approximate footprint:	10,000 SF
Approximate area:	4,200 SF Power House; 8,800 SF Boiler Plant (13,000 total)
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Boiler Plant and Power House were constructed in 1939 in the recently expanded east side of the Secure Perimeter as part of an effort to locate critical infrastructure above flood stage.

The Power House is a large, rectangular brick building with flat roof that rises to a height equal to three stories (though the complex itself is one story inside with a partial mezzanine). The primary entrance is on the west side, which is reached via concrete steps and a concrete ramp. The west facade is three bays wide and contains large glass block windows into which have been inserted steel hopper windows with blue plexiglas lites. The east facade is nearly identical, except that its southern bay contains an overhead service door beneath a large glass block window. The south facade has no openings, but contains large coal handling mechanical equipment that connects to additional equipment on the roof. Coal

27 27A Boiler Plant and Power House

Theodore Eichholz (ca. 1889 - 1949)

Theodore Eichholz was supervising architect for the Greater Pittsburgh Airport, which he designed in the 1940s. He was a member of the County Planning Commission and County Housing Authority. Among his notable works are Jonas Salk Hall at the University of Pittsburgh (with Richard Irving), along with many mid-century residences. At the time of his death, he was survived by his widow, Lillian M. Dunn Eichholz.

would be dropped down a dumping grate at grade, then fed up through a conveyor to the coal storage silo then conveyed by trolley to boilers. The north facade is connected to the Boiler Plant and has no openings in the part of its brick facade that is exposed.

The Boiler Plant is a rectangular brick building with flat roof that rises to a height of two stories. The east and west facades are each six bays wide and contain large glass block windows into which have been inserted steel double-hung sash windows with blue plexiglas lites. The north facade contains a steel pedestrian door and an overhead service door as well as the adjoining south side of the Maintenance Office (14). The south facade fully abuts the Power House.



Photo 79. Boiler Plant interior, looking south, showing the base of the smokestack.

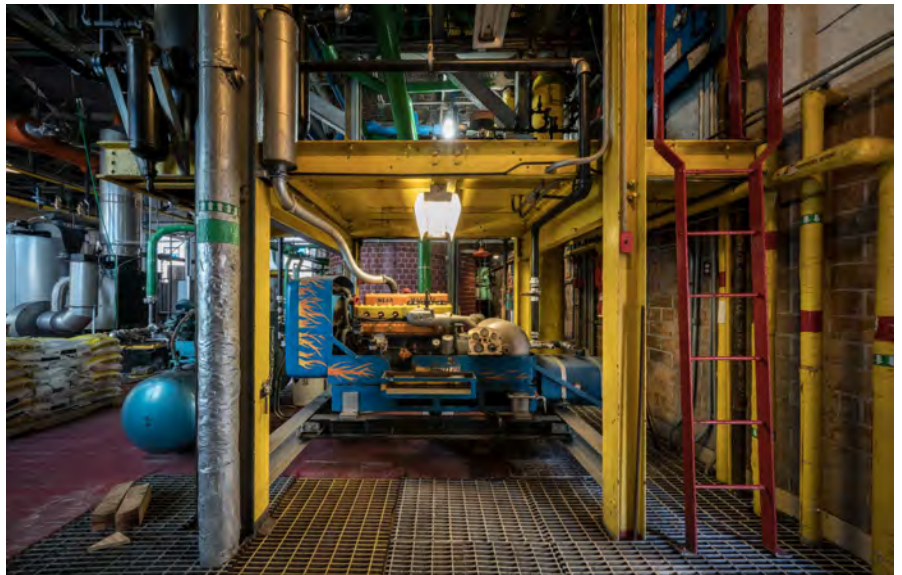


Photo 80. Boiler Plant interior, looking north.

**SIX DISTRICT FIRMS
AWARDED PEN JOBS**

Six Pittsburgh firms were announced as low bidders today by the State Authority at Harrisburg for new construction work scheduled for Western Penitentiary.

A hospital, boiler house and utility building are to be erected. The low bidders were:

General construction, W. F. Trimble & Sons Co., \$224,750; heating and ventilating, Moss and Blakeley Plumbing Co., \$25,806; plumbing and drainage, Wayne Crouse, Inc., \$20,141; electrical, Sargent Engineering Co., \$42,005; power house, Dravo Corp., \$181,800.

Figure 53. Article from the Pittsburgh Press, February 9, 1938, announcing the contractors for the new hospital, boiler house and utility building—all designed by Eichholz and Viehman. Additional accounts indicate that Rust Engineering constructed the smokestack—a fact confirmed by their name being on the cast iron door at the base of the tower.

Interior

The Boiler Plant and Power House are interconnected on the interior. Floors are brick or concrete, with areas of steel grates that allow views down into the basement; walls are structural terra cotta tile; the ceiling is open to the roof deck. All equipment is intact and in working order (boilers, generators, silo, smokestack, etc.). While some equipment dates from the period of original construction, newspaper accounts indicate that there was a \$558,000 overhaul of the boiler house in 1965.

DECADES OF WELFARE IN FOUR YEARS!

Western State Penitentiary

Perennial flood waters of the Ohio River annually inundated parts of the prison built on the banks of the river, at Pittsburgh, causing thousands of dollars in damage to property, machinery and supplies in the institution's shops.

For years, previous administrations discussed this menacing hazard. Fears continually increased for the safety of certain buildings since their foundations and walls were becoming weaker with the passage of each flood. Yet, the problem remained.

Under an extensive construction program, apprehension about damage from floods is being removed by building a new boiler plant and a combination shop and maintenance building, beyond the reach of the normal flood stage of the river.

In addition, a new thirty-two-bed hospital is being built to replace an antiquated, unsafe structure considered such a hazard that only the first floor of the building is used.

To increase sunlight and to eliminate the gloomy atmosphere, the hazardous wooden sash in cell blocks which successive administrations admitted should be replaced, have been removed. In its place, steel mechanical ventilating sash has been installed.

Figure 54. Excerpt from a 1938 report, "Decades of Welfare in Fours Years," that highlights improvements from a Depression-era master plan for the penitentiary, which included construction of the Boiler Plant and Power House. Also noted is the replacement of the original wood windows in the North and South Wings of the Main Penitentiary Building with operable steel sash windows.

②⑧ ②⑨ ②③ ①④ Maintenance Shops/Office Building



Location map

Maintenance Shops/Office Building:

- (28) Maintenance Shops
- (29) Maintenance Welding Shop
- (23) Maintenance Repair
- (14) Maintenance Office



Photo 81. Maintenance Shops/Office Building, looking southwest, showing the Maintenance Repair Building (23, at left) and the Maintenance Welding Shop (29, at right).

Constructed:	1939
Architect:	Theodore Eichholz and Harry Viehman
Original function:	Maintenance shops and offices
Recent function:	Maintenance shops and offices
Construction:	Cast concrete, brick veneer
Number of floors:	2 plus basement
Approximate footprint:	8,300 SF
Approximate area:	12,500 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing

Exterior

The Maintenance Shops/Offices Building was completed in 1939 as part of the eastern expansion of the facility in order to locate new infrastructure above flood stage. The building is two-story, brick-faced structure with flat roof enclosed by a brick parapet with stone cap. The primary entrance is on the east facade, which contains steel pedestrian doors at the north and south ends that are reached by concrete steps. In between, on each floor, are four large window openings that contain multi-lite, industrial, steel sash windows. Between the windows are simple brick pilasters with stone caps that match the stone that caps the parapet.

The south facade is three bays wide and contains similar windows on each floor along with openings that have been infilled with concrete block or steel panels. The south facade also contains the single-story Maintenance Office (14)—a one-story wing that is clad in brick and covered with a gable roof. The north end of the Maintenance Office abuts the Maintenance Shops Building (28) and its south end abuts the Boiler Plant (27). However, these spaces are not connected on the interior. The west facade of the Maintenance Office contains one steel

②⑧ ②⑨ ②③ ①④ Maintenance Shops/Office Building

pedestrian door and one glass block window into which an aluminum jalousie window has been inserted. The east facade contains a similar door and window, but the center of the window has been modified to accommodate an air conditioning unit.

The east facade contains the Maintenance Repair Building (23)—a one-story wing that is clad in brick and covered with a shed roof. Its south and north facades each contain a steel pedestrian door and its east facade contains four large former openings that have been infilled with concrete block, one steel pedestrian door, and two vinyl sliding windows. Above the shed roof are four multi-lite, industrial, steel sash windows similar to those on the west facade of the building (though they have been modified to accommodate ventilating equipment).

The north facade contains the Welding Shop (29)—a one-story wing that is clad in brick and covered with a flat roof behind a stone-capped brick parapet. Its east and west facades each contain one large multi-lite, industrial, steel sash window and its north facade contains four overhead service doors for vehicle access into the building. Above this wing the second story contains multi-lite, industrial, steel sash windows in the east and west bays. The center bay contains one similar but narrower industrial sash along with a similar sized opening that has been infilled with concrete block.

Interior

As mentioned above, the Maintenance Office (14) is not connected internally to the other spaces in Maintenance Shops/Office Building. The same also appears to be true for the Maintenance Repair wing (23). Access was not available and there was no readily-visible connection from the main Maintenance Shops Building (28).

The first floor of the Maintenance Shops Building (28) has concrete floors, walls of structural glazed terra cotta tile (some of which has been painted white), a cast concrete ceiling slab and some visible cast concrete columns with mushroom caps (tapered concrete extensions at the tops of concrete columns to assist in the transfer of loads). In plan, the building housed two primary functions: a carpentry shop to the south and a metal shop to the north.

A door in the northeast corner of the metal shop provides access to the Welding Shop (29) down a short flight of steps. The floor in this space is concrete; the south wall is brick with the remainder being structural glazed terra cotta tile (all walls have been painted); and the ceiling is open to the underside of the roof deck.

The second floor of the Maintenance Shops Building (reached via the northern door on the east facade) is constructed of similar materials and finishes as the first floor (concrete floor, ceiling and columns) and terra cotta walls. Additionally, there are painted concrete block and wire mesh partitions that divide the space into a central north-south hall surrounded by a series of repair shops (including construction, electronics, painting and refrigeration).

31 Sewage Pump House



Location map



Photo 82. Sewage Pump House, south facade, looking northwest.

Constructed:	1941
Architect:	Morris Knowles Company
Original function:	Pump house
Recent function:	Pump house
Construction:	Cast concrete
Number of floors:	1 plus 3 levels below grade
Approximate footprint:	850 SF
Approximate Area:	3,300 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing



Photo 83. Sewage Pump House, detail of front entry, looking north.

Exterior

The Sewage Pump House is a cast concrete, Art Deco building with a single story visible above grade and three levels below grade. The building is L-shaped in plan, with the entrance on the south facade. All facades contain three wall planes that step back from foundation to roof. Just above the projecting flared foundation is a belt course consisting of three horizontal grooves formed into the concrete. This decorative treatment is repeated approximately four feet higher and demarks a band containing three-lite, metal sashed, hopper windows that encircle the building. The concrete surfaces and windows sashes in this band have been painted light blue/gray. Just over a foot above the windows the facade steps back again. Encircling the roof is a single-pipe railing.

The building is accessed via a set of concrete steps that lead to a metal door with three lites. These lites align with a three-lite transom above, which is set at the same height as the buildings windows. The door is framed on three sides by by angled steel with bolts spaced approximately every six inches. All elements of the door and trim are painted the same light blue/gray color. A small wood-framed shed (ca. 2007) abuts the front facade immediately west of the steps.

31 Sewage Pump House

Interior

Floor levels in the building are designated in the records of the Facilities Archives as first, first sub-floor, second sub-floor and basement.

Floors, walls and ceilings are constructed of painted cast concrete throughout the building. In plan, the first floor has a large mechanical panel on the north wall directly across from the front door. Its front face contains a series of pump controls/meters and a large "Westinghouse" label. A door on its east side provides access to additional mechanical equipment behind the panel. A small bathroom is tucked into the northwest corner adjacent to the control panel. In the southwest corner is a cast iron circular staircase that leads down to the first sub-floor. This level contains similar materials and finishes. In the southeast corner is a similar cast iron staircase that leads down to the second sub-floor. Access lower than this point was not possible since the lowest spaces were flooded.

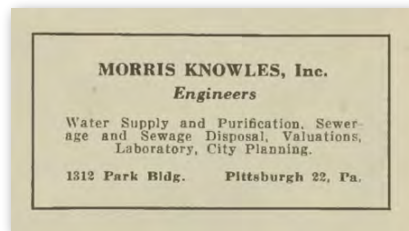


Figure 55. Advertisement for Morris Knowles, Inc., designer of the Sewage Pump House, in a 1945 edition of Sewage Works Journal.

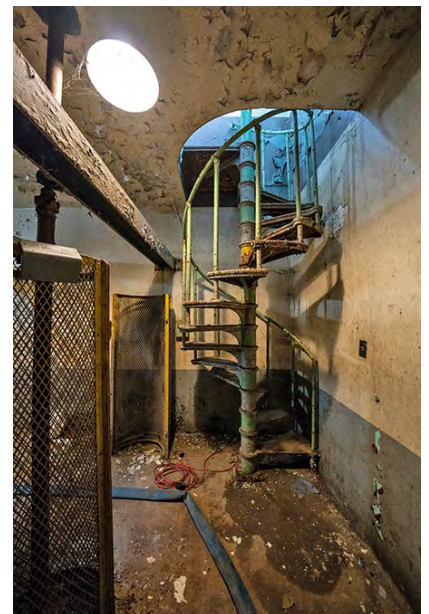


Photo 84. Sewage Pump House interior, first sub-floor, looking south.

32 Maintenance Storage Building



Location map



Photo 85. Maintenance Storage Building, exterior, looking southwest.

Constructed:	1927
Architect:	Unknown
Original function:	Filter house for Roberta Lang Swimming Pool
Recent function:	Storage
Construction:	Brick
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	750 SF
Approximate Area:	1,500 SF
Historical Significance:	Contributing



Figure 56. 1970 view of neighborhood kids protesting the possible closing of the Roberta Lang Swimming Pool, looking west. The facility ultimately stayed open until the late 1980s, when the current North Parking Area was created (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 14 July 1970).

Exterior

The Maintenance Storage Building originally served as the filter house for the Roberta Lang Swimming Pool which was located on the site of the present North Parking Lot. The building is two stories high, clad in red brick and covered with a gable roof. The roof, ca. 2007, appears to rest on parapets, suggesting that the building originally had a flat roof. Marking the locations of windows on each story are four belt courses of slightly projecting brick, which provide a sense of horizontality to the building. This ornament and the flat roof offer a hint to the building's International or Art Moderne Style.

Windows are multi-lite, steel sashes with stone sills. The only door is a steel rolling door with a simple carved stone surround located on the center of the west facade.

Interior

Access was not available.

③③ Number Not Used

③④ Number Not Used

③⑤ Vehicle Maintenance Building



Location map



Photo 86. Vehicle Maintenance Building exterior (right), looking south.

Constructed:	1993
Architect:	CRA-BKA-NHA (joint venture)
Original function:	Vehicle maintenance
Recent function:	Vehicle maintenance
Construction:	Concrete block
Number of floors:	1
Approximate footprint:	5,800 SF
Historical Significance:	Non-contributing

Exterior

The Vehicle Maintenance Building is a one-story, rectangular structure clad in rough faced concrete masonry units (CMUs) with a vertical score on each block (also known as single score grid block). The building has numerous vehicular openings to serve its function. The east façade contains six overhead service doors and two pedestrian doors. The north facade has one overhead service door and two pedestrian doors. The west facade contains a pedestrian door, a standard-sized overhead service door, and a much larger overhead service door (designed for large vehicles). The south facade has one pedestrian door.

Interior

Access was not available.

Additional Contributing Resources



Photo 87. Northwest gate (no longer in use), looking west from within the Secure Perimeter, showing Tower 1 atop the wall.



Photo 88. Southwest gate, looking south, showing the cast concrete vehicle Sally Port with guard tower atop.



Photo 89. Tower 3, looking northeast, showing the cast concrete construction of the 1932 wall.



Photo 90. Close up of the tower atop the Sally Port, looking north, showing the Dining Hall (15) below at left.

Penitentiary Walls and Sally Port

The Secure Perimeter is surrounded by a stone and concrete wall. It measures twenty-five feet high, three feet thick at its top, and four feet thick at its base. Atop the wall is a railed walkway that connects to six observation towers at strategic corners. Architect Edward Butz designed parts of the wall as part of his vision for the original facility. The north wall and northern end of the east wall are constructed of Massillon sandstone block and were finished by 1883. The south wall and southern end of the east wall, also of Massillon sandstone, were completed by 1893. The remainder of the east wall is cast concrete and was constructed in 1932 as part of an expansion of the penitentiary grounds. The top of the 1932 section is decorated on the exterior by a row of cast concrete dentils.

The Sally Port allows vehicles to enter and exit the penitentiary while maintaining security. Large overhead, steel service doors in the north and south walls would be opened one at a time to allow inspection by penitentiary staff. While this is the historic location of the vehicle sally port, its current design dates from 1951, when the original plan was enlarged.

Guard Towers 1-6 (atop the penitentiary walls)

Six observation towers are located at strategic corners atop the wall that encloses the Secure Perimeter (see site map for locations). However, they haven't been occupied by guards for decades, their function having been surpassed by video camera technology.

Tower 1, located at the northwest corner of the Secure Perimeter is an octagonal brick structure with two doors, six six-lite steel sash windows and a flat roof. Tower 2, located at the juncture of the north and east walls, is of similar design. Tower 3, located at the northeast corner of the expanded 1932 wall, and Tower 4, located at the corresponding southeast corner, are both octagonal structures with two doors and six multi-lite steel sash windows. They are clad in sheet metal, which has obtained a green-blue patina, and are covered with a flat roof with projecting ventilator. Tower 5, located at the southeast corner of the Secure Perimeter, and Tower 6, located at the southwest corner, are similar in design to Towers 1 and 2. The shafts of Towers 1, 2, 4 and 5 have doors to the street at their bases, suggesting that they contain interior stairs or ladders to the towers above. However, access was not available to confirm this.

An additional tower sits atop the Sally Port walls. It is small, and square in plan and contains two wood doors with two lites, two two-lite wood sash windows, and a shallow gable roof.

Additional Contributing Resources

Front Yard Iron Fence and Gates

Enclosing the north and west sides of the Historic Front Yard is a ca. 1893 wrought iron fence with wrought and cast iron gates, all painted black.

On the north side, close to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, is a single-leaf gate; on the west side, on axis with the Warden's Residence, is a two-leaf gate. The gates are supported on square posts constructed of cast iron plates. The posts are topped by cast iron capitals that were electrified and contained glass globes (though only the cast iron fixture bases remain). A third, larger gate is located on the west side, further to the south. It is six bays wide and contains sliding gate sections suspended from an overhead rail. Though not called out on any maps, the location and design suggest that this gate provided a means for deliveries to the penitentiary by railroad—since the track would have been just feet away to the west.



Photo 91. Cast and wrought iron gate, north side of Historic Front Yard, looking southeast (Jeff Slack).



Photo 92. Cast and wrought iron gate, west side of Historic Front Yard, looking east, with the Warden's Residence in the background.



Photo 93. Large, sliding cast and wrought iron gates, west side of Historic Front Yard, looking east.

Miscellaneous / Non-Contributing Structures



Photo 94. Modular Building (37), looking northwest.

Modular Building (37)

Historic Front Yard
Ca. 2007



Photo 95. Modular Building southwest of Sewage Pump House, looking northwest.

Modular Building near Sewage Pump House

Historic Front Yard
Ca. 2007



Photo 96. Shed outside Sewage Pump House, looking northwest.

Wood-Frame Shed near Sewage Pump House (31)

Historic Front Yard
Ca. 2007



Photo 97. Shed adjacent to Guard Station (22), looking west.

Wood-Frame Shed near Guard Station (22)

Historic Front Yard
Ca. 2007



Photo 98. Mail Trailer, looking northeast.

Mail Trailer

Historic Front Yard
Ca. 2007

Miscellaneous / Non-Contributing Structures



Photo 99. Staff Lockers / Wellness Center (42), looking northeast.

Modular Staff Lockers / Wellness Center (42)

New Front Yard
Ca. 2007



Photo 100. Guard Tower 8, looking southeast.

Wood-Framed Guard Tower 8

Historic Front Yard
Ca. 2007



Photo 101. Guard station in Sally Port, looking west.

Wood-Framed Guard Station in Sally Port

Vehicle Sally Port
Ca. 2007



Photo 102. Corrections Emergency Response Trailer, looking southwest.

Corrections Emergency Response Trailer (CERT)

North parking lot
Ca. 2007



Photo 103. Water tower, looking southeast.

Water Tower

Historic Front Yard
1966

Assessment of Integrity

Western State Penitentiary contains a total of thirty-seven resources constructed between 1878 and ca. 2007. Of these, eighteen buildings and structures—including walls, fences, and guard towers—were built within the period of significance (1878-1968) and contribute to the district's historical significance. Nineteen resources are non-contributing. Most of these were constructed after the period of significance, including eight small-scale modular units, trailers, and sheds installed upon the penitentiary's re-opening ca. 2007 which have a provisional feel. Two non-contributing resources were built during the period of significance, but their design and placement appear disconnected from the district's overall site and architectural design. These are the former warden's garage, more recently used as a storage building, constructed in the historic front yard ca. 1930 and with additions from ca. 1940, and a water tower, also located in the historic front yard, erected in 1966. Overall, Western State Penitentiary possesses integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The penitentiary's location is the same as the one on which construction began in 1878. Forces of urbanization and, in the mid-20th century, urban redevelopment have altered the penitentiary's setting. What was once a suburban residential neighborhood is now a swath of industrial uses sandwiched between the Ohio River and a highway. However, the river itself anchors the penitentiary to the historic characteristics of its waterfront site and provides integrity of setting.

Despite alterations to individual buildings and to the complex as a whole, Western State Penitentiary also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The most consequential alterations have been the removal of the Main Penitentiary Building's original High Victorian Gothic roof in 1959 and the construction of several buildings in the 1980s and 1990s which disrupted the original orthogonal symmetry and riverfront orientation of the site. However, the roof removal left intact the most significant aspects of the prison's architecture, namely its monumental Auburn-style cell block design, its combination of ancient and technologically advanced building materials and systems, and the composition of the campus to include separate spaces for dining, exercise, work, and other programmatic activities. Moreover, the roof was removed during the penitentiary's period of significance and was part of ongoing attempts to transform Western State into a modern—in the 20th century sense—institution. This is part of the story of its significance. The buildings of the 1980s and 1990s are intrusive to the original site design but do not damage it irreparably.

Western State Penitentiary's integrity of feeling and association derive from its integrity of location, setting, design, and materials. The monumentality of the prison's public face, the varied purpose and design of the buildings within its walled compound, and its ongoing relationship to the river continue to convey its history as a Victorian-era institution which housed prisoners in an urban setting for over 130 years while adapting to a changing community and to an evolving penal culture.

Inventory of Contributing/Non-Contributing Resources

SCI Bldg ID	Resource Name(s)	Date	Architect	Style	Materials	Original Function	Recent Function	Status
1	Front House; Warden's Residence and Offices	1885	Edward M. Butz; Frederick Sauer, supervising architect	Chateausque	Brick, slate	Warden's residence and offices	Staff lockers, storage, ca. 2005	C
2, 3, 4	Main Penitentiary Building:							C
	(2) North Wing, Housing Units E&F	1878-82	Edward M. Butz	Romanesque	Brick, stone, steel	Cell block	Cell block	
	(3) South Wing, Housing Units C&D	1887-93	Edward M. Butz	Romanesque	Brick, stone, steel	Cell block	Cell block	
	(4) Operations Building; Rotunda	1883-85; 1959	Edward M. Butz; Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.	Romanesque	Brick, stone, steel	Administration	Administration	
5	Housing Unit A	1989	TKA/HDR		Cast concrete, concrete block	Cell block	Cell block	NC
6	Housing Unit B	1989	TKA/HDR		Cast concrete, concrete block	Cell block	Cell block	NC
7, 41	Administration and Visitors Complex and Visitors Courtyard	1985	TKA/HDR		Cast concrete, concrete block	Administration, inmate processing, visitation	Administration, inmate processing, visitation	NC
8, 8A	Auditorium/Dietary Storage	1922			Brick, steel	Chapel, kitchen	Auditorium, storage	C
9, 40	Institution Warehouse and Mechanical, Electrical Equipment Yard	1985	TKA/HDR		Steel, concrete block	Warehouse	Warehouse	NC
10	Services Building	1922	Blaw-Knox Company		Steel, brick, structural terra cotta	Dining Hall; later Tailor Shop, Educational Bldg.	Inmate services, commissary, computer training	C
11, 12, 13	Correctional Industries Shop Building	1922	Blaw-Knox Company		Steel, brick, structural terra cotta	Tag shop, Tailoring shop, Weave shop	Tag shop, Metal shop, Welding shop	C
15	Dining Hall	1931; 1957	Harry Viehman; Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.		Cast concrete, brick, steel, structural terra cotta, slate	Dining hall	Dining hall	C
16	Gymnasium	1900; 1939			Brick, steel	Electric plant	Gymnasium	C
17	Maintenance Building	1900; 1939			Brick, steel	Electric dynamo room	Maintenance building	C
18	Library, Chapel and Education Building	1955	Charles M. and Edward Stotz, Jr.		Brick, steel	Security Warehouse	Library, chapel and education services	C
19	Exercise Pavilion	ca. 2007			Wood frame	Exercise	Exercise	NC
21	Inside Pump House	1934			Cast concrete	Pump house	Abandoned	C
22	Guard Station	1934			Cast concrete	Pump house	Security	C
24	Storage Building	ca. 1930, ca. 1940			Cast concrete, concrete block	Garage for Warden's Residence	Storage	NC
25	Scale House	ca. 1984			Concrete block	Scale house	Guard space	NC
26	Health Services Building	1994	Roach Walfish Lettrich		Steel frame, brick veneer, concrete block	Hospital	Hospital	NC
27, 27A	Boiler Plant and Power House	1939	Theodore Eichholz and Harry Viehman		Steel frame, brick veneer	Boiler plant and power house	Boiler plant and power house	C
28, 29, 23, 14	Maintenance Shops/Office Building	1939	Theodore Eichholz and Harry Viehman		Cast concrete, brick veneer	Maintenance shops and offices	Maintenance shops and offices	C
31	Sewage Pump House	1941	Morris Knowles Company	Art Deco	Cast concrete	Pump house	Pump house	C
32	Maintenance Storage Building	1927		International or Art Moderne	Brick	Filter house for Roberta Lang Swimming Pool	Storage	C
35	Vehicle Maintenance Building	1993	CRA-BKA-NHA		Concrete block	Vehicle maintenance	Vehicle maintenance	NC

C = Contributing
 NC = Non-Contributing

SCI Bldg ID	Resource Name(s)	Date	Architect	Style	Materials	Original Function	Recent Function	Status
37	Modular Building in Historic Front Yard	ca. 2007						NC
42	Staff Lockers/Wellness Center	ca. 2007						NC
Towers 1-6	Guard/Observation Towers	ca. 1883; ca. 1893; ca. 1932			Brick, wood, sheet metal	Security	Security	C
Tower 8	Guard/Observation Tower in Historic Front Yard	ca. 2007			Wood frame	Security	Security	NC
Un-numbered	Penitentiary Walls of Secure Perimeter, Sally Port, Sally Port Tower	1883; 1893; 1932			Massillon sandstone; cast concrete	Security	Security	C
Un-numbered	Front Yard Iron Fence and Gates	ca. 1893	Possibly E.M. Butz	Victorian	Cast and wrought iron	Security, ornament	Ornament	C
Un-numbered	Modular Building near Sewage Pump House	ca. 2007						NC
Un-numbered	Shed adjacent to Sewage Pump House	ca. 2007			Wood frame			NC
Un-numbered	Shed adjacent to Guard Station (22)	ca. 2007			Wood frame			NC
Un-numbered	Mail Traylor	ca. 2007						NC
Un-numbered	Guard Station in Sally Port	ca. 2007			Wood frame	Security	Security	NC
Un-numbered	Corrections Emergency Response Trailer	ca. 2007				Security	Security	NC
Un-numbered	Water Tower	1966			Steel	Water supply	Water supply	NC

NOTE: Gaps in the SCI Building ID numbers above are the result of there being no extant buildings corresponding to those numbers.

History and Significance



Figure 57. Engraving of Walnut Street Jail, Philadelphia. The Robert Smith designed penitentiary was hailed as a model of prison reform when it opened in 1773. It was further expanded in 1790 but closed in 1835 due to overcrowding and the desire to house inmates in Auburn-style facilities. The structure was demolished shortly after its closing (William Russell Birch, 1804).

The Establishment of State Penitentiaries in Pennsylvania

Prior to the American Revolution, the thirteen British colonies operated under British law in all matters, including criminal justice. Under this system, rudimentary jails, workhouses, or blockhouses were sometimes used to detain offenders awaiting sentencing and punishment, most often corporal; confinement was not a punishment in and of itself.

As first governor of Pennsylvania, William Penn sought reform of this system and its often brutal treatment of criminals. Penn's "Great Law" of 1682 called for a reduction in capital and corporal punishment, the establishment of government-run houses of correction, and a program of useful work for prisoners, but these reforms were repealed by Queen Anne after Penn's death in 1718.

Following independence, states began to establish their own systems for punishing offenders (the federal government would not establish its own penal agency, the Bureau of Prisons, until 1891). New thinking about the causes of crime informed many of these activities. The connection of unlawful behavior to external conditions, such as poverty, lack of education, and drunkenness, replaced blame on criminals' inherent evil nature or sinfulness.⁵ This shift in thinking generally supported the idea of confinement and control as suitable paths to reform and retribution.

Quaker activists in Pennsylvania set about reinstating much of Penn's code, re-establishing incarceration over corporal punishment as the primary form of correction. However, problematic conditions in city and county prisons spurred activists to demand further reforms. Led by Benjamin Rush, a prominent physician and statesman, the Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons (later known as the Philadelphia Prison Society) campaigned to implement a more humane prison system for Pennsylvania, including adequate and healthful meals, work programs within—not outside—prison walls, abolishment of hard labor, more stringent supervision and classification of inmates, and improved sanitation.

In 1789 and 1790, the Pennsylvania State Legislature passed laws providing for the establishment of modern penitentiaries. The penitentiary—from the root word "penitent"—became regarded as a humanitarian institution and an enlightened system for dealing with individuals who behaved outside of laws and social norms: offenders would be removed from mainstream society, separated from corrupting influences, and subject to a meticulously disciplined environment that encouraged them to reflect, repent and reform.⁶ Such theories of repentance found support in the work of activists and reformers such as Dorothea Dix, who advocated for special care and housing for mentally ill criminals. Early examples of penitentiaries, such as Western and Eastern State in Pennsylvania, were idealistic experiments, and their buildings were objects of civic pride, and even tourist attractions.

On an interim basis, Philadelphia's Walnut Street Jail was expanded to serve as the first such institution, receiving the addition of a penitentiary block in 1790. It incarcerated offenders as punishment; used a rudimentary classification system

⁵ Norman Johnston, *Forms of Constraint: A History of Prison Architecture* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2000), 42.

⁶ John C. McWilliams, *Two Centuries of Corrections in Pennsylvania: A Commemorative History* (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: PHMC for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, 2002), 13.

to sort prisoners by age, sex, and seriousness of crimes; and provided a limited number of individual cells for the most dangerous inmates.⁷ However, overcrowding led to its closure, and members of the Philadelphia Prison Society campaigned for the erection of larger, better penitentiaries.

In 1818, the Pennsylvania legislature passed an act authorizing the construction of two state penitentiaries, one each for the eastern and western parts of the state. The first to be constructed in 1826 was the original Western State Penitentiary in Allegheny, then a borough across the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh. Eastern State Penitentiary opened in Philadelphia in 1829. In 1836, the original Western State Penitentiary was replaced with a second prison on the same site. Taken together, these three early Pennsylvania penitentiaries represent three distinct models that emerged for correctional institutions around the turn of the nineteenth century: the panopticon, the Pennsylvania System, and the Auburn System. A fourth system, the Irish System, was not fully supported by Pennsylvania law, but aspects of it were adopted and combined with the Auburn System at Western State.

With these events, Pennsylvania emerged at the turn of the nineteenth century as a leader in penal reform, with governments in other states and foreign countries looking to its experiments as models for their own systems.⁸



Figure 58. Excerpted view of the first Western State Penitentiary in Allegheny Commons dating from 1832-34 (Karl Bodmer, "Penitentiary Near Pittsburgh," From *Travels in the Interior of North America in the Years 1832-34* by Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied. London: Ackermann and Company, November 15, 1839).

First Western State Penitentiary: Modified Panopticon

The original Western State Penitentiary was located on the site of what is now the National Aviary in Allegheny Commons, a public grazing land which was redesigned as a park after the Civil War. Construction began shortly after the authorizing act in 1818 and the prison opened to twelve prisoners on July 1, 1826. Built to the design of American architect William Strickland, it was a variation on the model of a panopticon prison.

⁷ John W. Roberts, *Reform and Retribution: An Illustrated History of American Prisons* (American Correctional Association, 1996), 26.

⁸ McWilliams, ix.

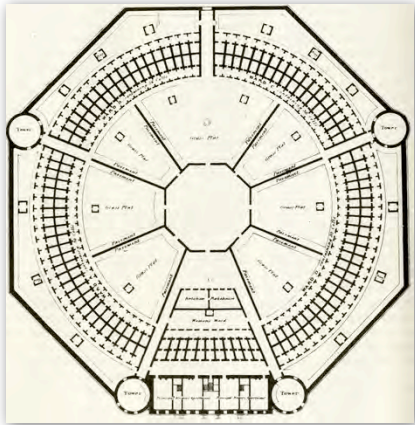


Figure 59. Octagonal plan of the first Western State Penitentiary, 1826-1836, William Strickland (The Modern Architect's Digest).

The panopticon principle of prison design originated with English philosopher and scholar Jeremy Bentham in 1791 and was intended for optimal surveillance in institutions containing large numbers of residents requiring supervision. Panopticon prisons were usually circular or semi-circular, multi-story buildings with cells around the perimeter, facing an interior well or courtyard containing a watchtower. In theory, this central vantage point allowed for constant surveillance of prisoners who would, consequently, be better behaved and disposed to internalize new habits of conduct. The central guard's station also facilitated group address of inmates, including sermons; religious instruction was thought to be vital to reform.⁹

Strickland's design for the first Western Penitentiary was surrounded by a monumental, octagonal stone wall three feet thick and contained 190 individual six-by-nine foot cells for the solitary confinement of prisoners. The cells were positioned back-to-back in two concentric rings on a single floor. The central watchtower appears never to have been built; for supervision of the outer ring of cells, Strickland designed perimeter watchtowers at points along the prison wall. This wall was unbroken except by an massive entrance gate which also served as administration building and warden's residence.

Strickland's design contained flaws that led to this prison's being entirely rebuilt after only ten years. The combination of double-tiered cell layout and curved walls meant that sight lines did not permit omnipresent surveillance. Moreover, as a result of having an open courtyard instead of a closed watchtower at its center, surveillance went both ways; prisoners knew when they were being watched and when they weren't and could adjust their behavior accordingly.¹⁰ Constant solitary confinement led to health problems that warranted occasionally allowing prisoners to leave their cells, undermining the principle of solitary confinement.

In 1829, an act of the PA legislature established a requirement for inmate labor, amending the policy of separate confinement with the goals of relieving monotony and teaching prisoners a trade which would help them upon release. But Western Penitentiary's cells proved too small and dark for the inmates to perform handicrafts in them.¹¹ A legislative act of 1833 authorized the demolition of the first Western State Penitentiary. It was replaced with a second facility on the same site in 1836.

⁹ Roberts, 54.

¹⁰ Anna Vemer Andrzejewski, *Building Power: Architecture and Surveillance in Victorian America* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2008), 21-22, 32-33.

¹¹ McWilliams, 14.

¹² Harry Elmer Barnes, PhD., "The Evolution of American Penology as Illustrated by the Western Penitentiary of the United States" (*The Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine*, Vol 4, No. 4, October 1921), 197. Barnes later became influenced by the Holocaust denial movement. However, his work on the history of penology during the 1920s appears to be credible and based in verifiable fact.

Eastern State Penitentiary and the Pennsylvania System

As penology in Pennsylvania evolved, so did its administration. The same act of 1829 that permitted convict labor also set up a governing system for the state penitentiaries. For both Western State Penitentiary and its new counterpart in the eastern part of the state, a five-member Board of Inspectors was appointed by the state Supreme Court. The Inspectors had control over financial, administrative, and industrial matters at each prison, including the salaries of the prison wardens, doctors, clerks, and religious instructors.¹²

Opened in the same year in Philadelphia, Eastern State Penitentiary (originally Cherry Hill Prison) became the prototype for the Pennsylvania System of penitentiary design, also known as the Separate System due to the principle of complete solitary confinement at its core. Alone in their cells or hooded on the few occasions they were brought into contact with one another, inmates were



Figure 60. Interior photo showing typical cell block in Eastern State Penitentiary, date unknown (Eastern State Historic Site, Inc).

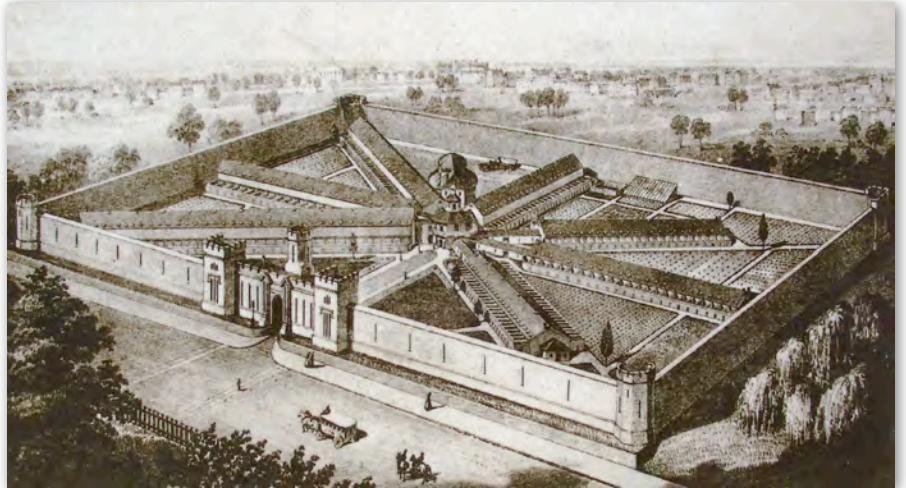


Figure 61. John Haviland's radial configuration of Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, PA (Lithograph by P.S. Duval and Co., 1885).

supposed to interact only with prison staff and chaplains. Prisoners were expected to become penitent as they engaged in work, Bible study, and reflection on their misdeeds in solitary confinement. From a management standpoint, solitary confinement was also supposed to keep prisoners from conspiring with one another and to facilitate their control by guards.¹³ The goal of the Pennsylvania System was to reform offenders so as to release them back into society.

To implement this penal system, British-born architect John Haviland pioneered a radial plan for Eastern State which, like the panopticon, was designed to facilitate surveillance. The penitentiary was a ten-acre walled compound with a watchtower at its center and seven cell blocks extending outward like spokes. Each cell block was laid out with a central corridor, double-loaded with cells on either side; thus, each cell was afforded a window to the outdoors. Ground-floor cells also had access to individual exercise yards. The cells had plumbing, and they were relatively large at eight by twelve feet, enabling inmates to work inside on various handicrafts (such as shoes, textiles, caned chairs, and cigars) that were sold to help defray prison costs. The prison's Gothic Revival architecture, with "cheerless blank" walls, lancet windows, and castellated towers, was intended to communicate a sense of foreboding.¹⁴

The Pennsylvania System for confinement, as expressed at Eastern State Penitentiary and at Haviland's later New Jersey State Prison (1833-1836) in Trenton, became one of the most famous and widely-imitated in the world during the Victorian period.

¹³ Roberts, 33.

¹⁴ Minutes of the Building Commission, reproduced in Negley K. Teeters and John D. Shearer, *The Prison at Philadelphia, Cherry Hill: The Separate System of Penal Discipline, 1829-1913* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1957), 59; in Andrzejewski, 16.

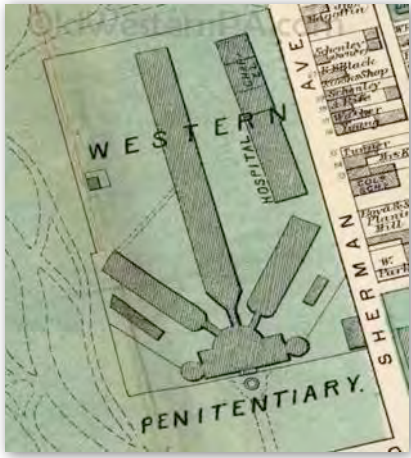


Figure 62. 1872 Hopkins Map detail of the second Western Penitentiary in the Allegheny Commons.



Figure 63. Photograph showing the massive fortress-like entrance to John Haviland's second Western Penitentiary in Allegheny Commons (Allegheny City Historic Gallery).

Second Western State Penitentiary and Transition to the Auburn System

Meanwhile, other states implemented their own prison systems and reforms. In particular, in New York, the state prisons at Auburn (built between 1816 and 1825) and Ossining (known as Sing Sing, 1825) provided a rival model to the Pennsylvania System which ultimately came to dominate American corrections.¹⁵ Also known as the Congregate System, the Auburn System kept prisoners isolated in solitary cells at night but allowed them to eat and work together, in silence, during the day. This ideology of prison management resulted in an architectural prototype for penitentiaries with long rows of tiered cells for individual confinement and separate, more spacious facilities for group activities.

Because of the congregative nature of inmate labor under this system, Auburn-style prisons were built with large workshops which lent themselves to industrial factory production. Individual cells could be smaller since they were only used for sleeping. Thus, the Auburn system emerged as economically advantageous over the Pennsylvania System. More inmates could be housed per square foot, and industrial production of prison goods was more efficient and profitable than handicrafts.¹⁶ However, maintaining silence and order among groups of prisoners was more difficult. Disciplinary tactics such as striped uniforms and marching in lockstep had their origins in penitentiaries operating under the Auburn System.

Pittsburgh's second Western State Penitentiary (referred to hereafter as WSP Commons) made a transition from the Pennsylvania System to the Auburn System during the post-Civil War years. The state again contracted with John Haviland to design this prison, completed on the same site as the first Western State in 1836. It exhibited a modified radial plan of cell blocks arranged in the form of a V with an inspection room at their apex. Like Eastern State, WSP Commons had imposing Gothic Revival design elements and an overall fortress-like appearance. An additional cell block was added between the first two in 1859.

¹⁵ Roberts, 38.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 39.

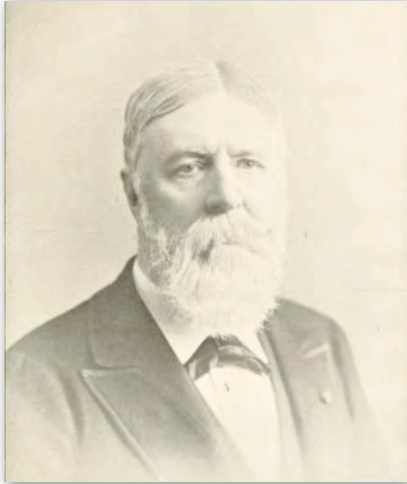


Figure 64. Photograph of Captain Edward S. Wright, Warden of Western Penitentiary from 1869-1901. Warden Wright was born in England and came to Pittsburgh in the mid 1840's. Prior to the Civil War, Wright served as chief clerk of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and then as city water assessor. During the Civil War, Wright was made Captain of Co. F of the 62nd Infantry Regiment and served in the field until the close of the Peninsular Campaign. After the war, Wright returned to Pittsburgh and became President of the Glass Machine Co. and reprised his roll as city water assessor. In February of 1869, Captain Wright was elected warden of the Western Penitentiary. He retired as warden in 1901 due to illness but remained an influential figure in national correctional and prison reform discussions. He died on Feb 28, 1916 in the Allegheny West neighborhood of Pittsburgh (Mylin, State Prisons, Hospitals, Soldiers' Homes).

Slow growth of the prison population prior to the Civil War allowed WSP Commons to operate in relative stability according to the Pennsylvania System until the 1860s. From 1844 to 1854, prison labor—consisting of weaving on hand looms and shoemaking by prisoners in their cells—provided enough income to sustain the prison, along with state appropriations for officers' salaries.¹⁷

In the 1860s, however, the prison expanded several times to meet the demands of an increasing population and evolving standards of penology. By 1870, WSP Commons contained 324 cells in three wings, a chapel, wash house, hospital building, and a new building with 24 cells for housing female inmates. Cells themselves were enlarged to seven feet, ten inches by fifteen feet and furnished with gas lights, a four-inch slit window, and steam heat.¹⁸

After the Civil War, several factors combined to support the construction of a third Western State Penitentiary on a new site in Allegheny. In terms of prison operations, penologists, prison inspectors, and administrators at both the Eastern and Western State institutions began to admit that the practice of solitary confinement under the Pennsylvania System was neither successful nor sustainable. Growing evidence suggested that solitary confinement promoted not reflection and rehabilitation, but psychological distress, even insanity. On a purely economic level, maintaining individual cells large enough for each inmate to perform handicrafts was expensive, especially as the population grew.¹⁹ Western State Penitentiary's chaplain wrote that each cell at WSP Commons was "a costly little prison in itself."²⁰

Facing overcrowding, prison administrators faced difficult decisions between further costly expansions or elimination of individual cells. Expansion of Western State on its current site seemed even less tenable after 1867, when the Allegheny Commons was redesigned into a public park. The ongoing situation of a prison in the park was in tension with the picturesque qualities of its landscape and the desirability of property at its periphery. Finally, in a fast-industrializing economy, the handicraft production of inmates working alone in their cells could not generate sufficient merchandise or income to offset the expenses of operating a large penitentiary.²¹

During this same period, the Auburn System drew the attention and admiration of the Western State Board of Inspectors. In 1866, they wrote of its advantages. In 1869, the Pennsylvania legislature passed an act allowing for the congregation of inmates for work purposes in shops. In the same year, Edward S. Wright, a former captain in the Civil War, was appointed warden of Western State Penitentiary and began advocating for transition to a more Auburn-style management system.

Noting that "The method of confinement in solitude proved most unsatisfactory" and that "the prison population has grown faster than its accommodations," Wright moved immediately to implement reforms that changed operations at the prison.²² He introduced the Congregate System, allowing prisoners to eat, work, study, and worship together. In acknowledgement of the fact that "labor in the cells had not been remunerative for many years," a shoe shop accommodating 85 men was added in 1869 and a larger work shop, housing broom-making and marble polishing as well as shoemaking, was built in 1874. Wright also instituted a "commutation law" or

¹⁷ Edward S. Wright, "A Brief History of Western Penitentiary" (Pittsburgh, 1909: held at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Reference Collection), 100.

¹⁸ Doug MacGregor, "Western State Penitentiary: 200 Years of Leadership and Innovation," 3.

¹⁹ Roberts, 34.

²⁰ In Barnes, "The Evolution of American Penology as Illustrated by the Western Penitentiary of the United States," 203.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Wright, 99.

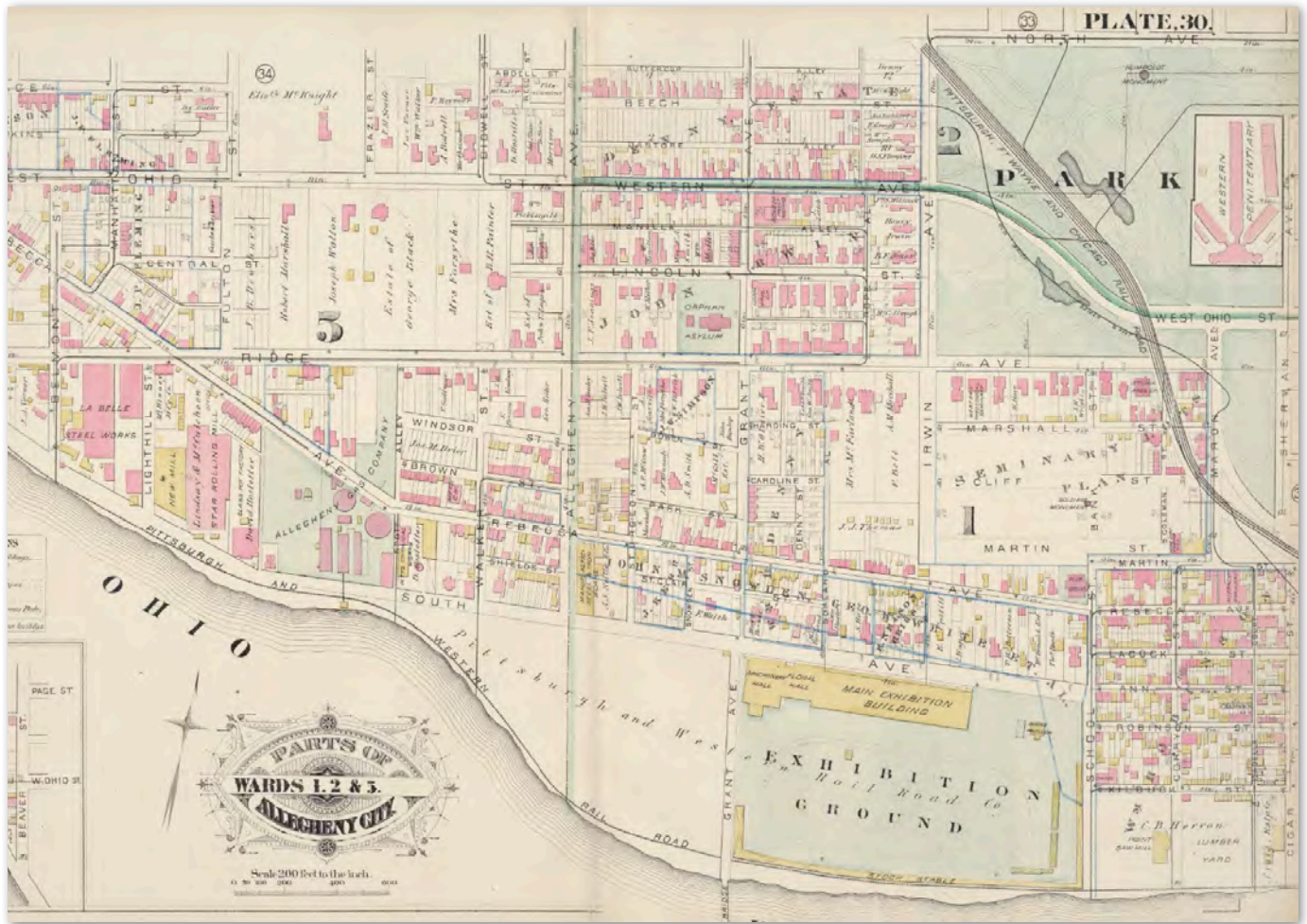


Figure 65 (above). 1882 Hopkins Map showing the Western Penitentiary in the upper right corner. This map illustrates the changes to the environment of the Allegheny Commons since its creation as a city park in 1867. A comparison to Bodmer's lithograph of the penitentiary on page 92 highlights the shift from a rural to urban setting. By 1882, the surrounding streets had become a desirable address for the area's upper-middle class and concerns about the penitentiary's close proximity to the new neighborhood increased. Also of interest is the Exhibition Building in the lower part of the map, which was designed by Edward M. Butz.

Figure 66 (right). An undated photograph of a fountain in the Allegheny Commons Park with the penitentiary in the upper left shows how close the complex was to the recreation areas. Lack of space for expansion and resident concerns were the driving forces behind the penitentiary's move to the Ohio River site (Allegheny City Historic Gallery).



“good time” rule under which prison administrators had leeway to reduce an inmate’s sentence in reward for good behavior.²³

Still, the facility designed for solitary confinement under the Pennsylvania System was inadequate and unable to accommodate a true Auburn System program. By the late 1870s, many cells built for one prisoner were occupied by two, three, or as many as four inmates.²⁴ In a report of 1877, Warden Wright noted the need for 500 new cells and a new shop, while the state Board of Inspectors painted a dire picture of conditions at the prison:

[Western State Penitentiary] is altogether inadequate in its proportions for a family of from 800 to 900 convicts.... In the bracing winter weather this crowding of men may be endured, but when the hot summer days and nights overtake us we shudder for the consequences. Disease, epidemic and death must of necessity follow.²⁵

Western State Penitentiary Riverside

In 1876, the Inspectors suggested acquiring the site of the House of Refuge, an abandoned facility for juvenile offenders located about three miles from WSP Commons on the banks of the Ohio River in Allegheny, as an “intermediate prison.” In 1877, they pressed for the appropriation of this site “not now as an annex to [the current] building, but as the site of a new, enlarged and capacious Western State Penitentiary Building.” Perhaps anticipating objection on economic grounds, the Inspectors argued that convict labor could be used for the new prison’s construction and that “much of the material required can be removed from time to time from the present building” and that it could be completed and occupied in phases.²⁶ Other advantages of the House of Refuge site were said to include its spaciousness; attractive views and fresh breezes for good ventilation; it already contained institutional buildings which could be re-used, occupied on a temporary basis, or recycled for additional building materials; and its location on a railroad line for the convenience of the Inspectors.

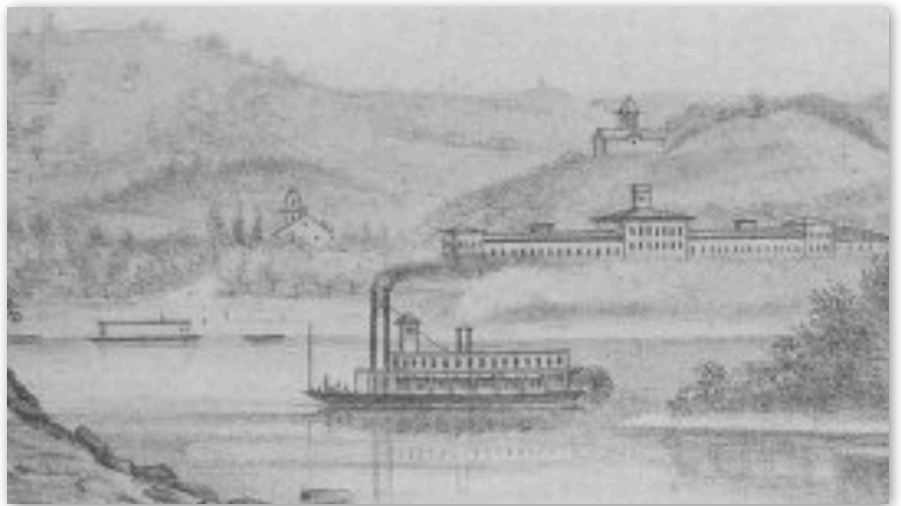


Figure 67. View looking from McKees Rocks across the Ohio River to the House of Refuge in 1876 (Flem’s Views of Old Pittsburgh).

²³ Wright, 100.

²⁴ Report of Board of Prison Inspectors, 1877. In Wright, 101.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

Historic Map Analysis

By analyzing historic property maps, architectural and site plans, prison reports, and news articles, it has been possible to construct a detailed developmental history of Western State Penitentiary on the Riverside site.

1876 Hopkins Map

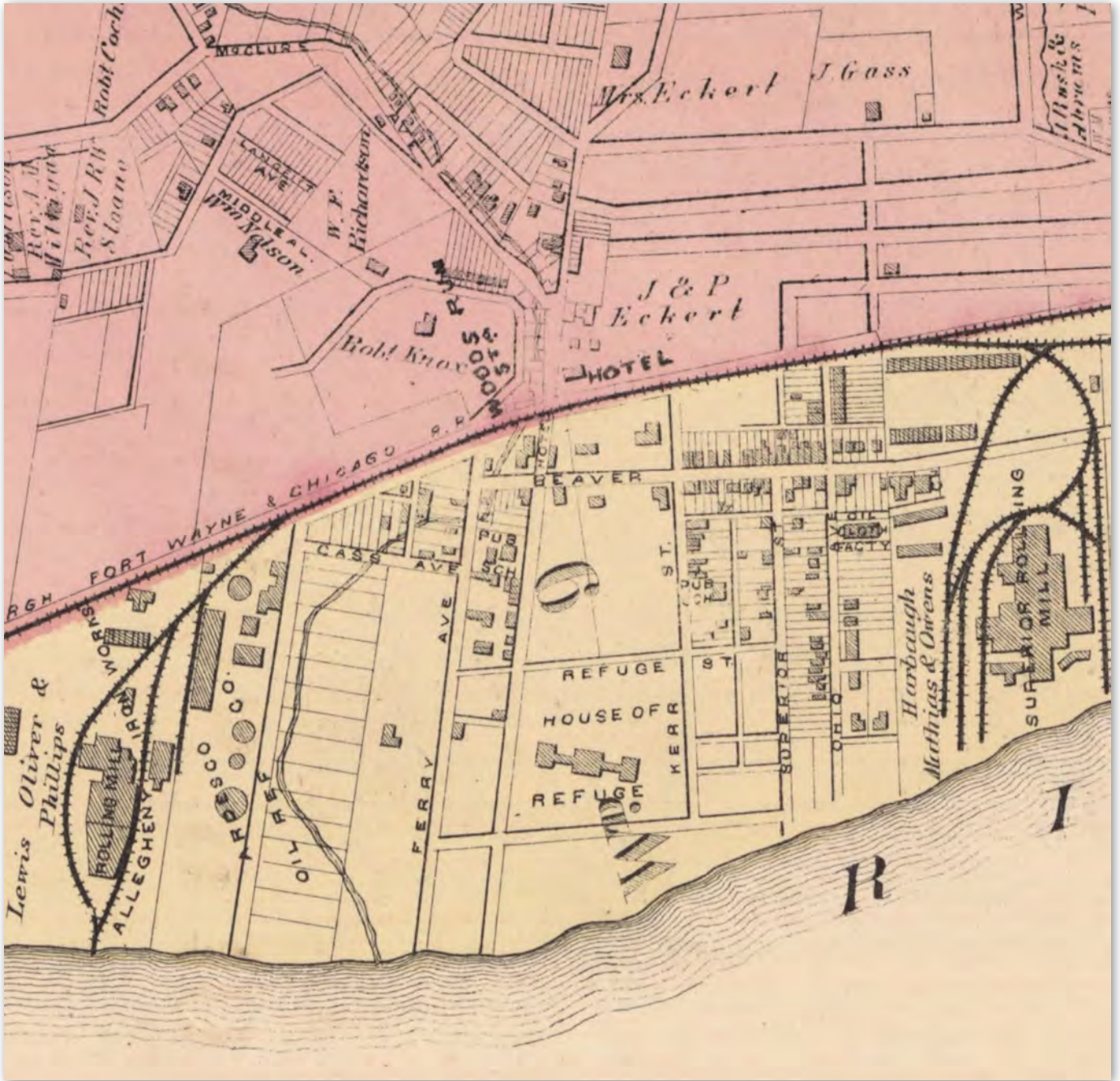


Figure 68. 1876 Hopkins Map showing the House of Refuge, which becomes the site of the third Western Penitentiary in 1878. Parts of the House of Refuge structure were in use as part of the penitentiary's East Wing until they were destroyed in a riot in 1921.

This 1876 Hopkins map shows the dumbbell-shaped House of Refuge and its site as they were in the year the Inspectors identified this as a suitable location for a new Western State Penitentiary. The August 3, 1854 edition of the *Pittsburgh City Post* indicates that the facility was substantial, with a main building that was 210 feet wide and four stories tall and constructed of brick made on site. The building included separate wings for girls and boys with towers at each end, plus rear additions and a number of shops and outbuildings.²⁷ Enclosing everything was a 16-foot high stone wall that ran 500 feet along the river and extended back 350 feet from the river's edge. Neighboring blocks were moderately populated with mostly residential buildings. Beaver Ave., the area's main thoroughfare, lay to the east and had the highest concentration of buildings. Mills, factories, and schools were also located nearby. The Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad ran slightly east of Beaver Ave. with lines connecting to the nearby mills to the north and south of the site.



Figure 69. House of Refuge, ca. 1850, designed by Joseph W. Kerr (O. Krebs & Bro, lithographer).

On June 12, 1878, Governor John Hartranft approved \$100,000 for the construction of new buildings for Western State Penitentiary on the Riverside site. On Sept 30, the prison Inspectors took possession of House of Refuge. An undated letter from Edward M. Butz, the architect they hired (perhaps for his institutional work on the new House of Refuge in Morganza) reproduced in the Inspectors' Report of 1878 details his scope of work with dimensions and placement of structures, suggesting that design of the new prison got underway immediately. On November 27, 1878, the first of the inmates from the Commons site were transferred to Riverside, where they were housed in a temporary facility.

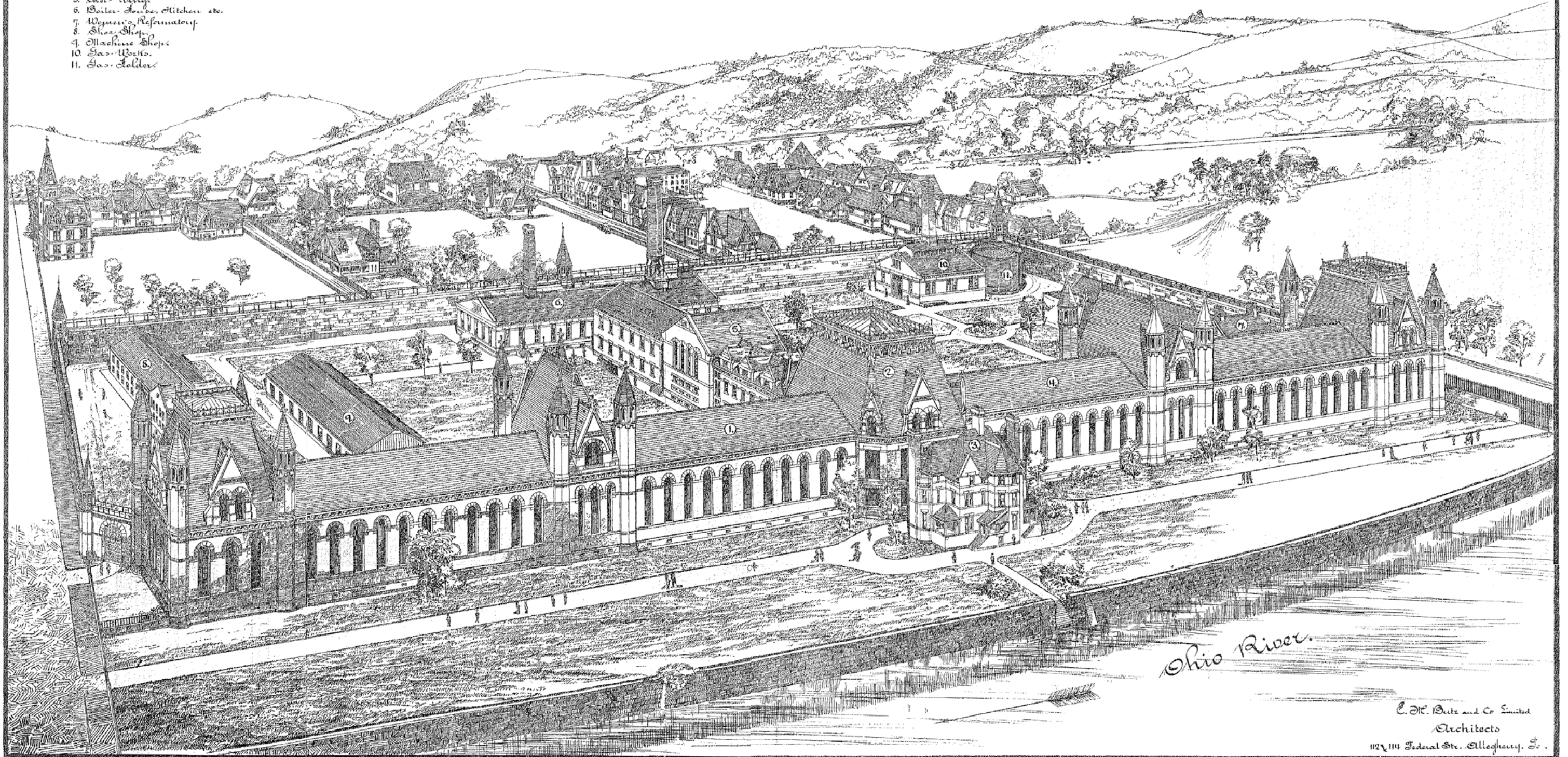
Work on the new site was carried out in phases. John Schreiner was repeatedly hired as the stone mason, but a significant amount of general labor was performed by inmates. Preparation of the site began with the demolition of some of the House of Refuge structures and renovation of others. The North Wing of the new penitentiary was the first to open, in 1882. It was over 467 feet long with 640 cells, 100 of which were seven by eight feet in dimension, and the remainder of which were five by eight feet. A separate women's reformatory had 30 cells. In 1883-84, the outer walls and roof of the South Wing were erected by a combination of contract and prison labor.

²⁷ "House of Refuge for Western Pennsylvania," *Pittsburgh City Post*, August 3, 1854, 3.

Bird's Eye View of the Existing and Proposed Buildings for
The State Penitentiary for the Western Dist. of Penna. 7th Ward, Allegheny, Pa.

Explanation.

1. North Wing.
2. Central or Administration Building.
3. Warden's Residence and Office Building.
4. South Wing.
5. East Wing.
6. Boiler House, Kitchen, etc.
7. Women's Reformatory.
8. Shoe Shop.
9. Machine Shop.
10. Gas Works.
11. Gas Holder.



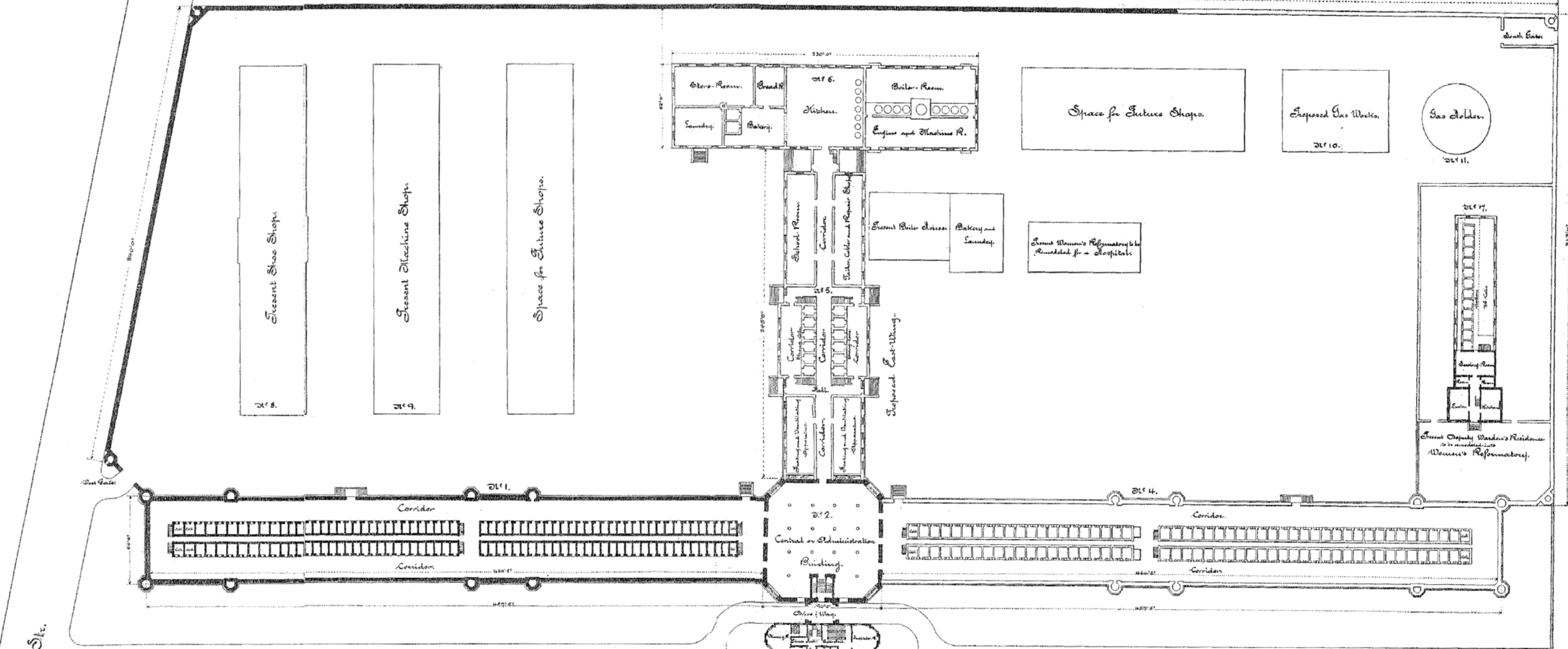
Ohio River.

E. M. Butz and Co Limited
Architects
112 1/4 Federal St., Allegheny, Pa.

Am. Photo Litho Co. N.Y.

Figure 70. Bird's eye view drawn by architect Edward M. Butz showing his vision for the new Western State Penitentiary, 1883 (Biennial Report of the Inspectors of the State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 1883-84).

Situation Plan
 showing location of
Existing and Proposed New Building
 for
The State Penitentiary of the Western Dist. of Penna. 9th Ward, Allegheny Co.



- Explanation.**
- D1. North Wing.
 - 2. Central or Administration Building.
 - 3. Warden's Residence and Office.
 - 4. South Wing.
 - 5. East Wing.
 - 6. Boiler Room, Kitchen etc.
 - 7. Women's Reformatory.
 - 8. Shoe Shop.
 - 9. Machine Shop.
 - 10. Gas Works.
 - 11. Gas Holders.

Existing North Wing containing
 540 Cells 8'0" x 8'0",
 100 Cells 7'0" x 8'0".
Total, 640 Cells.

Proposed South Wing to contain
 500 Cells 7'0" x 8'0".

Warden's Residence and Office Building

E. M. Butz and G. E. ...
 Architects
 101 and 103 School Street, Allegheny, Penna.

Figure 71. Plan drawn by architect Edward M. Butz showing his vision for the new Western State Penitentiary, 1883 (Biennial Report of the Inspectors of the State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 1883-84).

1884 Sanborn Map

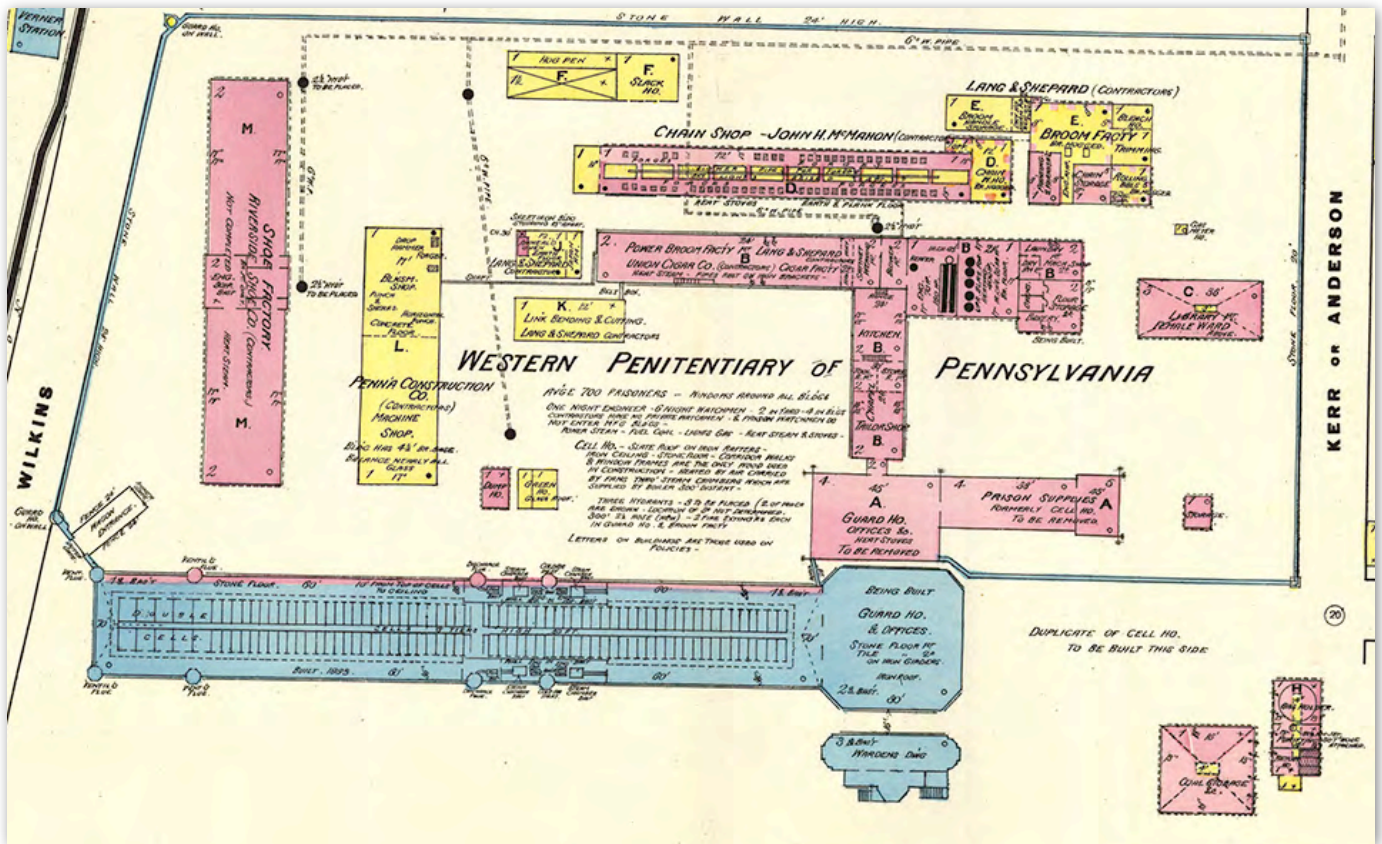


Figure 72 (detail from an 1884 Sanborn Map, above). This 1884 map shows the Western Penitentiary Riverside in construction under architect Edward Butz. The North Wing was complete and housing inmates at this time. Remains of the House of Refuge can be seen directly behind the central Rotunda. Outbuildings and workshops had been constructed behind the main penitentiary building. The full area map to the right shows the increasing urbanization of the neighborhood surrounding the penitentiary.

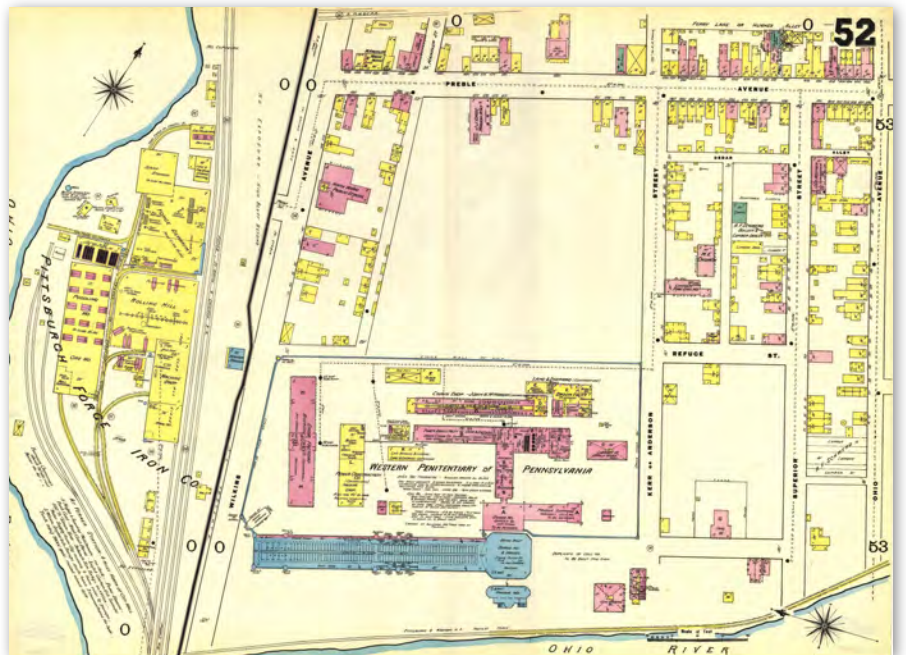




Figure 73. Ca. 1922 photograph of the penitentiary's original Female Ward and Library, likely designed by Butz. By 1893, it was converted to the Hospital as a new female ward was created. The building to the right is an addition to the hospital, built in 1922 (PA State Archives).

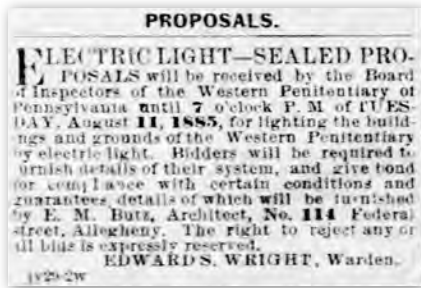


Figure 74. 1885 Newspaper advertisement asking for electric lighting system bids from Warden Wright. Electric lighting was planned for the Riverside penitentiary from the beginning, but funding for the electric plant was delayed by the legislature until 1898 (Pittsburgh Daily Post, 07/29/1885, pg 4).

By the time of this 1884 Sanborn Map, the area had become more urban, and the Pittsburgh and Western Rail Road Freight Track had constructed an alignment across the penitentiary site parallel to the Ohio River. Western State Penitentiary was by now well established on the site. The map shows the completed North Wing of Edward Butz's design as well as the central Rotunda, which was built for guard offices; the Warden's Residence, which faced the Ohio River in front of the Rotunda; and the East Wing, all under construction. The North Wing, Rotunda, and Warden's Residence are colored blue to indicate fireproof construction.

Butz also designed a stone wall to secure the perimeter of the property. It is shown here connected to the North Wing and to the near section of the East Wing. The main entrance to the penitentiary was through the Warden's Residence, which is outside the secure perimeter.

The T-shaped East Wing combined part of the former House of Refuge and new Butz-designed spaces in 1884. Immediately east of the Rotunda can be seen the remains of the four-story main building of the House of Refuge, labeled "Guard Houses/Offices and Prison Supplies/To be Removed." Several facts support this section of the prison having originally been part of the House of Refuge: the penitentiary reports state that the House of Refuge buildings were used temporarily, the four-story height of this section matches the 1854 written description of the House of Refuge, and its footprint matches that of the House of Refuge shown on the 1876 map. Also, the new penitentiary buildings were constructed closer to the Ohio River than the House of Refuge, suggesting that the previous buildings still stood and the new ones had to be built relative to them.

The two-story wing extending perpendicularly east of this also appears to be a reused part of the House of Refuge based on correspondence between the 1854 description and the details shown on this map: both indicate a two-story wing in this location that was 30 feet tall with a second-floor chapel, 20 feet in height. A photograph of this section of the prison taken ca. 1897 appears to show such a structure. In 1884, this contained, aside from the chapel, various shops and factories, a kitchen, laundry, and engine room.

A detached building on the southern part of the site was the Female Ward and Library, which was likely designed by Butz.

A number of brick and frame shop and utility buildings were under construction or finished at this time. Parallel to the east wall was the Chain Shop and the Broom Factory. In the northern end of the site were the completed Machine Shop and Blacksmith Shop and two additional smaller shop buildings, the Link Bending and Cutting Shop and the Sheet Iron Building, all frame. The map also shows a large brick Shoe Factory under construction near the north wall.

Several smaller outbuildings had also been constructed in the northern end of the site. The Hog Pen and Slack House were located near the east wall and the Dump House and Greenhouse were near the North Wing. Outside the secure perimeter near the Ohio River were two brick structures, one for coal storage and the other a Gas Holder.

By the summer of 1885, the relocation of prisoners to WSP Riverside was complete and WSP Commons stood completely vacant. Construction on the Riverside site continued with the roof of the South Wing and stone, brick, and iron work. The South Wing opened to inmates in 1891, though the Inspectors' Report for 1891-92 notes that it could not be completely finished because the legislature failed to provide necessary funds.



Figure 75. 1893 photo showing construction of the roof over the South Wing. Inmates were already being housed in the wing at this time (Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh).



Figure 76. Ca. 1890 photo showing the East Wing of the former House of Refuge that Butz incorporated into his design. At the time of this photo, the main block of the House of Refuge has been demolished, leaving a gap between the East Wing and Main Penitentiary Building. By 1893, the stair tower (right end of East Wing) was removed and a connector was built joining the East Wing and the Rotunda (PA State Archives).

The 1893 Sanborn Map shows the completion of Butz's main penitentiary buildings, including the South Wing, which was finally finished in that year. The Rotunda was finished in 1885. The Warden's Residence was now connected to the Rotunda by a two-story porte cochere with covered bridge. The wall had been completed and enclosed the whole yard east of the cell blocks, connecting to the North and South Wings. The old House of Refuge East Wing, renovated by Butz, was now connected directly to the Rotunda. The long northern arm of the East Wing, which housed the Mat Yarn Winding and Stocking Factory, had been connected to the Machine Shop.

The property boundary was extended to the south between 1884 and 1893. In 1884, the boundary was Kerr St., but by 1893 the site stretched to Superior St. The wall was enlarged to correspond to the new southern perimeter. A new Women's Prison was established within the expanded southern end of the site. It was housed in a ca. 1870 two-story, Italianate style brick house that records indicate was moved from elsewhere on the site ca. 1885. In 1890, an addition of 40 cells more than doubled its size. The previous Women's Prison was converted to use as a school, kitchen, and hospital.

The intensity of industrial activity at the penitentiary is evident in the considerable enlargement by this year of the shop bordering the east wall. The building had essentially doubled in width and stretched southward to incorporate the previously separate Broom Factory. The building that served as the Chain Shop in 1884 is here shown converted to the Mat Weaving House and Broom Factory, a change in function that reflected new labor laws governing the industries in which prisoners were allowed to labor. Similarly, the brick building near the northern wall, which was under construction as a Shoe Factory in 1884, was now finished, but its function changed to Mat Factory. Also along the east wall was a new Warehouse. The Greenhouse had expanded, but the Hog Shed and Slack House had been demolished, as had the Link Bending and Cutting Shop.

By this time, the prison was already approaching capacity, with 1169 of 1180 cells occupied.



Figure 78. 1897 photograph of the area between the Broom Factory and east wall—dubbed “Wall Street” in historic accounts (Mylin, State Prisons, Hospitals, Soldiers’ Homes).

Figure 79 (top left). 1897 photograph of the southern wall and sally port.

Figure 80 (top right). 1897 view of the Warden's Residence showing the porte cochere and bridge that connected the house to the Rotunda.

Figure 81 (bottom left). 1897 view inside the Female Ward, showing cells. The cells look very similar to the male cells in the Main Penitentiary building, both with cast iron scrolled brackets.

Figure 82 (bottom right). Photograph of the ca. 1870 Italianate House that was moved from a nearby location to use as the Female Ward; a rear addition was constructed in 1890 to provide more cells.

(Images from Mylin, State Prisons, Hospitals, Soldiers' Homes, except for Figure 82, which was found in the Biennial Report of the Western Penitentiary of Pennsylvania, 1905-06.)



1906 Sanborn Map

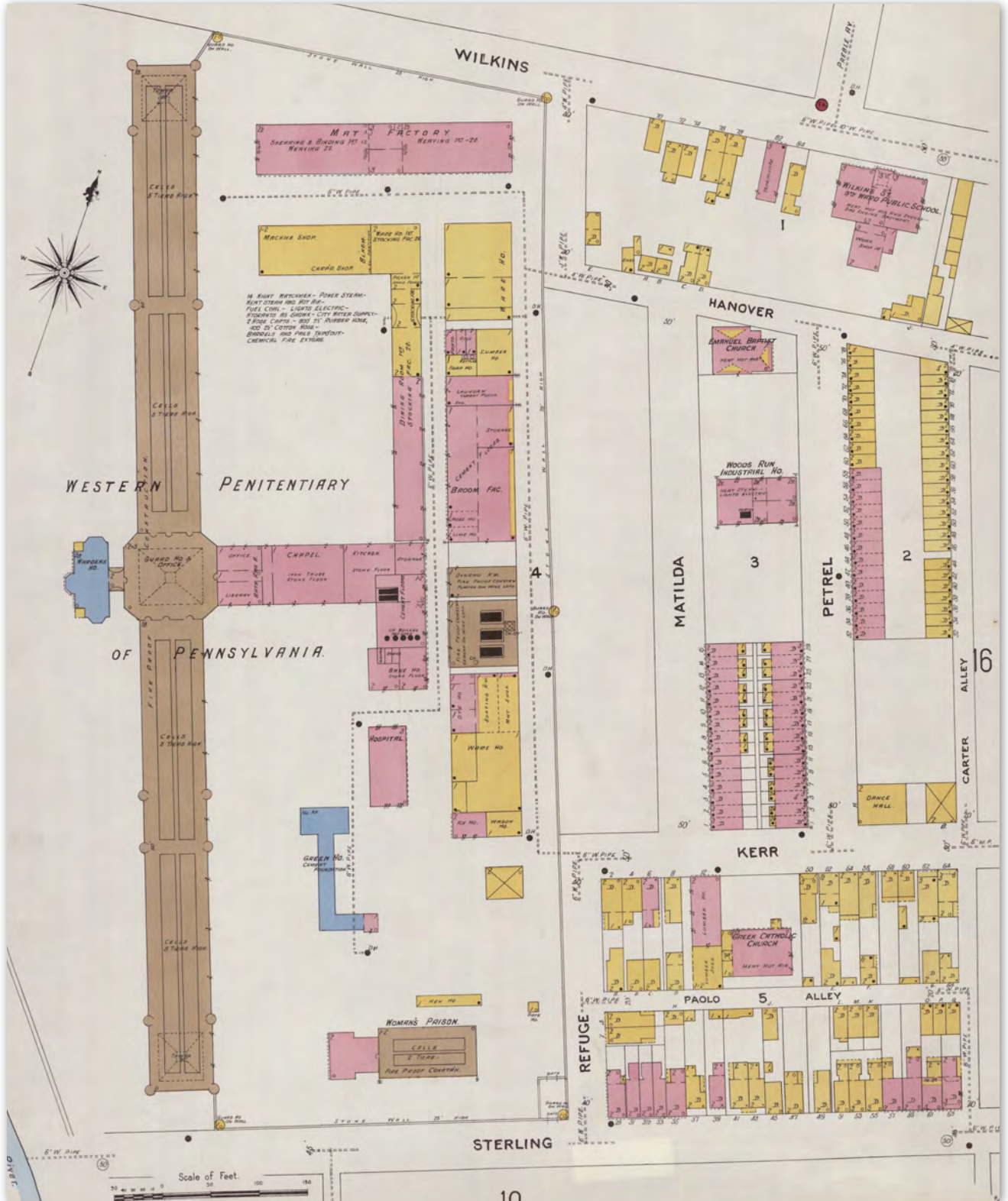


Figure 83. 1906 Sanborn Map showing the increasing urbanization of the area surrounding the penitentiary. The main penitentiary site change was the construction of the Conservatory, a gift of Henry Phipps Jr, in 1905.



Figure 84. John Francies was warden of Western Penitentiary (and its branch, Rockview) from 1909 to 1922. He was born in Allegheny City, PA, in 1862 and served in a variety of public positions before being elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, which he held from 1903-1905. After his time as warden, Francies served in other elected positions such as Clerk of Courts in Allegheny County and Treasurer of Allegheny County. He died on October 16, 1933. Francies was notable as warden for his efforts to move the penitentiary from its Ohio River location, presiding over the creation of Rockview Penitentiary, and for the creation of a prominent inmate educational program. (Pennsylvania House of Representatives.)



Figure 86. River scene with Western Penitentiary in the background (historic postcard, 1907).

²⁸ Barnes, "Pennsylvania Penology: 1944. A Report on Penal and Correctional Institutions and Correctional Policy in the State of Pennsylvania" (State College: The Pennsylvania Municipal Publications Service, 1944, 21).

While the surrounding area continued to urbanize, there were few major changes to the penitentiary site between 1893 and 1906. The middle section of the Broom Factory building, which bordered the east wall, was removed to accommodate the new Power Plant ca. 1898. The Warehouse north of the Broom Factory was enlarged slightly on its southern end. The Greenhouse in the northern part of the site was demolished, and a new Conservatory was built in the southern half of the site between the East Wing and Female Ward. The Conservatory, built in 1905, was a gift of financier and philanthropist Henry Phipps, Jr., who also donated conservatories to the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, the latter built on the site of the old WSP Commons.



Figure 85. Photograph of the Conservatory in the southern half of the site (labeled "Greenhouse" on the 1906 Sanborn Map). The Conservatory was a \$5,000 gift of Henry Phipps Jr and was largely constructed by inmate labor. The dedication ceremony for the greenhouse was a large affair with 50 guests, including former warden Wright, who spoke about the need for efforts to "uplift" and the benefits of flowers and natural beauty. The 14-piece prison orchestra played in accompaniment to several well-known local musicians. Pittsburgh still retains its Phipps Conservatory, which is located in Schenley Park (PA State Archives).

The slowing of improvements at the penitentiary likely reflected growing frustrations with the limitations of the site. Despite the state's tremendous investment in the modern prison only 30 years before and the supposed advantages of the Riverside site, numerous conditions soon resulted in calls to build a new penitentiary elsewhere. Flooding frequently overcame the Ohio River banks; episodes in 1884, 1902, and 1907 caused uninhabitable conditions during which inmates had to be housed for long periods in unheated cells in the top tiers of the prison. Even when not flooded, proximity to the river caused damp conditions in the facility. Fog retained smoke from Pittsburgh's many riverfront mills and interfered with good light conditions for inmate labor. Overcrowding continued to be a problem, and outbreaks of communicable disease such as tuberculosis and typhoid were common. Writing in 1921, when the prison was still very much in operation, Harry Elmer Barnes, a scholar of penological history, wrote, "It would be difficult to estimate the misery, suffering, ill-health, loss of life, inconvenience, and inefficiency caused by the ill-judgement of those who decided to locate the new Western Penitentiary in this place."²⁸

An additional obstacle, which originated outside of Western State Penitentiary but affected it directly, was restrictive inmate labor legislation passed in the 1890s. This legislation—discussed in detail below—severely curtailed Western State’s ambitious program to rehabilitate inmates through industry and prevented the prison from earning enough income to offset its expenses. Together, all of these hardships helped renew earlier arguments that the ideal prison would be located in a rural setting.

John Francies became warden of Western State in 1909 and appealed to the PA legislature to move the penitentiary to a better location. In 1911, the legislature passed an act authorizing the procurement of a rural site, and after surveying dozens of possibilities throughout the state, purchased 5000 acres in Centre County for Rockview State Prison. Originally, this was planned to be a maximum-security replacement for Western State Penitentiary; in 1915, new legislation stipulated that Rockview was to replace Eastern State Penitentiary, as well. However, under Governor Gifford Pinchot in the 1920s, the plan was revised, and Rockview was designated as a medium-security “farm colony” of Western State, meaning that it operated as a branch of the older penitentiary which was administered by the same warden. Both Western State Riverside and Eastern State Penitentiaries remained in use well into the 20th century.

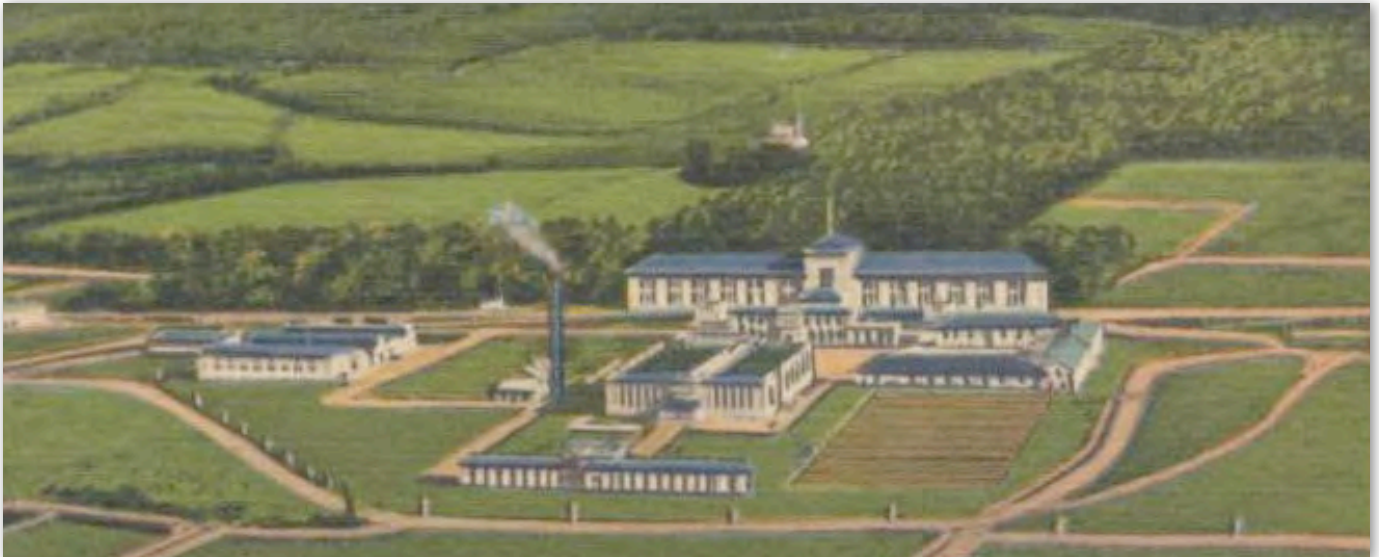


Figure 87. Rockview Penitentiary, ca. 1940. Rockview (now called SCI Rockview) is located in Centre County, between State College and Bellefonte, PA. Rockview originally was planned to replace Western and Eastern Penitentiary as a central state maximum security prison, and two such cell blocks were constructed. Work at Rockview then stopped as funds were put towards the construction of Graterford in the eastern part of the state. After several years of deliberation, it was decided that the building of more maximum security facilities was unnecessary and the cells at Rockview were restructured to follow a medium and minimum security plan, with Rockview operating as a branch of Western Penitentiary. Interestingly, one of the later penological criticisms of Western Penitentiary was that while Warden Wright did implement an inmate classification policy, all cells were built to maximum security standards and there were no provisions for inmates incarcerated for lesser offenses, though they made up the majority of inmates. The same mistake was almost made at Rockview but it was remedied before completion this time. In yet another improvement upon one of Western Penitentiary’s planning issues, a rural site was chosen for Rockview so it could operate as a farm colony, which was in line with more progressive ideas of prison architecture and operation. When the Riverside facility was being planned, the trend to build prisons in rural sites was already popular. Thought was initially given to build the third Western Penitentiary in this manner, but cost and transportation conveniences ultimately took precedence, and the House of Refuge site was chosen instead (Time Will Tell, James Rada Jr.).

1926 Sanborn Map

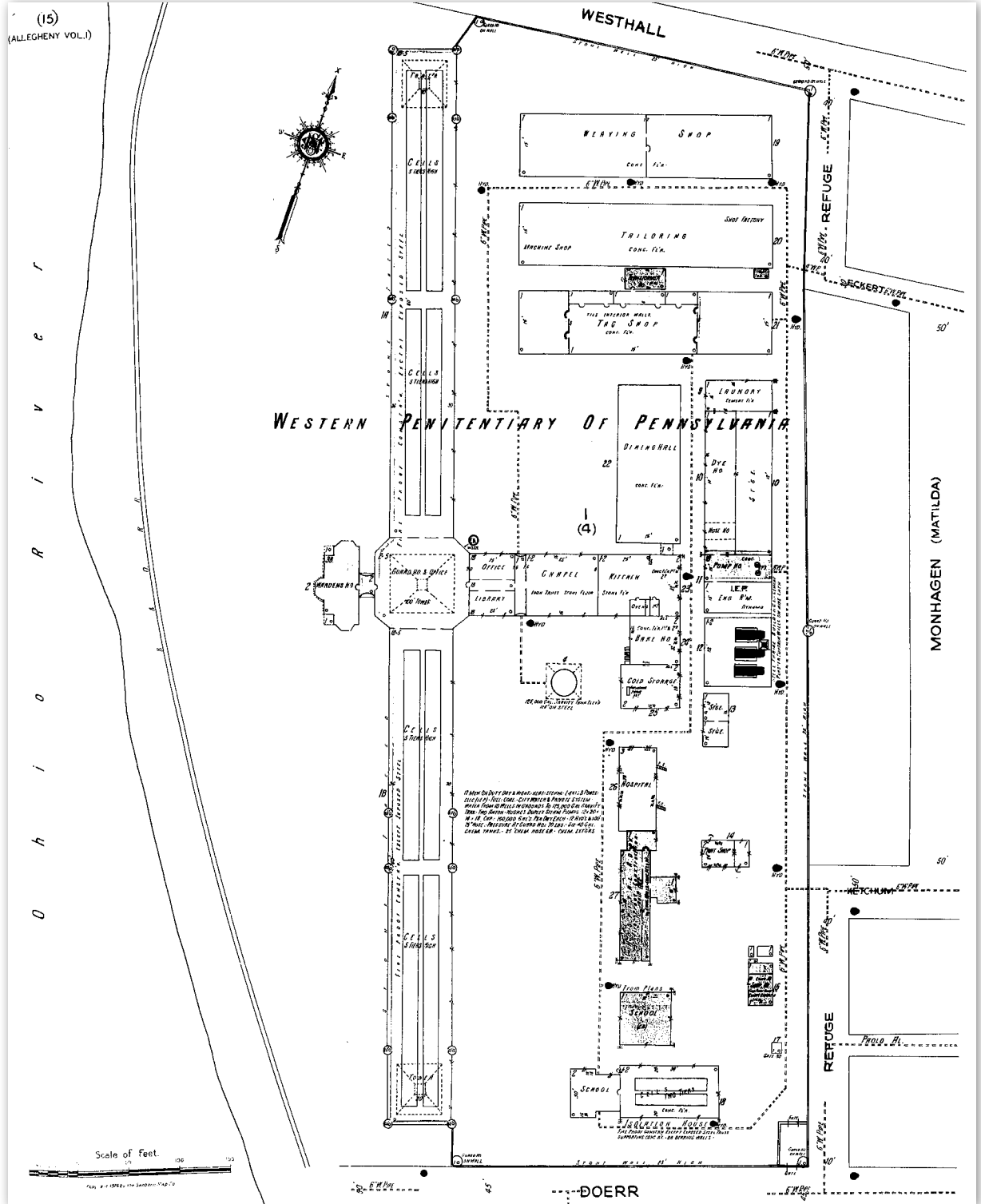


Figure 88. 1926 Sanborn Map showing the rebuilt East Wing and 3 new machine shops in the north half of the site following a major riot and fire in 1921. A new school and hospital addition were built in the southern end.

In 1921, a riot and fire destroyed most of the East Wing and the buildings in the northern half of the site. By the time of this 1926 Sanborn Map, the central portion of the East Wing had been rebuilt to a modified design on the previous footprint. The long northern arm of the East Wing, which housed the dining room and stocking factory, burned and was replaced with a new dining hall, wider than the previous structure, at the same location. It connected to the East Wing through a small passage. The machine shop, mat factory, and warehouse in the northern end also burned and were replaced with three large identical shop buildings oriented east-west. Between the Tailoring Shop and Tag Shop was a small electrical Substation. To make room for the new shops, the broom factory was shortened on its northern end. Due to the larger footprints of the new buildings in the northern part of the site, the yard became smaller.

This map illustrates a number of changes in the southern half of the site as well. Most of the Warehouse south of the Power Plant was demolished, save for a small portion. A large addition was built at the southern end of the Hospital in 1922. A school was built between the Hospital and the former Female Ward. The female inmates at the penitentiary were transferred to the State Industrial School for Women in Muncy, PA (now called SCI Muncy) in 1920. Women transferred from Eastern State Penitentiary were still housed at Western Penitentiary for a short time after, and all women were vacated from the site by 1922. After the women left, the cell block was converted for use as the Isolation Ward. A few small buildings were constructed along the southern half of the east wall. A water tower was built on the southern side of the East Wing.



Figure 89. Photograph of Overseers and an Interpreter at Western Penitentiary showing appointment dates from 1920 and 1921 (PA State Archives).

The riot of 1921 destroyed over a dozen buildings in the central and northern part of the site. According to the Inspectors of the penitentiary, the riot was caused by inmate idleness and lack of recreation, which fueled discontent, originating from a group of inmates recently transferred from Eastern State Penitentiary and Bellefonte. The idleness gave them time to plot a prison takeover, which started in the dining hall, pictured below. Fires were started in several buildings and spread to the Main Penitentiary Building where inmates armed with iron bars and bricks torn from the prison walls fought against the guards. Fifty inmates made their way to the rooftop, where they threw bricks down upon the firemen. The order to fire upon the rioters was finally given and the riot was eventually contained. The buildings destroyed by fire were the Dining Hall, Weaving Shop, Machine Shop, Broom Shop, Shoe Shop, Chapel, Large Storage House and four smaller ones, Kitchen, and two lookout towers.

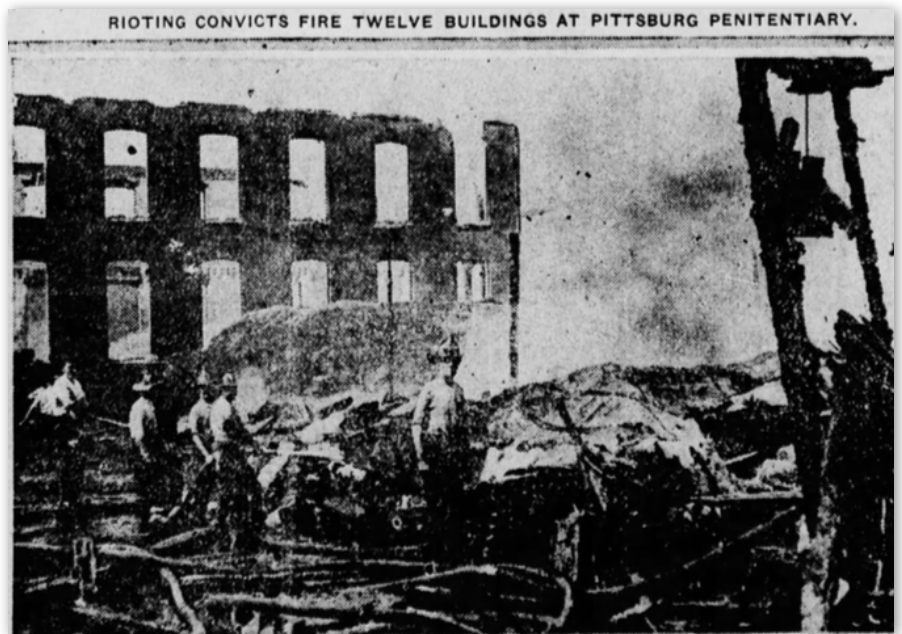


Figure 90 (top). Photograph of the burned remains of the East Wing. Figure 91 (bottom). Photograph of the Dining Hall damage (right: The Kane Republican, 7/23/1921; left: Library of Congress).



1939 Site Aerial



Figure 92. 1939 aerial photograph showing the outward expansion of the east wall towards Beaver Ave. for flood protection reasons. New shops and a hospital were built in the expanded area. The penitentiary is surrounded by a dense urban neighborhood, as demonstrated by the swimming pool visible outside the northwest corner of Secure Perimeter.

**Convicts Whistle and Sing
As They Destroy Old Wall**

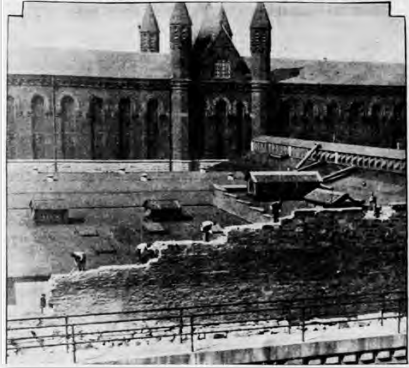


Figure 93. Newspaper headline and photograph showing the inmates deconstructing the north wall to make room for the new hospital. The area was enclosed by a new concrete rampart (The Pittsburgh Press, 4/5/1932).

This 1939 aerial view shows that a dense urban environment by now surrounded the penitentiary. The location of the Roberta Lang parklet and public swimming pool close to the northeastern section of the wall demonstrates how integrated the site was into the neighborhood at this time. The most significant change since 1926 was the eastward expansion of the penitentiary boundary in response to frequent flooding in the early 1930s. The wall, which originally ended at Refuge St., now extended to what was Monhagen (formerly Matilda) St. In the higher ground captured by this expansion, three new buildings were built with WPA funds in 1939. From north to south, they are: the maintenance and welding shop, the boiler plant and power house, and the new hospital building.

The Broom Factory's southern end had been demolished. The former electric plant had been expanded and converted to a gymnasium. South of the Gym, a new Dining Room was built in 1931. West of the North Wing is the Warden's Garage, built ca. 1930. The warden's chauffeur lived in a small, state-owned house just outside the prison at the corner of Refuge and Eckert Streets.

During the mid-20th century, work on the physical plant of Western State Penitentiary all but ceased. This was a period of statewide reflection, assessment, and restructuring in the penological system of Pennsylvania and the role of Western State.

In 1944, anticipating an increase in crime when servicemen returned home after World War II, Governor Edward Martin appointed a five-member commission to study Pennsylvania's correctional system and make recommendations to once again "place Pennsylvania in the forefront of the treatment of crime and delinquency."²⁹ The commission was headed by Stanley P. Ashe, the well-respected warden at Western State Penitentiary who had become a nationally recognized penologist.



Figure 94. Photo showing the penitentiary ca. 1940, looking west (University of Pittsburgh Archives Service Center).

²⁹ Ashe, in McWilliams, 34.



Figures 95 and 96. Photos of Western Penitentiary in 1936 during flood conditions. The penitentiary flooded frequently and these photos show the need to move the administration buildings to the highest possible location, which was to the east of the old wall. In the March "St. Patrick's Day Flood of 1936," the waters reached as high as the second floor ceiling of the Warden's Residence. According to Barnes, inmates had to be housed in unheated cells in the upper tiers of the cell blocks. The heating plant was out of commission and boats had to be employed to bring in supplies (Photo Story of the Greatest Flood in History, March 17-19, 1936, Harry H. Hamm).

The Ashe report reaffirmed the commitment to rehabilitation that Warden Wright had championed at the opening of WSP Riverside 50 years before (and that had motivated later, Progressive-era reformers to advocate for training schools, reformatories, women's prisons, and rural farm compounds). However, its assessment of the current state of corrections in Pennsylvania system was bleak, finding that "for many years nothing constructive either as to building or housing has been done within the Commonwealth." Pennsylvania would have to "start practically from scratch if it is going to surpass, or even catch up with, a number of states in the union."³⁰ The principal recommendation of the Ashe commission was to abolish the Eastern and Western district plan and replace it with a unified statewide Bureau of Corrections, governed by a central administration.

³⁰ Ashe, in McWilliams, 35.



Figure 97. Drawing of Stanley P. Ashe. Ashe was warden of Western Penitentiary for 26 years, from 1924 to 1950. Prior to becoming warden, he was a school superintendent in Connellsville, PA. Ashe was a firm believer in education and implemented a robust educational policy while warden, including requiring every inmate to finish a 6th grade education before being allowed prison recreational activities. In 1944, Ashe headed a committee formed to investigate the state's correctional system. This report recommended that the state's correctional facilities be unified under a central Bureau of Corrections, and that Western Penitentiary be abandoned due to its deteriorating state. Unfortunately, most of his recommendations went unheeded in Pennsylvania, though they were put into action in other states, including California and New York. His report was taken more seriously after the 1953 riots at Western Penitentiary and Rockview. Many of his suggestions were noted in the Devers report, one of them being the creation of a central inmate classification center. Ashe was a prominent penologist and belonged to the American Prison Society and served as President of the National Wardens Association. The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette described Ashe as "one of the best penologists in the nation" (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 10/01/1954, pg. 11; image from The Pittsburgh Press, 03/05/1933).

Regarding Western State Penitentiary in particular, the commission's characterization differed little from the conditions Warden Francies had decried 50 years before:

[Western State stands] in a dirty, fog-ridden industrial district where there is an ever-present flood menace. The soot and dirt and smoke are often so thick that electric lights must be burned all day long. In some years, the Ohio River overflows its banks two or three times, flooding the prison yard and damaging equipment and utilities.³¹

The commission estimated that it would take over \$1 million to repair damage to WSP Riverside from flooding and to upgrade inadequate facilities. It recommended no further investment in the facility beyond immediate needs and repairs, and that the prison be kept open only temporarily to accommodate the anticipated swell in inmates after World War II.

Most of the Ashe Commission's recommendations were not implemented. Instead, funds were prioritized for the state's psychiatric hospitals, which were found in even worse condition than the penitentiaries.³²

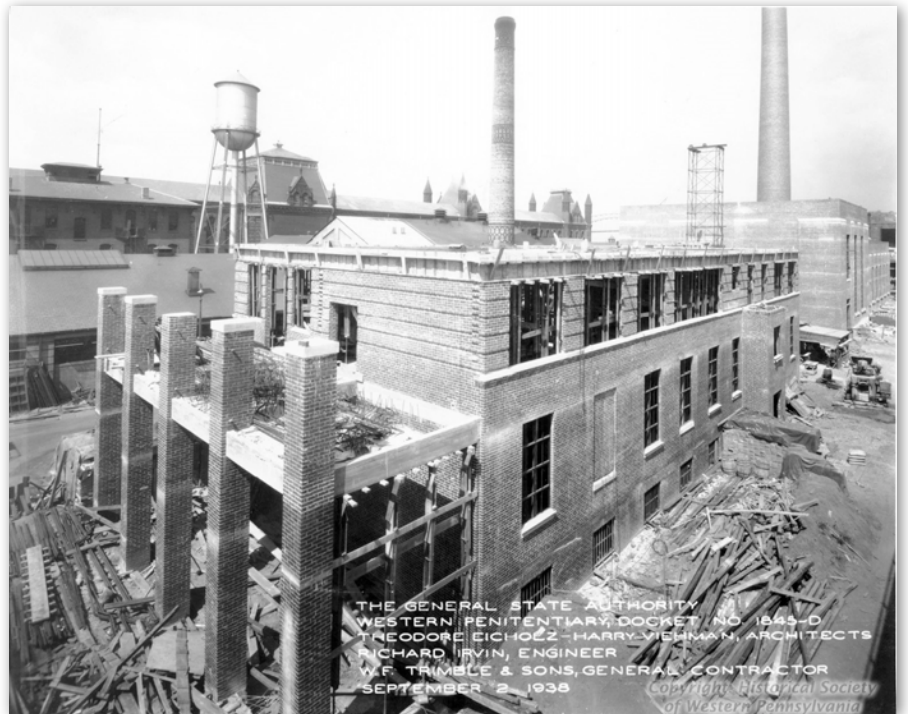


Figure 98. Photograph showing the building of the hospital, 1938 (Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, obtained through Historic Pittsburgh).

³¹ Ashe, 56-57.

³² McWilliams, 35.



Figure 100. Photos of the Chapel of the Good Samaritan, constructed in 1942. 100 inmates worked for a year to build the chapel, which was created from the ruins of the hospital wing that stood at the site previously. The interior furnishings were donated by interested persons outside the penitentiary. The chapel was demolished for the 1984 penitentiary master plan (Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 06/27/1942, pg 13).



Figure 101. Headline and photo from the Pittsburgh Press showing city and prison officials responding to the riot of 1953. Pictured in the photo are Mayor David Lawrence, Pittsburgh Police Superintendent James W. Slusser, Coroner William D. McClelland, and Western Penitentiary warden Dr. John W. Cloudy. State Troopers were called in to help quell the riot (Pittsburgh Press, 1/19/53, pgs 1 & 10).

The only major change to the campus during World War II was the demolition of the original hospital, located between the East Wing and the Female Ward. A new chapel was built in that location in 1942, and was partially constructed from the 1922 hospital addition. There was also an addition to the warden's garage outside the secure perimeter.

As anticipated, crime rates did rise in the post-World War II period. Incidents at Western State and its farm colony, Rockview, in the early 1950s prompted another state inquiry into conditions in Pennsylvania's prisons. On November 30, 1952, eight prisoners managed to escape from Western State by climbing through its roof during a riot. Then, on January 18, 1953, a fire broke out in the shop buildings, and prisoners rioted, feeding the flames and holding five correctional officers hostage. Two days later, a similar incident, with fires deliberately set, occurred at Rockview. Governor John S. Fine appointed a special commission, headed by Jacob A. Devers, to study the state's correctional facilities and make recommendations for the system's improvement.

Like the Ashe report, the Devers report concluded that Pennsylvania needed a centralized, unified administration for its correctional system. This time, state legislators acted. On July 29, 1953, Governor Fine signed a law creating the autonomous Bureau of Corrections under the direction of the attorney general. With oversight of all of the institutions in the Pennsylvania system, the Bureau (elevated to cabinet-level status and renamed the Department of Corrections in 1984) replaced the old system of prisons governed by individual boards of trustees who reported to the Department of Welfare and provided for continuity in policy across political administrations.

The use of the term "corrections" also reflected a national trend, in which the American Prison Association in 1954 changed its name to the American Correctional Association and promoted the use of the terms "correctional institution" and "correctional officer." Pennsylvania followed suit in 1955, and its penal institutions were re-designated State Correctional Institutions, or SCIs. Wardens became superintendents. This nomenclature connoted professionalism and a therapeutic purpose to incarceration that was more humane than the punitive "prison," militaristic "guard," or custodial "warden."

Where Western State Penitentiary was concerned, the commission found both it and its counterpart, Eastern State Penitentiary, to be "crowded and inadequate." Nevertheless, the commission recommend "that the two old penitentiaries be retained with alterations and changes," such as reducing capacity by diverting all but maximum-security inmates to other institutions and improving facilities for recreation and sanitation.³³ These recommendations do not appear to have been implemented, likely due to lack of funding.

³³ Devers, "Report of the Committee Appointed by Honorable John S. Fine, Governor to Investigate the Peno-Correctional System of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" (1953), PA State Archive, 21-23.

Ca. 1962 Site Aerial



Figure 102. 1962 aerial showing the removal of the main penitentiary building's Victorian roof. The photo also shows that the ca. 1870 house portion of the Female Ward was demolished. The Sewage Pump House, located in the northwest corner outside of the Secure Perimeter, is also shown (Aerial Map Service Company, Pittsburgh, PA; obtained through SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).



Figure 103. Photograph of unnamed inmate in the Main Penitentiary building (Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 1978).

Western State Penitentiary—now renamed SCI Pittsburgh—remained open, but state investment in the prison slowed virtually to a halt between the 1940s and 1980s. A sally port—a secured exit—in the southeast corner of the wall was enlarged in 1951. In the southern part of the site, the ca. 1870 house that was used as the female ward since the late 1880s and Isolation Ward since the mid-1920's was demolished; however, the ca. 1890 cell block addition remained. The three shops in the northern end of the site were connected to form one large industrial space in 1957. The dining hall received an addition ca. 1957.

The most significant change during this period occurred in 1959, when the original roof of the main penitentiary was removed, stripping it of its Victorian flourishes. This 1962 aerial view shows the flat roof that replaced it and is still in place today. The interior of the Rotunda was also modified the same year as a result of the Devers report, which recommended that a diagnostic and classification center be created. To accommodate this new service, a third and fourth floor were inserted into the Rotunda.

Omitted from the previous historic maps was the Sewage Pump House, which is located outside the secure perimeter in the northwestern corner of the site. It was built in 1941 and can clearly be seen in the 1962 aerial photo. The photo also shows that the penitentiary was still oriented toward the river at this time, with the main parking lot in front.

Figure 104. 1962 view of the SouthYard. The yard became considerably smaller after the construction of housing units A&B in 1985. The Chapel, School, and Female Ward, which bordered the Yard to the right, were also demolished in the 1980's (Pittsburgh Post Gazette, 1962).





The 1950s and 60s were a time of unrest at Western Penitentiary, as they were at many prisons across the country. In 1952, violent riots broke out in eight different prisons in the U.S. On January 18, 1853, a fire broke out in the shops of Western Penitentiary, triggering a riot where inmates held five officers hostage. Days later, about 400 inmates held six officers hostage at Rockview for several days. The riots, coupled with an escape attempt the previous year, prompted a serious investigation into Western Penitentiary and Rockview through a committee headed by Jacob Devers. The various inquiries into the conditions of the penitentiary and treatment of inmates apparently led to little change, as reports of inhumane conditions plagued the penitentiary throughout the 1970s and 80s. In 1973, local NAACP head, state legislator K. Leroy Irvis, created a task force to investigate the mistreatment and killing of black men at the penitentiary. In 1987 a fire in the prison's auditorium and following riot prompted three inmates to file suit against the penitentiary for inhumane conditions. The suit was addressed by U.S. District Judge Maurice Cohill Jr., who ordered major change to what he called "an overcrowded, unsanitary, and understaffed firetrap." He called for plans to address the overcrowding and staff issues, and also to replace the main penitentiary block, which was the oldest part of the prison. The main block was never demolished, and though the prison was closed in 2005, it reopened in 2007 as a lower security facility (Pittsburgh Post Gazette).

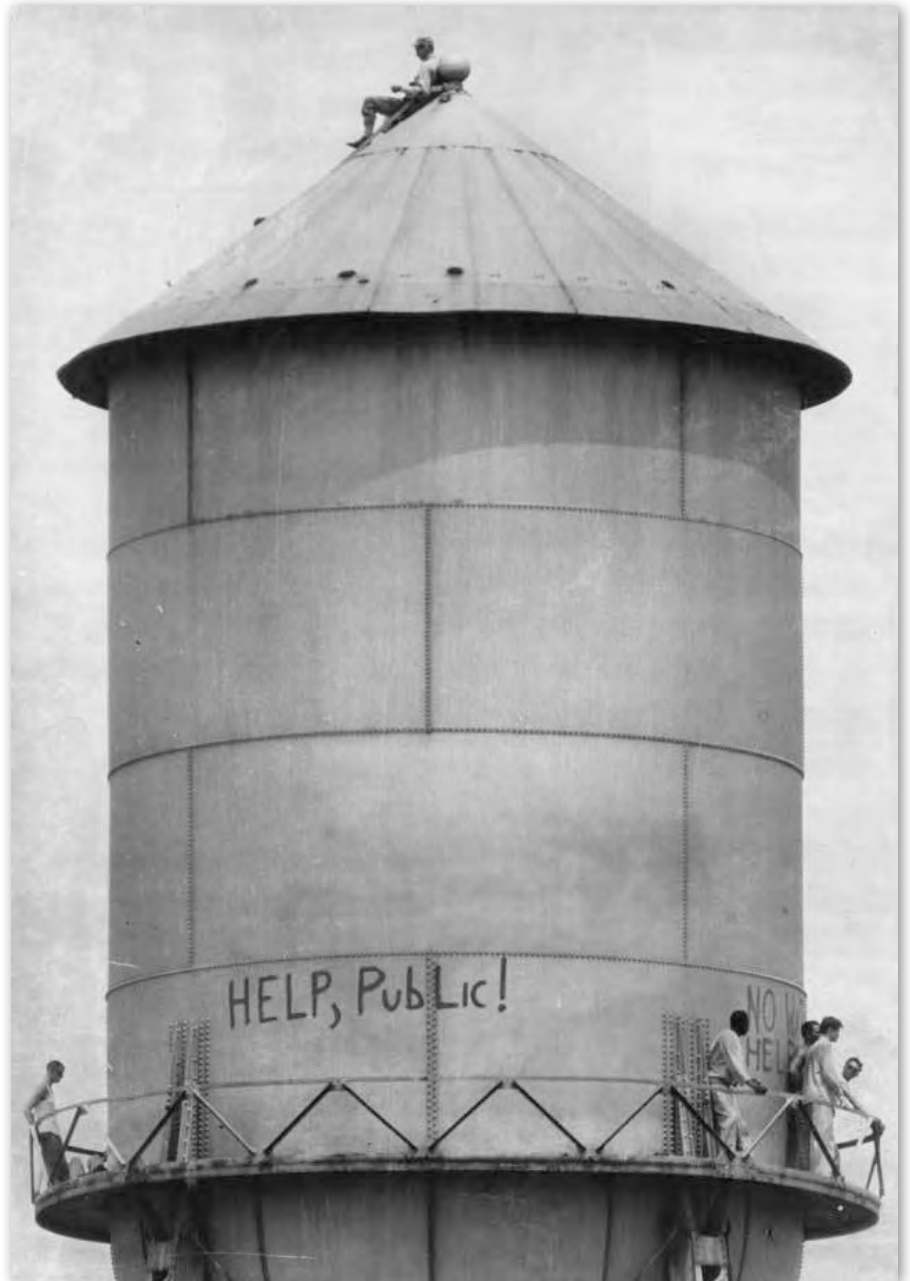


Figure 105 (above left), figure 106 (above). The photographs on the page document an inmate protest that took place at the Western Penitentiary in June of 1962. An inmate named Robert Payne broke free from the guards after a false trip to the infirmary and climbed the 80 foot water tower in front of the East Wing. When reporters converged at the scene, Payne cited his unhappiness with conditions in "the hole" which was by this time housed in the former Female Ward. Payne stated that he would not come down until a full investigation into conditions at the penitentiary was undertaken. twelve more inmates were able to climb the tower the following day, where they wrote messages to the public on the tower. Three of the inmates lasted almost a week on the tower, with the last inmate coming down on the seventh day. Warden Maroney promised the inmates they would get a chance to air their grievances regarding the conditions at the penitentiary (Pittsburgh Post Gazette).

1993 Site Aerial



Figure 107. 1993 aerial photograph showing major changes to the site under the 1984 master plan by architect Tasso Katselas. Under this plan, two new cell blocks were constructed in the southern end, along with the Administration and Visitors Complex and the Institution Warehouse, which were built along the eastern side of the Secure Perimeter. The main penitentiary entrance shifted to the eastern side of the site.

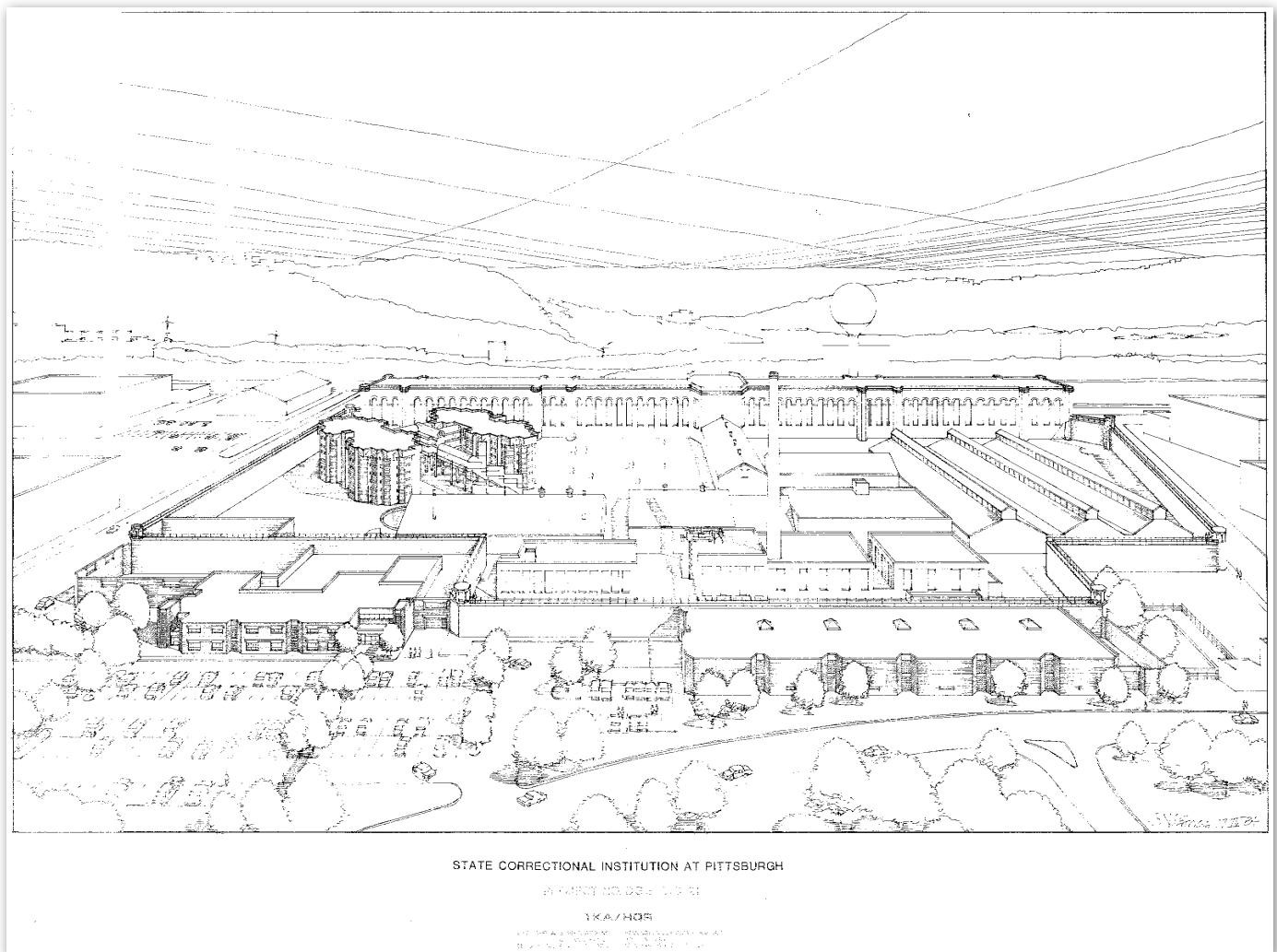


Figure 108. 1984 rendering by Tasso Katselas of the master plan for the penitentiary, showing the facility from the new main entrance on the eastern side of the site. The buildings drawn in detail are the Katselas designed buildings. In the foreground on the left is the Administration and Visitors Complex, to the right is the Institution Warehouse. Behind the Administration and Visitors Complex are the two new cell blocks, Housing Units A&B (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

The 1980s and early 1990s saw the most dramatic changes to the site since the 1920s. A new master plan for the prison was completed by Pittsburgh architect and planner Tasso Kastelas in 1984 as part of a joint venture with Henningson, Durham & Richardson. In 1985, the penitentiary underwent a major renovation, resulting in the construction of four new buildings.

An Administration and Visitors Complex with a parking lot was built in the southeastern part of the site to serve as the new entrance and inmate processing center, reorienting the prison to the neighborhood at its east rather than the riverfront at its west. This 1993 aerial view shows how this neighborhood around the penitentiary changed as a result of urban renewal and highway construction between the 1960s and 1980s. The alignment of Beaver Ave. shifted significantly closer to the site. Most of the residences that once crowded the prison's vicinity were demolished to make way for larger industrial works.

Within the southern end of the secure perimeter were built two new hourglass-shaped cell blocks, Housing Units A and B. Their construction reduced the size of the recreation yard in this area of the campus. The original North and South cell blocks were divided in half for security purposes, and the windows in each cell of the south cell block were bricked over to permit a new ventilation system. Iron barred cell doors were replaced with centrally-controlled mechanical doors.

The fourth new building was the Institution Warehouse, located outside the secure perimeter at the middle of the eastern wall, very close to the public swimming pool. A new water tower was also built outside of the wall in 1966 adjacent to the North Wing; this replaced the previous water tower on the interior of the compound, which 13 inmates had ascended and painted in protest for a week in 1962. In this 1993 aerial photo, a cleared area can be seen at the northwestern corner of the site, on which the Vehicle Maintenance building would be constructed later that year.



Figure 109. 1980 aerial photograph of Western Penitentiary and surrounding area, showing the site prior to the 1984 master plan (SCI-Pittsburgh Facilities Archive).

2018 Satellite View



Figure 110. 2018 satellite view showing the final building constructed at the penitentiary site, which is the Health Services Building in the southeast corner of the Secure Perimeter bump-out. (Google Maps.)

In the 1980s, Western State's inmate population reached 2200, far exceeding capacity and provoking a federal lawsuit. A 1989 decision by U.S. District Judge Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. declared conditions at the prison unsafe and unconstitutional, leading the state to spend over \$100 million on improvements. The most visible of these was the new Health Services Building which replaced the former hospital building on the eastern side of the complex in 1994. In this 2018 satellite view, the Vehicle Maintenance building in the northwestern end of the complex can be seen in completion.

Western State Penitentiary closed in 2004-2005, only to reopen in response to the state's high inmate population in 2007. It became a lower-security facility for inmates assigned to complete specialized programs before parole or release. The penitentiary closed permanently in 2017. Reasons cited by the state included high operating costs, relatively low community impact of closure, lower prison populations statewide, and the possibility of redeveloping its riverfront site.³⁴

Figure 111. Headline and photograph from the TribLive, 06/11/17.



³⁴ Emily McConville, "As Shutdown of SCI Pittsburgh Nears, Inmates and Staff Move Elsewhere" (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, June 9, 2017) <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2017/06/09/SCI-Pittsburgh-closing-western-penitentiary-closure-state-prison-pa/stories/201706070175>

Evaluation of Significance: Criterion A

National Register Criteria

The significance of the penitentiary is being evaluated using the federal guidelines of the National Register program. Resources can be significant for four reasons: Criterion A evaluates significance of resources associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; Criterion B for associations with the lives of significant persons in the past; Criterion C evaluates significance of resources that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and Criterion D evaluates significance of resources that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

Western State Penitentiary is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its exemplification of a variety of penological reforms which contributed to Pennsylvania's leadership in the treatment of prisoners and design of modern prisons during the 19th century. Because this theme does not fit neatly into one of the National Register's established Areas of Significance, the Area of Significance for this resource is Other: Penology.

As compared to Eastern State Penitentiary, Western State Penitentiary had a progressive administration that sought to implement broad reforms in prison management during the late 19th century. Evidence of this begins with Western State's condemnation of the Pennsylvania System of solitary confinement in 1866, even as it continued at Eastern State. Several influential reformers were appointed to positions at Western State in the late 1860s and contributed to a culture of progressivism in its administration through the end of the 19th century: Theodore Nevin, who served as Chairman of Western State's Board of Inspectors from 1867 to 1884; Edward Wright, warden of Western State Penitentiary from 1869 to 1901; and Rev. John L. Milligan, prison chaplain from 1869 to 1909.

Inspectors' reports and other writings through the turn of the 20th century show that these individuals and the Board of Inspectors of Western State held progressive ideas about prison management and were energetic in supporting new and experimental ideas in penology. They were aware of international trends in prison reform, participated in national discussions of best penological practice, and subscribed to views of the prison as not only a place of punishment, but as a humanitarian institution for "curing" criminals so that they could be reintroduced to society. This belief depended on an enlightened view of human beings as neither inherently bad nor good, but able to be influenced by such environmental factors as education, employment, and their surroundings.

Wright's term (1869-1901), in particular, spanned the final decade of WSP Commons and the (overlapping) first two decades of WSP Riverside and coincided with the introduction of a number of major ideas about prison reform on a national level. Wright and the Inspectors advocated for Western State's move to the Riverside site as an opportunity to pursue innovations in the housing, treatment, employment, and reform of inmates. There, they did not merely implement an Auburn-style system, but updated and adapted it to reflect their approach to rehabilitation and reintroduction of inmates to society. In particular, Wright implemented significant progressive reforms in sentencing practices, the classification of convicts, and education. He also pursued a dedicated program of inmate labor in the belief that this gave prisoners structured activity, meaningful work, and vocational skills that would benefit them upon release. Led by Wright, Western State Penitentiary emerged as a leader in penology during the late 19th century. In 1921, historian Harry Elmer Barnes wrote that Western State Penitentiary "has much more [than Eastern State Penitentiary] adequately exemplified the historical development of American penal institutions, and, since 1870, has been much the more advanced and more progressive of the two penitentiaries."³⁵

³⁵ Barnes, "The Evolution of American Penology as Illustrated by the Western Penitentiary," 191.



Figure 112. Inmates marching in lockstep at Sing Sing (Ossining) Prison, New York (Ossining Historical Society).

Though founded on the principles of the Auburn System, which were generally held to represent a progressive evolution from the Pennsylvania System, WSP Riverside actually implemented even more humanitarian reforms than the model it followed. For instance, to maintain discipline among inmates, the Auburn System prescribed strict policies of silence in congregate spaces and marching in lockstep when prisoners moved in groups. Such practices originated in military theories of stripping individuals' sense of self to make them obedient members of a group. Like the Pennsylvania System, the Auburn System was based in the belief that criminal behavior was learned and reinforced through the interactions of inmates, and so strove to eliminate all such opportunities. Inmates were not even allowed to look at one another, and punishments for infractions were severe and, often, physical.

As the 19th century progressed, many prison reformers, including the administrators of Western State, began to question some of the harsher aspects of the Auburn System. For instance, Warden Wright abolished the "humiliating lockstep" in 1897, three years before Auburn itself did.³⁶ The rule of silence also appears not to have been enforced at Western State; according to Chaplain Milligan, "The unnatural isolation was not looked upon favorably by the progressive Board of Inspectors and the kind-hearted warden."³⁷ Information about corporal punishment at WSP Riverside has not been found.

Warden Wright subscribed to the idea that a penitentiary was a place of reform, as held by both the Auburn and Pennsylvania systems, but he also believed that more than silent contemplation would be needed to achieve this. Accordingly, he worked to make WSP Riverside an institution that prepared inmates for success upon release through educational and vocational programs, meaningful labor, and humane treatment. In his "Brief History of the Western State Penitentiary," apparently addressed to a future warden and/or inspectors, Wright admonished, "Do a little of the trusting yourselves instead of discharging from cellular confinement with a very small gratuity, shabby clothing and a Goodby, and then wonder why the poor fellow cannot get work....Let the State do part of the preparation for an honest life."³⁸

Wright also held broader beliefs about reform, not only of prisons, but of the entire criminal justice system. In a contemporary debate over reform ideology in the penitentiary system, Wright argued against administering prisons separately from courts and law enforcement. He saw justice as interrelated with penology and advocated for whole system reforms, such as indeterminate sentencing and parole.³⁹ (This view would be reflected, much later, in the state's establishment of a Bureau of Corrections under the Attorney General in 1953.)

The writings of Harry Elmer Barnes provide a useful framework for further discussion and evaluation of penological reform as practiced at Western State Penitentiary. A leading historian of penology in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Barnes authored a number of articles on prison reform in Pennsylvania, some of which specifically focus on Western State. In 1922, Barnes enumerated a list of "chief advances in penological concepts and practices, by common consent among penologists" of the 19th and early 20th centuries.⁴⁰ Major prison reforms named by Barnes and implemented during this period at Western State Penitentiary included:

³⁶ Report of Board of Prison Inspectors, 1897-98.

³⁷ In Barnes, "The Evolution of American Penology as Illustrated by the Western Penitentiary," 203. An alternate view of Warden Wright and his humane vision for Western State Penitentiary is presented by Andrew Berkman, who was incarcerated there from 1893-1905 for his attempt to assassinate Henry Clay Frick. Berkman's accusations of inmate abuse at WSP Riverside prompted an investigation into conditions at the prison, which did not result in charges against Warden Wright. See Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist* (New York: New York Review of Books, 1999).

³⁸ Wright, "Brief History," 116.

³⁹ Frank Morn, *Forgotten Reformer: Robert McLaughry and Criminal Justice Reform in Nineteenth Century America* (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 2011), 244.

⁴⁰ Barnes, "The Progress of American Penology as Exemplified by the Experience of the State of Pennsylvania, 1830-1920" (*Journal of the American Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology*, vol. 13, issue 2, 1922), 170-227.
scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu.

Commutation and Indeterminate Sentences: Commutation of sentence is a form of clemency in which a prisoner's original sentence may be reduced at the discretion of correctional officers. It is related to the concept of the indeterminate sentence, which has a prescribed maximum, but can be adjusted based on extenuating circumstances, such as good conduct or evidence of rehabilitation. Both ideas rely on the principle of early release as an incentive for good behavior. By giving inmates some control over their own release, wardens hoped to supply a powerful inducement to complete educational and other programs offered by the penitentiaries to aid their rehabilitation.

Such sentencing reforms were founded in the Irish System of incarceration, developed by Irish prison reformer Sir Walter Crofton in the mid-19th century, in which prisoners graduated through a tiered system of classification to earn their release. Influential in the United States during the post-Civil War period, Sir Crofton spoke about the Irish System at the first meeting of the National Prison Association, formed to advocate for the more humane treatment of inmates and better prisons, in Cincinnati in 1870. Warden Wright attended this meeting along with the Western State Inspectors. The laws in Pennsylvania did not support a complete adoption of the Irish System, but Wright and the Inspectors of Western State strove to incorporate aspects of Crofton's teachings where they could.

The earliest commutation law appeared at Auburn State Prison in New York in 1817, but it was specific to that institution; commutation laws weren't used widely in the United States until much later. The first commutation law in Pennsylvania appeared in 1861 and was opposed by the Inspectors at both Eastern and Western State Penitentiaries, who had the law deemed unconstitutional. However, prison reform advocates persisted in advocating for such policies and a new law was enacted on May 21, 1869, directing wardens to keep records of prisoner conduct and to reduce sentences by set amounts based on the length of time the inmate remained in good standing. This law stood until 1901.

Pennsylvania's commutation law was, therefore, in effect for the exact duration of warden Wright's tenure at at Western State. In contrast to the Inspectors at Eastern State, who were critical of Pennsylvania's commutation law, Western State's Inspectors supported it, perhaps due to their personal exposure to Sir Walter Crofton. Western State Penitentiary's annual and biennial Inspectors' Reports of the 1880s contain frequent mentions of commutation as an important strategy for motivating obedient conduct.

Classification of Convicts: The practice of classifying and separating convicts according to behavior was another aspect of the Irish System about which Sir Walter Crofton spoke in Cincinnati in 1870. By this system, an inmate gradually advanced from solitary confinement to greater degrees of freedom, depending upon behavior and participation in reformatory activities. In the United States, this type of classification system was pioneered at the Elmira Reformatory in NY in 1869.

While Eastern State Penitentiary had a rudimentary classification system that was not very effective, "[i]n the Western Penitentiary the official setting was much better adapted for an open-minded and favorable reception of the system of classification associated with Crofton's methods."⁴¹ At WSP Commons,

⁴¹ Barnes, "The Progress of American Penology," 193.



Figure 113. Chaplain J. L. Milligan was born in Ickesburg, PA in 1837. He completed his religious education at Princeton Theological Seminary, and then volunteered in the Civil War, first with an agency of the YMCA and then as chaplain from 1863-1865. After the War he moved to Wisconsin for several years before being recommended for the vacant post of chaplain at Western Penitentiary, which he took in 1869. He became very involved in prison reform and was a charter member of the National Prison Association, later becoming secretary until his retirement in 1908, and was also a charter member in the Allegheny County Prison Society, serving several years as president. Additionally, Chaplain Milligan was elected representative to the U.S. at the International Prison Congress for 6 different congresses. He served as chaplain of the penitentiary until 1909, after which he was named chaplain emeritus due to poor health. He died of a stroke on July 12, 1909 (PA State Archives).

Warden Wright and the inspectors created a simple method of inmate classification after attending the first National Prison Association Congress in 1870; their system was a combination of the Pennsylvania, Auburn, and Irish systems, with three grades of cells based on inmate behavior. However, space limitations at the Commons site meant they were not able to enact a classification system that was as progressive as they would like. The Riverside facility allowed the inspectors and Warden Wright the ability to further advance their reforms regarding inmate classification. Riverside was built with a number of larger cells, which were to be used by the "better class of prisoners, and their occupancy to be secured only as a reward for merit."⁴² By 1892, when the South wing was complete enough to house inmates, the system of the inmate classification was fully adopted at Riverside.

Warden Wright's report of 1889-90 explains the system. Convicts entered in the second grade. Six months of good behavior allowed them to advance to the first grade, which had special privileges, including: housing in larger cells in the new South wing, being allowed one more hour of light in cells at night, freedom from marching in lock-step and wearing prison stripe, and obtaining the benefits of commutation law. Major misconduct resulted in reduction to third grade, from which the inmate had to work back up by good conduct. The Warden reported that the system had worked well and had been retained. After 1915, exceptionally good behavior was rewarded with transfer of the inmate to Rockview.

The classification system was effective in combination with Wright's simultaneous program of inmate labor, discussed below, because work gave prisoners a focus for positive conduct for which they could be recognized. Legislation limiting prison labor disrupted the effectiveness of the classification system at Western State by promoting idleness and removing a primary means by which inmates earned promotions.

Inmate Instruction: According to Barnes, appropriate instruction of inmates included religious, moral, academic, vocational and social education and was a component of a progressive program of prison reform. Barnes notes that Western State was behind Eastern State Penitentiary in instructional reform, possibly due to the fact that Eastern State had guidance from the Philadelphia Society for Alleviating the Miseries of Public Prisons. Western State's shortcomings in this regard were not for lack of trying. Prison reports from the 19th century illustrate the history of efforts by Western State's administrators to implement various aspects of educational programming.

Starting in 1839, WSP Commons employed a "moral instructor," who was responsible for the moral and intellectual education of the convicts. Of particular importance was the appointment as Chaplain of Rev. John L. Milligan in 1869, the same year as Warden Wright. Milligan was a like-minded proponent of penological reform and Secretary of the National Prison Association for 20 years. The number of moral instructors increased to four at Riverside, who also served Rockview penitentiary, and represented Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths. The commitment of prison administrators to inmates' moral instruction is shown by the Inspectors' repeated requests, in their reports of the 1890s, for funds to build a chapel in the yard.

⁴² Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, "Annual Report of the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania" (Pittsburgh: State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania, 1881-2), 8.

Warden Wright's support of the congregate aspects of the Auburn System and the congregate labor law of 1869 allowed inmates to be gathered for both labor and instructional purposes. This made it possible for academic classes to be organized at WSP Commons in 1873. The penitentiary employed a school teacher from 1873 until 1881 and had about 700 students enrolled by 1880. The day school re-opened in 1886, with about 89 students enrolled and trained prison officers serving as teachers. The 1897-98 Inspectors report shows 112 students enrolled in the school at 4 hours of tuition each week. The penitentiary school had periods of success; enrollment was largely dependent upon the number of inmates able to be employed in convict labor. Western State Penitentiary also had a large library. It started with about 100 books in 1840 at WSP Commons; by 1896 at the Riverside site, there were over 9000 volumes.

The possibilities of vocational education were closely tied to inmate labor legislation, which over time limited the number of prisoners who could work and at what kinds of machines. Barnes notes that nothing of importance in vocational training happened at Western State Penitentiary due to these factors.



Figure 114. Photograph of the North Yard in 1897, showing several of the labor shops. From front to back, the Greenhouse, Machine Shop (also called the Construction Shop) and the Mat Factory (Mylin, State Prisons, Hospitals, Soldiers' Homes).

Convict Labor: Though not listed in Barnes' catalog of penological reforms, a robust program of inmate labor was a major component of Western State Penitentiary's reformatory practice. The vocational activities of inmates were supposed to serve two important purposes: to provide prisoners with meaningful occupation to aid in their rehabilitation, and to enable the prison to be financially self-sustaining. Throughout the history of Western State Penitentiary, laws, practices, and attitudes toward inmate labor both influenced and were constrained by the facility at the Riverside site.

Prison labor had a long and controversial history both before and after its initiation at WSP Riverside. In the 1700s, laws ordering Pennsylvania prisoners put to hard labor were repealed on the grounds that they were cruel and humiliating. The first experiment with industry inside a prison occurred at the Walnut Street Jail, where prisoners were given hand work to perform in solitary confinement; this was successful until the prison became overcrowded. The 1818 act that established Eastern and Western State Penitentiaries contained no labor provisions, but a subsequent law amended sentencing to include hard labor, to be performed in cells in solitude. This act contributed to the failure of the first Western State Penitentiary, whose cells—constructed before the act was passed—were too small and dark for work.

The industrial revolution rendered solitary handicrafts obsolete, and in 1869, a new act of the Pennsylvania legislature allowed inmates to congregate for the purposes of labor or religious services. This prompted the building of shops at WSP Commons in the 1870s to accommodate groups of prisoners and the heavy machinery they used for factory-style production. The chief industries at WSP Commons during this time were shoemaking, weaving, and making cane-seating for chairs.

Inmate labor expanded in the 1870s with prisons entering into various relationships with the free market. A contract labor system emerged, in which prisoners were leased to private manufacturers for their labor. Somewhat more restrained was the Public Account System, in which the state purchased raw materials and machinery for its prisoners to produce goods, which it then sold.



Figure 115. Photograph of inmates manufacturing license plates at Western Penitentiary in 1937. Products made through inmate labor evolved over time at Western Penitentiary. A few handicrafts were made by inmate in their cells, but most products were manufactured in the factory-like setting of the penitentiary's workshops. License plates, made in the Tag Plant (Building 11), were one of the notable goods manufactured on site, as well as metal office furniture and shoes (*The Pittsburgh Press*, 12/12/1937, pg. 9).

These systems were rife with possibilities for corruption of officials and exploitation of convicts, but the state interfered little in them.

It was during this period that WSP Riverside was constructed. Its design reflected the intention to more fully accommodate the convict labor program started at WSP Commons by providing larger cells, more natural light, and numerous on-site workshops, including a machine shop, a blacksmith shop, and a shop for the making of heavy chains. The Inspectors' Reports of the 1880s frequently extolled the benefits of convict labor, and described the need for more and improved facilities to accommodate prison industries. It is clear that Warden Wright and the Inspectors embraced the congregate labor system as completely as permitted under Pennsylvania law. Historic property maps of the prison site, detailed above, illustrate the expansion and contraction of industrial activities on the site in the 1880s and 90s.

Non-prison labor organizations led a backlash of increasing restrictions on inmate industry beginning in 1883. At first, the state ended the practice of contracting prisoners to private industries and ordered the branding of all prison-made goods. The most severe laws, passed in 1897, forbade the use of all machinery other than those which could be operated by foot-power and limited the number of inmates that could be employed to less than 20% of the prison's total population.

The effects on WSP Riverside were numerous and far-reaching. The number of working inmates dropped dramatically, severely curtailing Warden Wright's ambitions to rehabilitate them through gainful employment. In their reports after 1897, the inspectors and warden pled repeatedly for inmate labor, arguing its value in preventing idleness, providing an alternative to misconduct, maintaining morale, and providing an opportunity for inmates to learn a vocation which would help them upon release. The new laws also resulted in financial hardship for Western State. Unable to compete with outside manufacturers, the penitentiary was limited to producing items which didn't require heavy machinery but also didn't make much money, such as cocoa mats, brooms, and hosiery. Loss of substantial income from inmate labor resulted in the need to appeal to the state for unmet needs, but funds were often not forthcoming.

These laws were amended in 1915 with the establishment of the Pennsylvania Prison Labor Commission to set policies for the employment and compensation of all of the state's inmates. However, because it did not stipulate that the state must choose prison-made goods before privately-made goods, the commission did not restore a robust system of inmate labor.

In 1921, Barnes wrote that "after the restrictive legislation of 1883-97 [Western State Penitentiary] has become progressively more of a burden to the state. In 1916, for example, it created an economic burden of about three hundred and fifty thousand dollars."⁴³ Inadequate funds hindered the penitentiary's ability to keep pace with best practices in penology. In the 20th century, such practices shifted to more science-based, less humanitarian underpinnings. These changes coincided with the 1901 retirement of Warden Wright, who had led Western State's departure from the antiquated practices of the Pennsylvania System and the harshest tenets of Auburn. Thus Western State's period of progressive reform came to a close around 1900, although the prison remained open for more than 100 more years.

⁴³ Barnes, "The Evolution of American Penology as Illustrated by the Western Penitentiary," 209.

Evaluation of Significance: Criterion C

Western State Penitentiary is recommended eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a significant example of a Victorian-era penitentiary that combined historical architectural forms and methods of construction with modern advances in infrastructure, utilities, sanitation, and features of prison design influenced by the industrial revolution.

Early American jails tended to have a domestic character that reflected their main purpose as houses of detention; they were not built for long-term incarceration or solitary confinement in individual cells. State penitentiaries of the early 19th century introduced new architectural forms designed for long-term cellular confinement on a large scale. Distinctive plans emerged in association with particular systems of incarceration: the circular panopticon, the radial Pennsylvania System, and the rectangular Auburn style. But the common concerns of all prisons— isolation of prisoners from society and from one another, proper surveillance, and control of inmates' movements and routines— together with the penitentiaries' monumental scale led to a common architectural design vocabulary intended to facilitate these goals.

Many of the design features of early 19th century prisons were borrowed from military architecture, which likewise strove to make a statement about the authority of the state. The medieval referents of the Gothic Revival Style lent themselves to the fortress-like design of large prisons. Eastern State Penitentiary and both the first and second Western State buildings on Allegheny Commons displayed the Gothic Revival's characteristic heavy stone walls, castellated parapets, narrow or blind windows, and imposing watchtowers. The style was intimidating and suited the prison's needs to communicate and enforce security. Critics found this architecture to be demoralizing and dehumanizing for its occupants, however.⁴⁴

Built in the late 19th century, WSP Riverside maintained the tradition of monumentality and, of course, concerns about security and surveillance of its predecessors. But its Auburn System underpinnings, the reform agenda of its warden and inspectors, eclectic trends in late Victorian architecture, and modern building technologies resulted in a new and different prison design at WSP Riverside. Its riverfront location might also have influenced its design by inviting a linear approach to expose as many of the cells as possible to the fresh breezes off the water. Finally, the fact that the site had housed a previous state institution, a reform school for juvenile offenders known as the Pennsylvania House of Refuge, factored into the site's overall design. The same architect who had designed the House of Refuge, Edward M. Butz, was engaged to design WSP Riverside, and some of his previous buildings, such as the shops, dining hall, and school, were incorporated into the prison campus. Butz, in turn, hired Frederick Sauer, a young German architect with expertise in stone-cutting and brick-laying, to supervise parts of the work at Western State. Sauer would go on to establish his own practice in Pittsburgh and to design renovations to the Allegheny County Workhouse, a farm prison for minor offenders in O'Hara Township.

Butz lived from ca. 1845-1916 and entered architecture as an apprentice at the age of 18. In 1879-80, when WSP Riverside began construction, his office was in

⁴⁴ Roberts, 47.

the First National Bank Building at 114 Federal St. in downtown Allegheny City. Butz “frequently partnered with engineers and never shied from technical jobs;” he also co-founded and managed the Columbia Iron and Steel Company in the 1880s and collaborated on the design and marketing of a home furnace.⁴⁵ Other known, extant commissions include the Adam Reineman house, Troy Hill (ca. 1876), Sterrett School, Point Breeze (1878), and courthouses in Clarion and Fayette Counties. Butz also went on to design the Pennsylvania Reform School at Morganza, the successor to the House of Refuge.

At WSP Riverside, Butz applied a pastiche of styles to “the most advanced model of Auburn-type construction.”⁴⁶ In fact, WSP Riverside was built well after prototypical examples and at a time when the model might have been waning had a more effective replacement been developed. Auburn State Penitentiary in New York, the prototype, opened in 1816, but Sing Sing, constructed by the warden of Auburn in 1825, provided the most influential architectural model. In 1949, the United States Bureau of Prisons noted that “the Auburn system all but completely dominated the prison scene in the United States after 1850” and that examples, including WSP Riverside, continued to be built even after the ideal was “partly archaic and outmoded.”⁴⁷ Around 35 Auburn-style institutions were constructed across the United States between 1825 and 1869, most of which remained in use in 1878 (and well thereafter). But if the idea was not new, its execution at WSP Riverside was, largely due to the architectural and technological possibilities of the late 19th century.

The Auburn System seems to have been defined by function: Norman Johnston, an architectural historian of prisons, asserts that it was “largely an indigenous creation of American reformers and builders” that “seems to have emerged largely out of pragmatic decisions... by men who had the day-to-day responsibilities of trying to contain in an orderly fashion the occupants of their institutions... a veritable machine to subdue and make self-supporting the occupants of the prison.”⁴⁸ This view implies that the architects and administrators of individual prisons retained a large amount of discretion in how they composed and embellished the fundamental elements of the Auburn System of confinement. These were: long, multi-tiered, double rows of cells placed back-to-back; “inside cells,” or cell blocks completely enclosed within the larger building, surrounded by a corridor or range; and full-height ventilation spaces separating the cells from the cell block walls. Congregate spaces, such as dining halls and workshops, were located separately from the cell blocks within the prison campus, which was, of course, demarcated by prominent surrounding walls and overlooked by watchtowers. All of these features are found in Western State Penitentiary.

Butz’s design for WSP Riverside responds to both the programmatic prescriptions of the Auburn System and the desires of the warden and inspectors for a modern, humane, and progressive prison. The penitentiary consisted of a central rotunda connected to a pair of long wings, one extending north and the other south, each housing back-to-back Auburn-style cell blocks stacked five stories high. A third, T-shaped wing, two-and-a-half stories and extending eastward from the rotunda, contained shops and factories, the chapel, a school room, kitchen, laundry, and engine room off a double-loaded corridor. This arrangement allowed for two large yards in the rear of the prison, in which Butz planned for the future construction of a hospital, women’s prison, and additional shop buildings to accommodate the administrators’ ambitious goals

⁴⁵ Charles Rosenblum, “The Fate of a Prison: Will Western Penitentiary be Saved or Face Destruction?” (*Pittsburgh Quarterly*, Fall 2017), <https://pittsburghquarterly.com/pq-culture/pq-architecture-and-neighborhoods/item/1522-the-fate-of-a-prison.html>.

⁴⁶ United States Bureau of Prisons, *Handbook of Correctional Institution Design And Construction: a Source Book for Planning And Construction of Institutions Ranging In Type From the Small Jail And Short Term Detention Facilities for Juvenile Delinquents to the Maximum Security Type of Institution* (Washington: 1949), 36.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 32, 36.

⁴⁸ Johnston, 78.

Figure 116 (right). Drawing of Auburn Penitentiary in New York showing the main and rear facades. Auburn was built in 1817 and the origin of the “Auburn System,” a correctional system developed by Auburn warden Elam Lynds. It was based on inmates working in congregate workshop spaces during the day while being confined to cells at night, and replaced the Pennsylvania System of complete solitary confinement. Auburn also established a voluntary board of inspectors who were responsible for appointing the warden, a governing style that Western and Eastern Penitentiary followed. Architecturally, it was characterized by long cell blocks containing tiers of back to back cells; this plan required a large site to house both the cell blocks and the workshop spaces. It was hailed as a more progressive prison management model than the Pennsylvania System and soon became the default plan for all prisons in the United States. Auburn penitentiaries were also cheaper to build as they contained smaller cells, and its factory-like work environment enabled a high production of prison goods, which often rendered the prisons self-supporting, at least until restrictive labor laws came to pass in many states.



Though Auburn was lauded as progressive, it was in actuality a harsh system under the direction of Elam Lynds. Lynds believed strongly in the necessity of breaking an inmate’s spirit to gain compliance, and through compliance, be reformed. To this end, he often used corporal punishment, strictly enforced complete silence and made inmates march in lockstep. Lynds also did not believe in reform practices like providing inmate education. Though widely regarded as an innovator during his early years at Auburn and later Sing Sing (Lynds established Sing Sing and served as warden), Lynd’s harsh methods were eventually seen as abusive, and he was fired from positions at both Auburn and Sing Sing. Warden Wright and the Board of Inspectors of Western Penitentiary did not seem to incorporate Lynd’s harsh treatment of inmates, instead believing that reform was aided through humane treatment and programs that served to provide education and moral instruction (“The History Blog”).

Figures 117 (bottom left) and 118 (bottom right). Photograph of Auburn cell block interior ca. 1910 on the left and Western Penitentiary cell block in 1897. A comparison of the cell blocks show how clearly the Western Penitentiary design was based in the Auburn system. Western Penitentiary, however, was built in a much more ornate manner, as shown in the elaborate cast-iron balcony brackets. This cell block design is a major departure from the plan of Eastern Penitentiary and the first Western Penitentiary in the Allegheny Commons (left: New York Correction History Society; right: Mylin, State Prisons, Hospitals, Soldiers’ Homes).



The images in this page show other state prison structures with similar designs to Western Penitentiary, including being based on the Auburn System. These penitentiaries, like Western State, follow the Auburn plan of long cell block arms with tiers of cells inside. Additionally, these penitentiaries exhibit a central administration/office/residence structure in front of the cell blocks. The penitentiaries showcase a common Victorian prison vocabulary, such as heavy, rusticated walls, repeating bays of tall Romanesque cell block windows, and elaborate rooflines.

Figure 119 (top). Iowa Men's Reformatory (Anamosa State Penitentiary) in Anamosa, Iowa, built in 1839. The architect was William Foster and later Henry Franz Liebke and Henry Jackson Liebke. The central structure was built between 1892-1902 in the Gothic and Romanesque revival styles, and contained the warden's residence, dining hall, kitchen, and chapel. The south cell block was built between 1877-1881, and the north cell block between 1896-1910. The reformatory is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Jones County Pages, Richard Harrison).

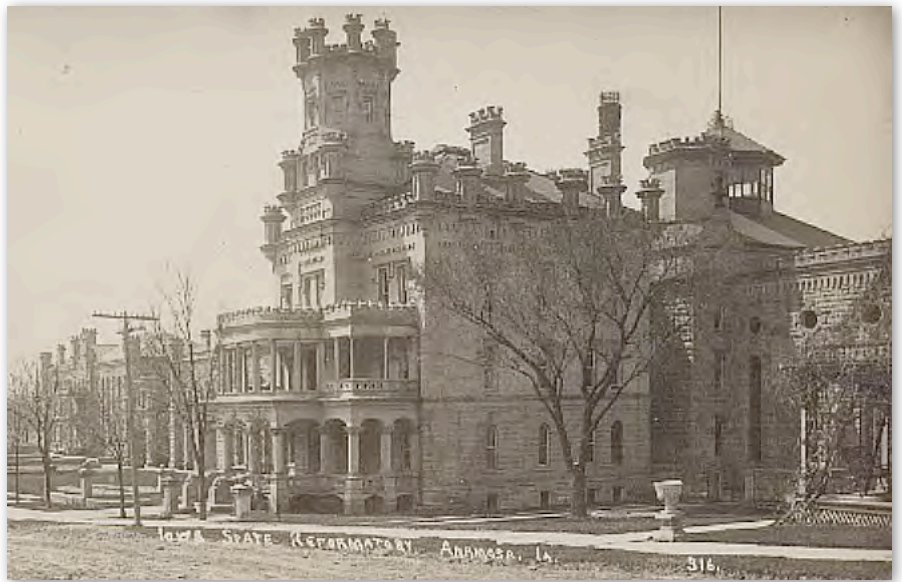


Figure 120 (middle). Tennessee State Prison, Nashville, TN, built in 1898 by architect Samuel McClung Patton. The central building housed administrative offices and was connected to the main penitentiary building by a short passage in a similar fashion to the Warden's Residence and Rotunda passage at Western Penitentiary (though without the porte cochere). The prison was forced to close in 1992 after a federal lawsuit and court ruling determined the prison did not provide adequate living conditions for the inmates, which was similar to the lawsuit against Western Penitentiary in the late 1980's.



Figure 121 (bottom). The Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio, built between 1886 and 1896 in the Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Queen Anne Styles by architect Levi T. Scofield. It has two central residence-style structures in front of the cell blocks. There are 6 tiers of cells inside the East Cell Block, making it the largest known structure of its kind. The prison began as a reformatory for young men and was later converted to a maximum-security prison and closed in 1984. The Ohio State Reformatory is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (The Ohio State Reformatory).





Figure 122. 1905 detail of roofline of Western Penitentiary showing High Victorian Gothic elements. The red color of the roof slates is speculation by the artist who colored the original black-and-white image for the post card.

for inmate industry. To the front of the rotunda, facing the river, a four-story (plus high basement, in deference to the floodplain) warden's house was appended. This also contained the prison offices. Design of the warden's house as part of the prison was then common in penitentiary design, reflecting the Christian custom of housing clergy in a rectory on the property of a church.

In style, Butz abandoned the militaristic, fortress-like Gothic Revival of the early Victorian period for an eclectic combination of severe Romanesque cell blocks and, above the cornice, highly decorative, even fanciful High Victorian Gothic dormers, turrets, soaring rooflines, and ornamental cresting. Barnes called it "the most expensive and pretentious prison structure which had been erected in America."⁴⁹ The warden's house exhibits the asymmetrical massing, multi-faceted wall planes, and complex roofline typical of late Victorian houses, providing an interesting contrast of comfortable upper-middle-class domesticity against the repetitive, institutional backdrop of the cell block walls. Subtle trefoil motifs in some of the stone lintels of the warden's house reinforce the High Victorian Gothic treatment of the attic story of the prison. Romanesque—a style characterized by the stolid, massive appearance of its heavy stone walls—was an appropriately strong and sober choice for the cell blocks. The intricate, ornamental, almost palatial original roof is harder to explain. Perhaps it was an expression of the state's, and the warden's and Inspectors', lofty goals for the new Western State Penitentiary and its residents.

A similar combination of institutional severity and artful flourishes is found in this undated description of conditions inside Western State Penitentiary from the late 19th century:

Instruments of music are allowed and playing is permitted from six to seven o'clock in the evening. City water from Allegheny City reservoir supplies the entire establishment. The doors of the cells are double-locked by Yale jamb locks and a draw bar. The floors are of stone both in the halls and in the cells. The cells are numbered and each prisoner is known by his number. A greenhouse brightens the place bringing summer into winter, and blooming plants in great varieties are seen in the institution. A hospital for the sick is on the grounds, and the cleanliness of the whole institution is noticeable.⁵⁰

Part of the innovation of the late Victorian prison was its optimism that an environment conducive to rehabilitation could achieve that goal. When the penitentiary's Victorian roof elements were removed in 1959, the new flat roof was in keeping with the less-is-more architectural preferences of the time and surely reflected practical concerns with chronic funding shortages and deferred maintenance. Symbolically, the removal of the prison's ornamental roofscape left the formidable facades of the cell blocks to speak for themselves, a reminder that during the period from 1950-1984, "rehabilitation fell out of favor."⁵¹

Western State Penitentiary's innovations extended to its building systems and materials. At over two million dollars, it was not only the most expensive prison ever built, but the most technologically advanced. New developments in central heating, ventilating, and plumbing of large buildings found some of their earliest applications in the prisons of the first decades of the 19th century,⁵² a trend led by Western State Penitentiary. It was piped for gas, water, and steam throughout and was the first prison in the world to equip each cell with running

⁴⁹ Harry Elmer Barnes, PhD., "The Evolution of American Penology," 196.

⁵⁰ In Ashe report, 17-18, nd.

⁵¹ McWilliams, 35.

⁵² Johnston, 47.



Figure 123. Photograph showing some of the structural and ornamental cast iron found throughout the Main Penitentiary building. The Female Ward had similar cast iron brackets (Matthew Christopher).

water, individual toilets, and individual heat and exhaust ventilation. It was the first prison equipped with gang locks which made it possible to open and close an entire row of cells with a single lever. In 1900, after a decade of Inspectors' reports lamenting the inconvenience and expense of candle light, it also became the first prison to furnish each cell with electric lights from the penitentiary's own on-site power house. Such innovations not only increased the comfort of prisoners and staff, but enhanced security as well. In-cell plumbing meant fewer risks associated with opening cell doors, while adequate ventilation, heat and light reduced tensions that could lead to unrest.⁵³

The technological advances of the industrial revolution also supplied important materials for innovations in prison design. Cast iron is a particular example seen at Western State Penitentiary; its decreasing cost made its extensive use possible, not only for columns, but for doors, windows, roof trusses, and cell bars.⁵⁴ As a partner in an iron and steel concern (which was purchased in 1895 by Andrew Carnegie), architect Butz may have been instrumental in guiding decisions about materials.

Writing in 1895, Alexander K. Pedrick, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Commission on Convict Labor, opined that Western State Penitentiary "is considered by those familiar with its merits as an admirable type of modern prison architecture and in its details of treatment, labor, and reformatory results, it certainly stands very high among the correctional institutions of the country."⁵⁵

After about 1900, Western State Penitentiary ceased to innovate and, instead, adapted to changing needs: in inmate labor requirements and restrictions, population, and state penal policy and governance. Repeated calls for its closure were perhaps best refuted by the Devers Report of 1953, which observed that the condition of being old did not, in itself, create undesirable conditions such as overcrowding and poor sanitation, and directed its recommendations toward strategic management of the correctional system, as a whole, and of Western State Penitentiary in particular.⁵⁶ No architectural or managerial solutions ever eliminated all of the problems of the large, urban state penitentiary, but Western State continued to function as an integral part of the Pennsylvania corrections system through the early 21st century.

⁵³ Roberts, 104.

⁵⁴ Johnston, 47; Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary, "Biennial Report of the Inspectors of the State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania 1883-84" (Pittsburgh: State Penitentiary for the Western District of Pennsylvania), powerlibrary.org

⁵⁵ In Edward S. Wright, *A Brief History of the Western Penitentiary* (Pittsburgh, 1909), 107.

⁵⁶ Ashe, "Report of the Committee Appointed by Honorable John S. Fine," 22.

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Photo List

Photographer:
Matthew Christopher of Abandoned
America (unless noted otherwise)

Dates:
Spring 2018

Photo 1. Western State Penitentiary, front facade, looking southeast, showing the close proximity to the Ohio River in the foreground and Downtown Pittsburgh in the background (Charles Rosenblum)

Photo 2. Historic Front Yard, looking southeast, showing the expansive Main Penitentiary Building with water tower in foreground. The Warden's Residence is visible to the right.

Photo 3. The Wood's Run Fishing Club's dock at the southwest corner of the property, looking north.

Photo 4. Grass yard north of the Auditorium, looking northeast, showing the Correctional Industries Shop Building and the Services Building.

Photo 5. South end of the Secure Perimeter, looking southeast from the roof of the Rotunda, showing the Main Yard.

Photo 6. The New Front Yard of the Penitentiary, created as part of the 1984 master plan, looking southwest, showing the Administration and Visitors Complex.

Photo 7. Front House, front facade, looking east, with the North and South Wings of the Main Penitentiary Building visible behind.

Photo 8. Warden's Residence, rear facade, looking west, showing where the porte cochere and bridge once existed.

Photo 9. Warden's Residence, north facade, looking south, showing the narrow gap between the house and the Main Penitentiary Building. Also visible is one of the three-story, octagonal bay windows with integral end chimney.

Photo 10. Warden's Residence interior, main hall, first floor, looking east, showing the former library on the left and former parlor on the right. Murals painted by inmates can be seen in all three rooms. A shadow of the former family staircase can be seen at the center rear beyond the archway.

Photo 11. Warden's Residence interior, dining room, looking north, showing the brick bearing wall construction, missing mantel with mural above and remaining window trim throughout (including interior shutters).

Photo 12. Warden's Residence interior, public staircase, looking southwest, showing the loss of many elements of historic wood trim. The flight of stairs at left led down to the finished ground floor level and the hall that would have welcomed visitors entering from the porte cochere. In the distance (through the wooden arch) can be seen what was originally the reception room.

Photo 13. Main Penitentiary Building, front facade, looking northeast, showing Recreation Yard C/D (behind the razor wire fence) and the Warden's Residence and water tower.

Photo 14. Main Penitentiary Building, North Wing, east facade of Housing Unit E, looking west, showing the battered stone base of the wall with arched windows and brick walls above topped by a cornice of stone modillions. Only the east facade is finished in brick; the others are clad in stone.

Photo 15. Main Penitentiary Building, east facade, looking northwest from the Main Yard, showing the Rotunda and Auditorium.

Photo 16. Main Penitentiary Building, east facade, looking south, showing a close up of the stone base of the building and one of the ADA ramps to the housing units.

Photo 17. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit E, North Wing, looking south, showing the five tiers of cells set back from the exterior wall. The wire mesh ceiling was installed to protect staff from thrown objects.

Photo 18. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit D, looking south, showing the fourth tier of cells, decorative iron brackets supporting the fifth tier, and the setback of the cells from the outer wall. Above can be seen ventilators in the Flexicore ceiling and the trolley way that allows windows to be adjusted.

Photo 19. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit D, looking north, showing typical stainless steel shower units.

Photo 20. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit C, looking east, showing a typical original window opening into a cell that was filled with concrete block ca. 1983.

Photo 21. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit E, looking east, showing the inside of a typical cell in the North Wing.

Photo 22. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit C, looking east, showing the inside of a typical cell in the South Wing.

Photo 23. Main Penitentiary Building interior, basement of the Rotunda, looking east, showing the inside of one of the solitary confinement cells that was used into the early twentieth century.

Photo 24. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit D, first floor, looking northeast, showing a typical stairwell.

Photo 25. Main Penitentiary Building interior, Housing Unit C, first floor, looking north, showing a typical guard station with its impact-resistant glass windows and ceiling. On the table in the center is a control panel that allowed guards to remotely operate all of the cell doors.

Photo 26. Main Penitentiary Building interior, basement under Housing Unit D, looking north, showing the distribution of mechanical, electrical and plumbing services, stone walls and floor, and arched brick ceiling.

Photo 27. Main Penitentiary Building interior, fourth floor of Rotunda, looking northwest, showing the mechanical space with its floor slab that was inserted into the building in 1959 and the original cast iron columns with their decorative capitals. Similar capitals remain above the dropped ceiling on the first floor.

Photo 28. Housing Unit A/Building 5 and Housing Unit B/Building 6, looking northeast from Tower 7, showing recreation yards in the foreground.

Photo 29. Housing Unit B/Building 6, looking south from the Main Yard.

Photo 30. Housing Unit B/Building 6 interior, showing a second floor day room surrounded by two tiers of cells.

Photo 31. Housing Unit B/Building 6 interior, showing tiered seating integrated into the stairs adjacent to a second floor day room.

Photo 32. Housing Unit A/Building 5 interior, showing a typical second floor corridor with sliding doors and the inside of a typical cell. The fold-down panel in the center of the door was a safety feature. With the inmate inside the cell and the door locked, the inmate would place his arms through the opening. Guards could then safely attach handcuffs before opening the door. This particular unit retains considerable graffiti from its last inmate in 2017.

Photo 33. Housing Unit A/Building 5 interior, second floor, showing a smaller cluster of cells and a higher level of security (e.g., steel mesh-enclosed day room) than found in Housing Unit B.

Photo 34. Administrative and Visitors Complex, east facade, looking west, showing the vehicle access door where prisoners would enter the facility for processing.

Photo 35. Administration and Visitors Complex interior, looking north, showing a holding cell in the processing section.

Photo 36. Administration and Visitors Complex interior, first floor, looking south, showing the visitor day room with courtyard beyond.

Photo 37. Administration and Visitors Complex, Visitors Courtyard, looking north, showing the original west wall of the penitentiary and the visitor day room in the background.

Photo 38. Auditorium/Dietary Storage Building, looking north from the Main Yard.

Photo 39. Auditorium interior, looking east, showing the raised stage and control booth.

Photo 40. Institution Warehouse, looking southwest, showing the Beaver Avenue facade and the entrance to the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Yard.

Photo 41. Institution Warehouse, looking north, showing the loading dock doors and the east wall of the penitentiary.

Photo 42. Services Building, east facade, looking northwest.

Photo 43. Services Building, west facade, looking north.

Photo 44. Services Building interior, south end, looking northwest, showing the Commissary area.

Photo 45. Services Building interior, north end, looking northeast, showing the shoe repair area.

Photo 46. Services Building interior, north end, looking north, showing the computer training area.

Photo 47. Correctional Industries Shop Building, looking southwest, showing (from right to left) the Welding Shop, the Metal Shop and the Tag Shop.

Photo 48. Correctional Industries Shop Building, looking south, showing the Tag Shop.

Photo 49. Correctional Industries Shop Building interior, Tag Shop, looking southwest, showing license plate-making equipment.

Photo 50. Correctional Industries Shop Building interior, Metal Shop, looking east, showing more license plate-making equipment.

Photo 51. Correctional Industries Shop Building interior, infill connector between the Tag and Metal Shops, looking west. The electrical substation is beyond the end wall.

Photo 52. Dining Hall, looking southeast, showing the primary entrances to the building.

Photo 53. Dining Hall, east facade, looking west, showing a side entrance and typical building materials, such as mint green glazed brick, painted concrete pilasters and glass block.

Photo 54. Dining Hall, south facade, looking northeast, showing the red brick south wall of the 1957 addition and the half-round dish washing room in mint green glazed brick and glass block.

Photo 55. Dining Hall interior, looking south, showing the dining area. Above, the ceiling can be seen following the curved roof trusses (except at the perimeter where the ends of the roof trusses protrude).

Photo 56. Dining Hall interior, looking south, showing the interior of the 1957 dishwashing room that most recently served as a vegetable prep space.

Photo 57. Gymnasium, west facade, looking southeast.

Photo 58. Gymnasium interior, looking north, showing the offices and mezzanine at rear.

Photo 59. Gymnasium interior, looking south, showing the playing surface and primary entrance doors.

Photo 60. Maintenance Building, west facade, looking southeast, with the Gymnasium shown at the far right.

Photo 61. Maintenance Building, west facade, looking northeast.

Photo 62. Maintenance Building interior, looking northeast, showing the Plumbing Shop.

Photo 63. Library, Chapel and Education Building, west facade, looking northeast.

Photo 64. Library, Chapel and Education Building interior, basement, looking northwest, showing the barber shop.

Photo 65. Library, Chapel and Education Building interior, first floor interior, looking south, showing the library. The door in the far wall leads to the facility's law library.

Photo 66. Library, Chapel and Education Building interior, second floor interior, looking south, showing the common area in the center of the educational space and adjacent classrooms.

Photo 67. Exercise Pavilion, looking west.

Photo 68. Exercise Pavilion, looking southeast.

Photo 69. Exercise Pavilion interior, looking south.

Photo 70. Inside Pump House, looking southwest.

Photo 71. Guard Station, looking northeast, showing the octagonal building across from the Warden's Residence that originally served as a pump house.

Photo 72. Storage Building, looking northeast, showing the former garage of the Warden's Residence with the North Wing of the Main Penitentiary Building and water tower in the rear.

Photo 73. Storage Building, looking southeast, showing the Warden's Residence in the rear.

Photo 74. Scale House exterior, looking southeast.

Photo 75. Health Services Building, west facade, looking southeast.

Photo 76. Health Services Building interior, ground floor, looking south, showing lobby seating surrounded by inmate-created murals.

Photo 77. Health Services Building interior, first floor, looking northeast, showing a typical corridor and patient cell with its narrow window.

Photo 78. Exterior of Power House and Boiler Plant, looking northeast, showing the elevated site and foundation that aimed to keep equipment above flood waters.

Photo 79. Boiler Plant interior, looking south, showing the base of the smokestack.

Photo 80. Boiler Plant interior, looking north.

Photo 81. Maintenance Shops/Office Building, looking southwest, showing the Maintenance Repair Building and the Maintenance Welding Shop.

Photo 82. Sewage Pump House, south facade, looking northwest.

Photo 83. Sewage Pump House, detail of front entry, looking north.

Photo 84. Sewage Pump House interior, first sub-floor, looking south.

Photo 85. Maintenance Storage Building, exterior, looking southwest.

Photo 86. Vehicle Maintenance Building exterior (right), looking south.

Photo 87. Northwest gate (no longer in use), looking west from within the Secure Perimeter, showing Tower 1 atop the wall.

Photo 88. Southwest gate, looking south, showing the cast concrete vehicle Sally Port with guard tower atop.

Photo 89. Tower 3, looking northeast, showing the cast concrete construction of the 1932 wall.

Photo 90. Close up of the tower atop the Sally Port, looking north, showing the Dining Hall below at left.

Photo 91. Cast and wrought iron gate, north side of Historic Front Yard, looking southeast (Jeff Slack).

Photo 92. Cast and wrought iron gate, west side of Historic Front Yard, looking east, with the Warden's Residence in the background.

Photo 93. Large, sliding cast and wrought iron gates, west side of Historic Front Yard, looking east.

Photo 94. Modular Building (37), looking northwest.

Photo 95. Modular Building southwest of Sewage Pump House, looking northwest.

Photo 96. Shed outside Sewage Pump House, looking northwest.

Photo 97. Shed adjacent to Guard Station (22), looking west.

Photo 98. Mail Trailer, looking northeast.

Photo 99. Staff Lockers / Wellness Center (42), looking northeast.

Photo 100. Guard Tower 8, looking southeast.

Photo 101. Guard station in Sally Port, looking west.

Photo 102. Corrections Emergency Response Trailer, looking southwest.

Photo 103. Water tower, looking southeast.

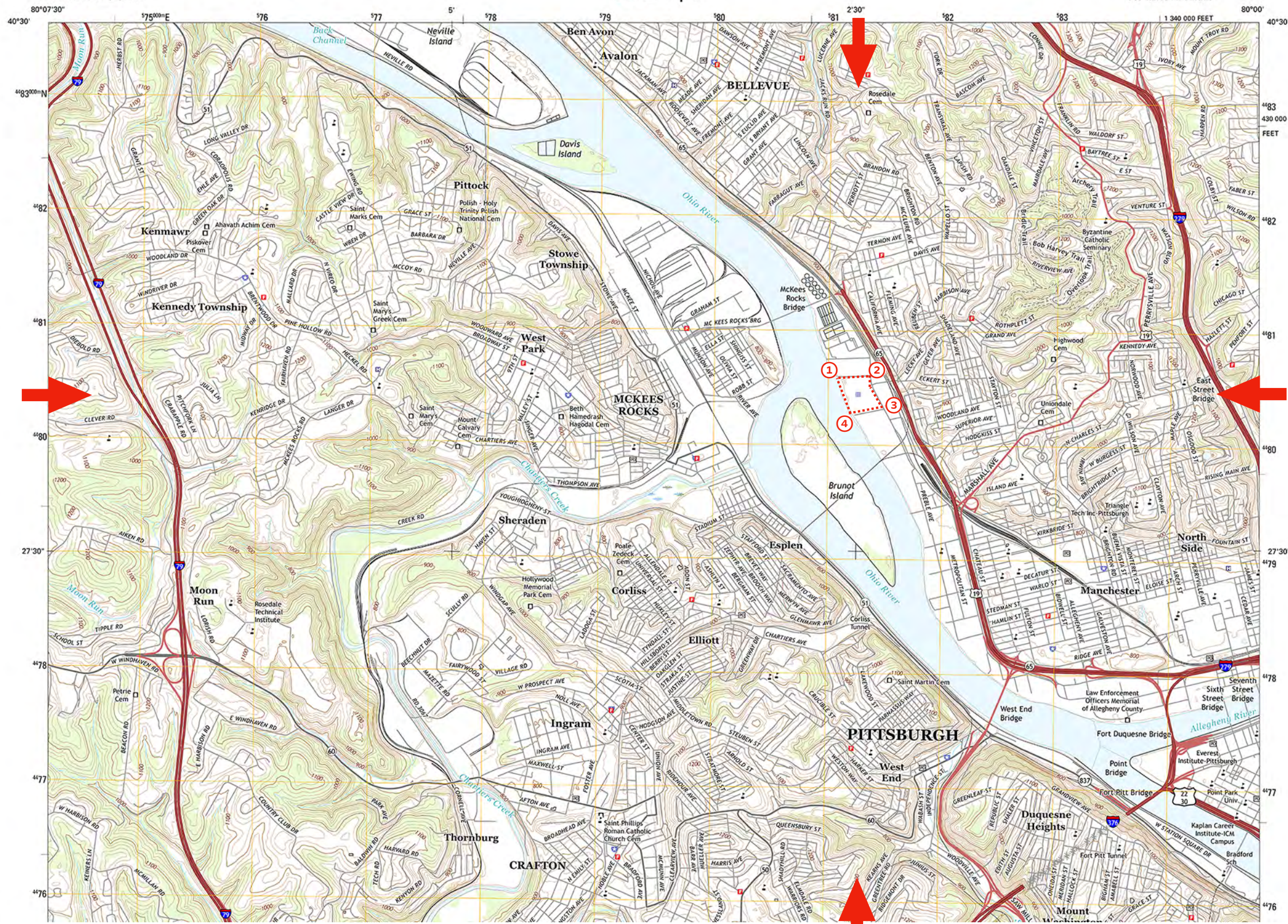


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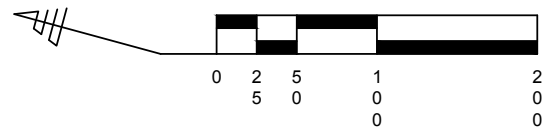
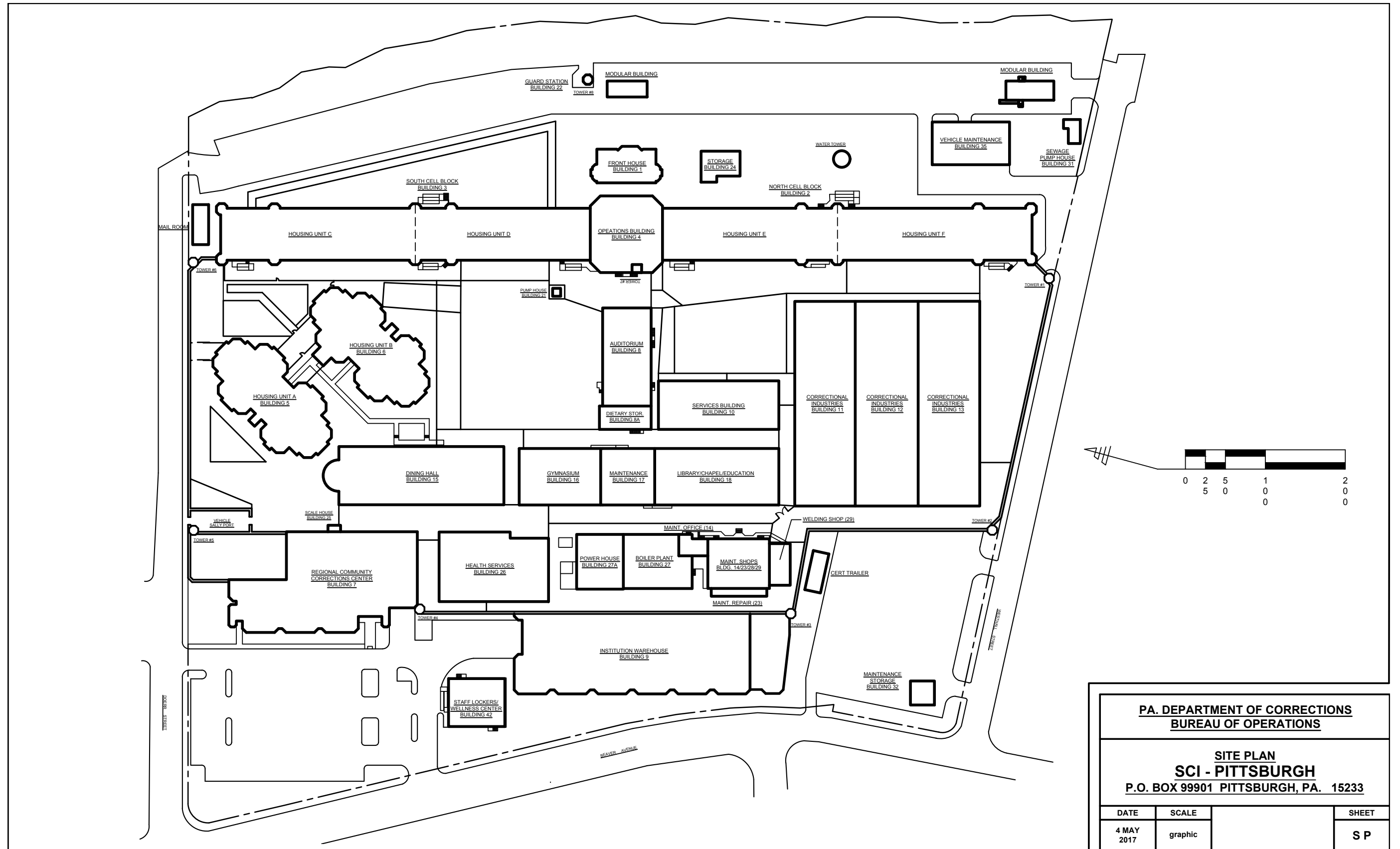
PITTSBURGH WEST QUADRANGLE
PENNSYLVANIA-ALLEGHENY CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

Location	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	581073	4480586
2	17	581369	4480605
3	17	581488	4480320
4	17	581208	4480242



Not to scale

Figure 123. Excerpt from USGS Map showing survey area / proposed National Register boundary.



PA. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS BUREAU OF OPERATIONS			
SITE PLAN SCI - PITTSBURGH P.O. BOX 99901 PITTSBURGH, PA. 15233			
DATE	SCALE		SHEET
4 MAY 2017	graphic		S P

Figure 124. Site Plan of SCI-Pittsburgh (PA Department of Corrections)