

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET

89A

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026

005058

Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: 001-C-167

County: Allegheny

Municipality: Pittsburgh

Address: Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

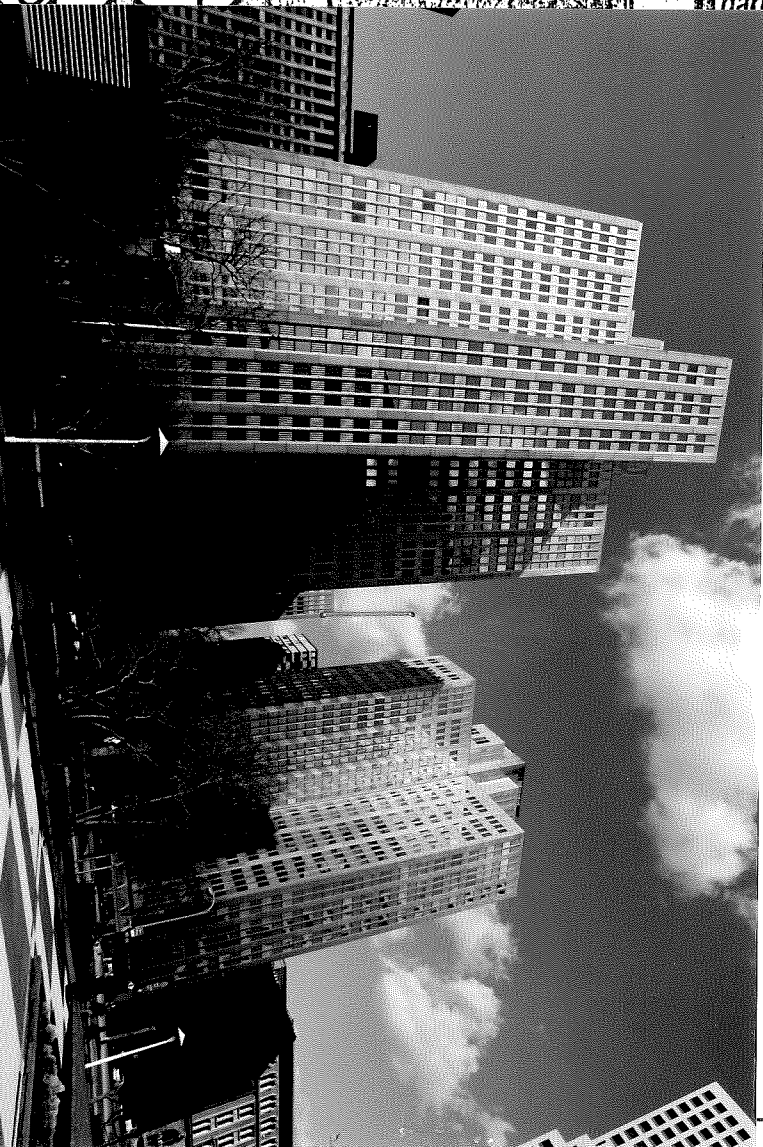
Historic Name/Other Name: Gateway Center

SITE PLAN



## PHOTO INFORMATION

Attach Photo Here



Number	Description of View	of Camera
1	Gateway Center 2 and 3	N
2	Gateway Center 2 and 3	N
3	Gateway Center 1	N
4	Gateway Center 2 and 3	E
5	Gateway Center 3 entrance	NE
6	Gateway Center 2 entrance	S

Photographer Name: Charles Uhl

Date: 3/01

Negative Location: 6711 Stanton Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15206

## Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

## IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 001-C-167  
County: 1. Allegheny 003 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Municipality: Pittsburgh 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Historic Name: Gateway Center 1,2, 3  
Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner Name/Address: Gateway Trizec Inc, 4 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Owner Category: ☒ Private ☐ Public-local ☐ Public-state ☐ Public-federal  
Resource Category: ☐ Building ☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object  
Number/Approximate Number of Resources Covered by This Form: 3  
USGS Quad: 1. Pittsburgh West 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM A. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_  
References: B. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Commerce / Trade business 02A  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Particular Type: A. Office Building  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Function Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Subcategory: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
A. Commerce / Trade Business \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_  
C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. International Style 72  
B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_  
D. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exterior Materials: Foundation: Concrete 65 Roof: \_\_\_\_\_  
Walls: Steel 56 Walls: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Structural System: 1. Steel frame 41 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Width 9 F Depth: 9 F Stories/Height: 20 / 24 F

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Year Built: C. 1951 to C. 1953 Additions/Alterations Dates: C. \_\_\_\_\_ ; C. \_\_\_\_\_

Basis for Dating: X Documentary \_\_\_\_\_ Physical \_\_\_\_\_

Explain :

Existing plans.

Cultural/Ethnic Affiliation 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Individuals: 1. David L. Lawrence 2. Richard K. Mellon

Associated Events: 1. Pittsburgh Renaissance 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Architects/Engineers: 1. Eggers & Higgins 2. Irwin Clavan

Builders: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Toker, Franklin, Pittsburgh an Urban Portrait . . .

### PREVIOUS SURVEY, DETERMINATIONS

### EVALUATION (Survey Director/Consultants Only)

Individual NR Potential: X Yes : \_\_\_\_\_ No : \_\_\_\_\_ Context(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Contributes to Potential District \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No District Name/Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

Appears to meet NR criteria. See attached. . . .

### THREATS

Threats X 1. None \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Public Development \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Private Development \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Neglect \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Explain:

### SURVEYOR INFORMATION

Surveyor Name/Title: Charles Uhl Date: 4/01

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Historic Preservation Services Telephone : 412 / 492-9100

Street and No.: 6711 Stanton Avenue

City, State: Pittsburgh, PA Zip Code: 15206

Additional Survey Documentation: \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Survey Codes: \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 001-C-167  
County: Allegheny Municipality: Pittsburgh  
Address: Gateway Center 1, 2, 3  
Historic/Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Gateway Center is a 23-acre office park, a swath of land running from the Allegheny to the Monongahela Rivers just east of Pittsburgh's Point State Park. Point State Park and Gateway Center are products of Pittsburgh's Renaissance – the Post-World War II urban renewal of Pittsburgh's Point district. Liberty Avenue defines the northern section of Gateway Center. On this northern section are three International-style skyscrapers, Gateway 1, 2, and 3. Finished in 1953, these two 20-story and one 24-story skyscrapers were the first major buildings constructed in the massive redesign of Pittsburgh's Point. Gateway Center 1 – 3 were designed by New York City-based architects Eggers & Higgins, assisted by Irwin Clavan.

Gateway 1, 20 stories, is adjacent to Fort Duquesne Boulevard on the north center edge of the site. Gateway 2, 20 stories, is adjacent to the radius of the curve of Liberty Avenue into Stanwix Street. Liberty Avenue was redesigned into a boulevard for the redevelopment project. Gateway 3, 24 stories, is adjacent to Liberty Avenue, west of Gateway 2.

The skyscrapers are exclusively office buildings, and each is designed around a center elevator core feeding double-loaded corridors. The buildings are cruciform in plan for maximum useable office area. They are constructed of a steel frame with a shiny silver chrome-steel skin.

Exterior treatments are very simple, befitting the International style. The first floor of the buildings is smooth polished gray granite. The main entrances are through a glazed three-story quarter circle element that fills the 90-degree angle at the central core of the building. Gateway 2 and 3 have entrances on both the outer (street) and inner (courtyard) sides. The courtyard has a one-story version of the quarter circle entrance. This entrance element is the most dated part of the composition, resembling an early roadside drive-in. The ground floor of Gateway 1 has been altered to accommodate the studios of KDKA radio and television.

Above the first floor each wing of the cruciform is divided into three wide bays, each having four "punched" single light window openings. Wider steel sections divide the bays, and in the windowed areas the shiny steel skin is corrugated. The four short ends of each building are divided into three bays with a 2-3-2 window pattern. The buildings have no setbacks.

The bright steel skin was chosen deliberately to contrast with the generally dirty or drab buildings of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Pittsburgh. Stainless steel was the original choice, but it became unavailable during the Korean War when the buildings were constructed.

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL RESOURCE SURVEY FORM — NARRATIVE SHEET**  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

89C

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County: Allegheny Municipality: Pittsburgh  
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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Another contrast is the height of the skyscrapers compared with the mostly 2-4 story buildings cleared from the site.

The interiors of the buildings have been well maintained, and the office space has been remodeled frequently. The ground floor lobbies are well finished, but relatively small and unpretentious by the standards of earlier Pittsburgh office buildings (the Gulf and Koppers buildings) and the most recent office buildings (PPG, Fifth Avenue Place, One Oxford Centre).

The Gateway 1-3 buildings created a courtyard that is marked at its center by a fountain. The area is extensively landscaped, and successfully isolated, as intended in the design, from the dense urban core of Pittsburgh.

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Survey Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 001-C-167  
County: Allegheny Municipality: Pittsburgh  
Address: Gateway Center 1, 2, 3  
Historic/Other Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The original office towers of Gateway Center, Gateway Center 1, 2, and 3, are an important component of the post-World War II re-planning and re-construction that became known as Pittsburgh's Renaissance. The three office skyscrapers in a park-like setting are the legacy of a classic and often-studied urban renewal project. Land clearance began in 1950, and the skyscrapers opened in 1953, so while the buildings are barely more recent than the 50-year suggested minimum for National Register eligibility, the project itself meets the minimum. The buildings were designed by nationally prominent architects, and may meet National Register criterion C as works of architecture. The Gateway Center component of the Pittsburgh Renaissance may be more important as one of the earliest, and arguably successful, urban renewal projects, which would make it eligible under National Register criterion A, for its association with a broad pattern of history.

English novelist Charles Dickens visited Pittsburgh in 1842 and noted: "It certainly has a great quantity of smoke hanging over it, and is famous for its iron works." The development of the iron and glass industries, and later in the century, steel, polluted the air and water, and desecrated the ground with grimy mills. The city became the destination for many thousands of immigrants who worked low wage jobs that were often menial or dangerous. At the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the city was no notorious that the Russell Sage Foundation examined its problems in the famous Pittsburgh Survey. The Survey found child labor abuses, political corruption, overcrowding leading to pervasive grossly unsanitary conditions, and ill-educated and un-Americanized immigrants. Pittsburgh suffered outbreaks of cholera well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, long after most American cities had safe water and septic sewer systems. The city served as a model of all that was bad with unfettered industrial growth.

In the 1930s Pittsburgh's politicians and industrialists sought ideas on re-making the overcrowded urban core of Pittsburgh – the triangle created by the river confluence. Robert Moses submitted a plan, as did other individuals. Most of the plans focused on Pittsburgh's Point, the most visible and historically important part of the city, but an area that was densely packed with small-scale old buildings, and congested by railroad-related structures and sidings. Redevelopment was aided by a smoke control ordinance in 1941, curbing air pollution.

The Pittsburgh Renaissance synthesized after World War II. One of the earliest public-private partnerships, it was the result of the collaboration of Pittsburgh's most powerful politician, Mayor David L. Lawrence (later Pennsylvania governor), and banker / industrialist Richard K. Mellon. Lawrence arranged for the needed property condemnations and steered public monies to the project, while Mellon essentially underwrote the risk for the redevelopers of downtown Pittsburgh. The project is believed

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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

to be the first large-scale venture where the eminent domain power of government was employed to acquire property for a private development. As a testament to their power, Mellon and Lawrence persuaded a number of Pittsburgh's largest corporations, including J&L Steel, PPG, Westinghouse, and Peoples Gas to lease space in the Gateway Center high-rises before the buildings were designed. As a development partner, Lawrence sought out the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which was investing in Post-War urban renewal projects, aided by tax incentives. Metropolitan turned Lawrence down, but Equitable Life Insurance Company agreed to be the owner and developer of Gateway Center, provided Pittsburgh did something to control its notorious smoke, and if the frequent flooding of the site could be limited.

Point Park and Gateway Center are perhaps the archetypical urban renewal project, and much more successful than many that would follow. Planners and design professionals closely followed Pittsburgh's Renaissance projects. Mayor Lawrence relentlessly promoted the re-making of Pittsburgh in interviews and speeches. In a speech delivered to Harvard University's Graduate School of Design in 1956, Lawrence described the impact of renewal on Pittsburgh:

It has been ripped apart, opened up, demolished and rebuilt on more than a quarter of its area.

A further section of the speech is a classic statement of the intent of urban renewal. In describing the new Pittsburgh, Lawrence stated:

It is a business district relieved from the tyranny of land, and the pressure to cover every inch of ground to bring a maximum return. The redevelopment project, together with Point Park, has eliminated a street pattern and a lot pattern laid out in 1794. Land coverage which had been close to one hundred per cent, excluding streets and alleys, is now less than 30 per cent. The atmosphere of Point Park has been projected into the city's premium business district.

**Planning and Architecture:**

Gateway Center 1 – 3 were designed by New York City-based architects Eggers & Higgins, assisted by Irwin Clavan. Eggers & Higgins were the successors to the well-known John Russell Pope (d.1937). They completed the National Gallery of Art (1937-41), and the Jefferson Memorial (1938-39) in Washington, D.C., projects started by John Russell Pope. Eggers & Higgins also participated in the design of the Pentagon, and were the architects for the Dirksen Senate Office Building. They designed several

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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

skyscrapers in New York City including Canada House, the Morgan Guaranty Bank Building, and the Javits Federal Office Building. Along with their government and business contracts, the firm also designed many buildings for colleges and universities.

Architect Irwin Clavan was known for landscaped, multi-function high-rise projects. He participated in the design of Parkchester in the Bronx (1938-42), and Peter Cooper Village and Stuyvesant Town in Manhattan (both 1947). The latter two commissions were apartment complexes developed by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, which declined to finance Gateway Center.

Landscape architect for the Point and Gateway Center design was the New York City firm of Clarke & Rapuano, one of the most prominent firms in the country. Clarke & Rapuano worked on projects with New York City planning legend Robert Moses in the 1930's. The firm designed the landscape for many of the better-known parkways in the New York City area. Clarke & Rapuano worked with many cities and dozens of colleges and universities on landscape plans.

Identifying the architectural precedents for Gateway Center is beyond the scope of this survey. It is clear, however, that in hiring prominent New York City firms for the critical designs of the Point and Gateway Center, Mayor Lawrence and Richard K. Mellon insured that Pittsburgh's renewal would receive much attention from the world's design community.

Gateway Center remains a premier Pittsburgh business address. Three additional buildings have been constructed on the Gateway Center site north of Liberty Avenue: The Stanwix Street parking Garage, Gateway Condominiums, and the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel. Gateway Center 4, a skyscraper by a different architect and of different design from the earlier buildings, was finished in 1960 on the south side of Liberty Avenue, and several other buildings have been constructed there.

The legacy of Point State Park / Gateway Center may be mixed. While Pittsburgh's first urban renewal project is regarded as a qualified success, later projects using eminent domain and large-scale demolition have not been successful. The center of the old city of Allegheny was demolished in the late 1950's to create Allegheny Center Mall, which has not performed as intended. Much of Pittsburgh's Lower Hill District was cleared at the same time, and some of the land is still vacant 40 years later. Wholesale demolition also was used to redesign the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh, much to its detriment.



#### 4. survey code

#26. Cont.

New York. Built in 1959-60. 22 stories. Noted for use of gold anodized aluminum on its exterior and its flat slab cantilever construction.

7. Four Gateway Center. Designed by Harrison & Abramovitz. Built 1960. 22 stories.

8. The IBM Building, 56 Boulevard of the Allies (now United Steelworker's Building) - Gateway Five - designed by Curtis and Davis of New York. Built 1961-63. 13 stories. Noted for its use of cantilever construction similar to bridge construction. Diamond shaped window openings. Thin skin of stainless steel.

9. Gateway Towers, designed by Roth and Sons. Built 1962-64. 27 stories with 314 apartment units.

10. Westinghouse Building, 72-80 Stanwix Street, designed by Harrison and Abramovitz. Built in 1967. 23 stories sheathed in dark gray aluminum - (Gateway 6).

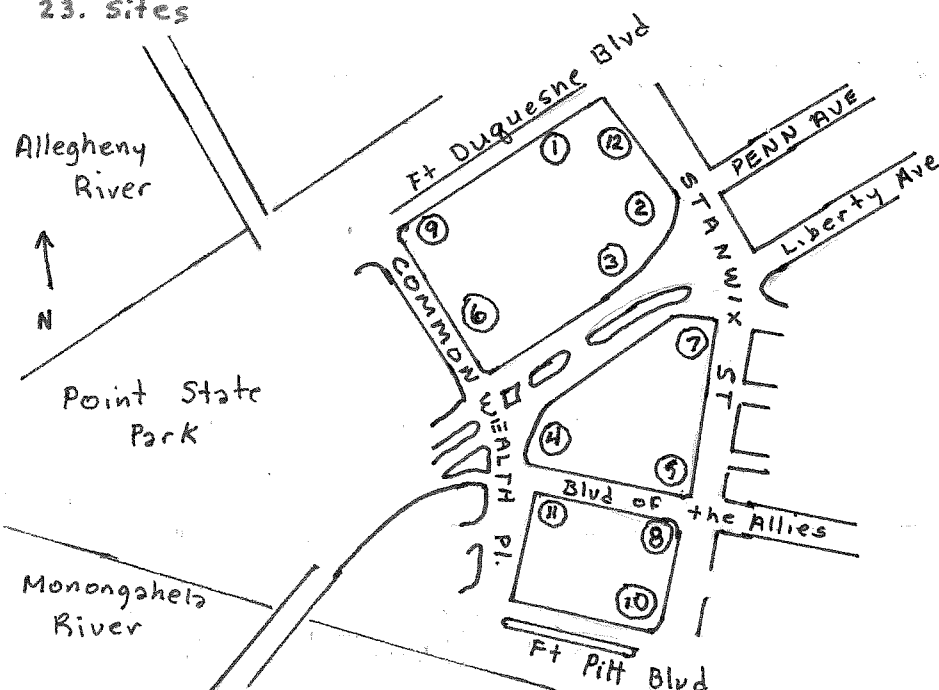
11. Pittsburgh Press and Post Gazette building, 34 Boulevard of the Allies, built 1927. 6 stories. Aluminumized in 1964 to "fit in".

12. Allegheny Towers, 521 Stanwix Street. Half parking garage and half offices.

Photo References:(numbers are keyed to numerical order above, to numbers below photos on Additional Photo pages 1 and 2, and to numbers on Sites below)

1. Gateway One -- 003-P-R185-F8,10,11
2. Gateway Two -- 003-P-R184-F25,26,34
3. Gateway Three -- 003-P-R184-F36,34
4. State Office Building -- 003-P-R185-F3
5. Bell Telephone Building -- 003-P-R184-F29,32,33
6. Hilton Hotel -- 003-P-R185-F4,35;R341-F22
7. Four Gateway Center -- 003-P-RR184-F27,28,30
8. Gateway Five (IBM/U.S.Steelworkers Building) -- 003-P-R184-F31
9. Gateway Towers -- 003-P-R185-F5-7,9
10. Gateway Six (Westinghouse Building) -- 003-P-R337-F8,24
11. Pittsburgh Post Gazette and Press Building -- 003-P-R185-F2
12. Allegheny Towers -- 003-P-R184-F23,24

### 23. Sites



EVALUATION

EVALUATOR(S)

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS R184-F32  
 references: R184-F28

R185-F4  
 R184-F30

4. survey code  
 003-P-cbd-1C,G & 8R



5



6  
 6



7



7



PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026  
PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS -- References:

R185-F10 R184-F26  
R184-F36 R185-F3

1. County Allegheny

2. Municipality Pittsburgh

5. Present name

Gateway Center

3. Street address or specific location

Stamwix St. & Commonwealth Pl.  
(between Ft. Pitt Blvd And Ft. Duquesne Blvd.)

4. Survey code

003-P-cbd-1C, G & 8R



1



2



3



4

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM  
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 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS -- References:

R184-F31

R185-F5

R337-F24

R185-F2

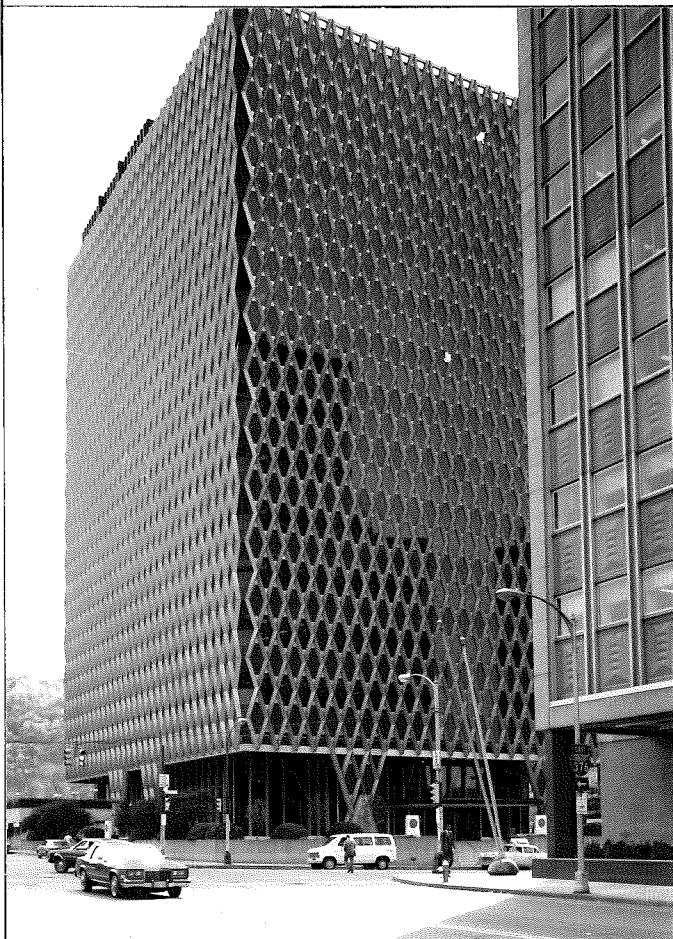
1. County  
 Allegheny

5. present name  
 Gateway Center

2. municipality  
 Pittsburgh

3. street address or specific location  
 Stanwix St. & Commonwealth Pl.  
 (between Ft. Pitt Blvd. and Ft. Duquesne Blvd.)

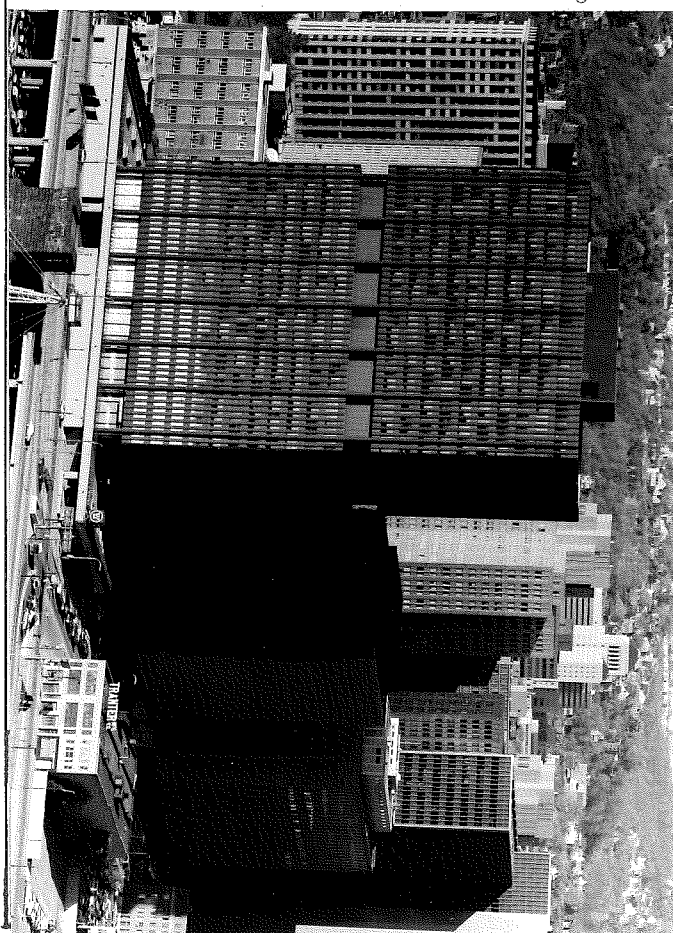
4. survey code  
 003=P-cbd-1C,G & 8R



8



6



10





ADDITIONAL  
references:

PHOTOS

R184-F23

R337-F11

R337-F24

R341-F22

4. survey code

003=P-cbd-1C,G & 8R



12

