

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common 200 W. North Avenue

2. Location

street & number 200 W. North Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Pittsburgh N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Allegheny code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name W. William Peterson / Henry Beal

street & number 200 W. North Avenue / 1050 George Street, Apartment 19F

city, town Pittsburgh / New Brunswick N/A vicinity of state PA 15212 / N.J. 08901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegheny County Courthouse

street & number Ross Street

city, town Pittsburgh state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg state PA

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Prominently sited at the northwest corner of North Avenue and Arch Street, this three-story Queen Anne brick house anchors a row of simpler, earlier rowhouses along North Avenue, across from Allegheny Commons. A circular bay with a conical roof at the southeast corner of the building accentuates the building's corner site. Though the overall condition of the building is only average, its architectural integrity is excellent. The building is currently being restored and converted to a bed and breakfast inn. Behind the house is the original carriage house, enlarged to accommodate automobiles.

The house consists of a main, front section with a flat roof and a gabled rear section. Ribbed chimneys, varied fenestration including stained glass and gable dormers, and an elaborate, wood front porch contribute to the house's decorative exterior.

On the interior, a central hall runs from the front (south) of the building towards the rear of the house. On each floor, there is a detailed wood archway at the hall's north end. The main staircase is located on the east side of the building and a small, enclosed stair runs between the first and second floors on the west side. Interior doors feature transoms and elaborately molded surrounds. Mantels are marbled and highly decorative. A tiled kitchen (walls, floor, and ceiling) and pantry with cabinetry are intact.

The only apparent alterations to the house include an alteration to the staircase at the first floor, the introduction of large transomed french doors on the first floor and the enclosure of the balustrade of the front porch. (The porch railing, presently obscured, remains intact). The staircase appears to have been changed some time ago to begin at the side door rather than from the center hall. Current plans for the house call for the restoration of the original staircase configuration and a full restoration and repair of the porch.

The only apparent additions to the house were the introduction of a glass-like tile in the vestibule, first floor powder room, and kitchen--probably in the 1940s--and a partition on the third floor. Plans call for the retention of the kitchen tile and the removal of the tile elsewhere, as well as the removal of the third floor partition.

The brick carriage house/garage, at the rear of the site, has a pyramidal roof and a projecting front parapet which was added later.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1890

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This house is architecturally significant as one of Pittsburgh's best examples of a Queen Anne townhouse. Sited in the heart of what was originally the City of Allegheny (now Pittsburgh's North Side), the house exhibits the asymmetry, variety, and ornamentation of the Queen Anne style as applied to the house of a successful businessman of the late 19th century. J.M. Porter, owner of the property from 1887-1903 and the probable owner for whom it was built c.1890, was secretary/treasurer of Savage Fire-Brick Company, with offices at Three Smithfield Street in Pittsburgh. With the erection of the substantial house on 200 W. North Avenue, Mr. Porter underlined his stature in the business world just as the house itself anchored a block of sturdy, but more modest, Victorian rowhouses.

A corner turret reinforces the house's anchor position in its row of attached houses, an unusual function for a Queen Anne feature more often found in the detached houses of Pittsburgh's East End. Other Queen Anne features distinguishing the exterior include an elaborate wood porch framing the front door, the Arch Street side door topped by a large, arched stained glass window, and an assortment of other window types. The exceptionally intact interior includes woodwork in the halls on all floors, transomed french doors on the first floor, and highly decorative slate and marble mantels. The tiled kitchen is intact. In an urban area such as the North Side, where most houses have been subdivided, it is highly unusual to find such complete integrity.

Stylistically unlike its plainer neighbors, the house is nevertheless related to them historically. Samuel Gordon, a successful dry goods merchant of Allegheny City whose store was located on nearby Federal Street, owned this lot and the three to the west in the 1860s. At that time a detached "cottage house" (so-called in Gordon's Will) was located on the corner lot; Gordon and his wife lived two doors down in the center of the three rowhouses Gordon owned. His daughter Margaret Findley inherited the "cottage house" at Gordon's death in 1869. This structure is pictured on the 1882 Atlas. In 1887 Findley sold the lot to Jasper M. Porter, an executive with Savage Fire-Brick Company, makers of fire-brick and tile for blast furnaces, glass houses, coke ovens, and iron and steel works. Porter owned the property until 1903 when he sold it to R.H. Boggs, another important North Side merchant who founded Boggs & Buhl department store. It does not appear that Boggs ever occupied the house. The lot was sold to Jeannie MacLachlan in 1905. The present structure appears on an atlas of 1907, pointing to the building's probable construction by Porter.

The house remains an excellent and unusual example of a Queen Anne townhouse of the late nineteenth century, and in its rowhouse context, suggests the ways in which Allegheny's prosperous businessmen displayed their success through architecture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed and Will Books, County Office Building, Ross Street, Pittsburgh.
Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and Adjoining Boroughs, 1872. (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company, 1872).
Continued

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .09
Quadrangle name Pittsburgh West Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of a corner lot of 40'x96', corresponding to block 23K, lot 270 of the Allegheny County Block and Lot System, described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of North Avenue and Arch Street, proceed west forty feet along the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christina Schmidlapp

organization Landmarks Design Associates date September 13, 1985

street & number 400 The Landmarks Building
One Station Square telephone 412/391-7640

city or town Pittsburgh state PA 15219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Office date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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date entered

Continuation sheet 200 W. North Ave.

Item number 9 and 10

Page 1

9. Bibliographical (contd.)

Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, 1882. (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company, 1882.) Plate 33.

Real-estate Plat Book of the City of Allegheny, Vol. I. (Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins & Company, 1907).

Pittsburgh and Allegheny City Directories, various years, 1869-1902.
Available at Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, Pittsburgh, PA.

Pennsylvania Historical Review: Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny, Leading Merchants and Manufacturers. (New York, Philadelphia, and Chicago: Historical Publishing Company, 1886), p.109.

10. Geographical Data (Contd.)

north side of the sidewalk of North Avenue to a point. Proceed north ninety-six feet, then east forty feet, then south ninety-six feet to the point of origin.

This lot includes the house and its garage and is the original lot laid out in the mid-nineteenth century by Wm. Robinson, Jr. in his "Plan of Lots north of the Commons in the City of Allegheny".

200 W. NORTH AVENUE
Allegheny County
Pittsburgh West Quadrangle
Zone 17
E584030 N4778540

