

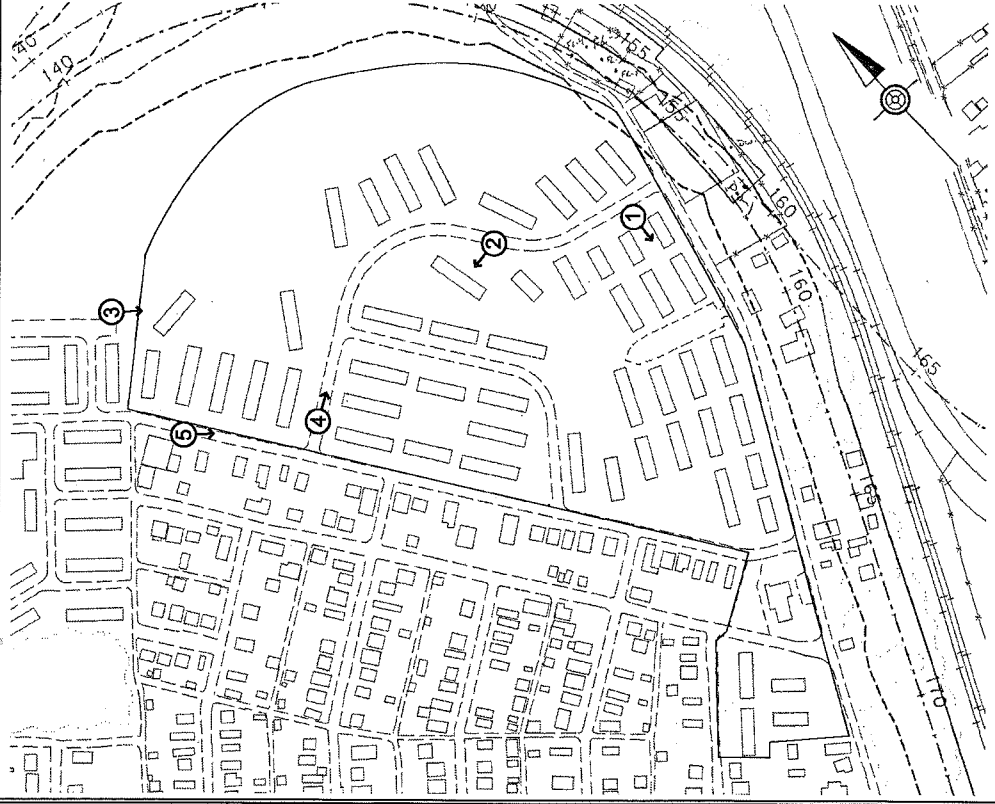
# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - PHOTO/SITE PLAN SHEET

89A

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

Survey Code/Tax Parcel/Other No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel 90-37-100 FS 042 County: Cambria  
Municipality: Johnstown (Oakhurst, 20<sup>th</sup> Ward) Address: North edge of Oakhurst (East of Daniel Street, North of Sheridan Street)  
Historic Name/Other Name: Oakhurst Homes (Extension) Johnstown Housing

## SITE PLAN



## PHOTO INFORMATION



Number	Description of View	Direction of Camera
1	View of courtyard, parallel to Sheridan St.	S
2	View of housing unit and ball field.	NW
3	View of housing unit rear.	E
4	Daniel Street streetscape.	NE
5	View from Daniel Street.	N

Photographer Name: William M. Hunter Date: 12/02  
Negative Location: Heberling Associates, Inc., 904 Main St., Alexandria, Pa. 16611

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - DATA SHEET

89B

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

## IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION

Survey Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 90-37-100 FS 042

County: 1. Cambria 0 2 1 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: 1. Johnstown (Oakhurst, 20th. Ward) 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: North edge of Oakhurst (East of Daniel Street, North of Sheridan Street)

Historic Name: Oakhurst Homes (Extension)

Other Name: Johnstown Housing

Owner Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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: 55 buildings

USGS Quad: 1. Johnstown (Oakhurst, 20th. Ward) 2 \_\_\_\_\_

UTM A. 17 674611 4469331 C. 17 674808 4469056

References: B. 17 674918 4469380 D. \_\_\_\_\_

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT FUNCTIONS

Historic Function Category:	Subcategory:	Code:
A. <u>Domestic-Multiple</u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>	<u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>A</u>
B. <u>Government</u>	<u>Public Works</u>	<u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>I</u>
C. <u>Recreation</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>	<u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>F</u>
D. _____	_____	_____

Particular Type: A. Public Housing

B. Day Care and Community Center, Boilerhouse

C. Ball Field

D. \_\_\_\_\_

Current Function Category:	Subcategory:	Code:
A. <u>Domestic-Multiple</u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>	<u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>A</u>
B. <u>Government</u>	<u>Public Works</u>	<u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>I</u>
C. <u>Recreation</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>	<u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>F</u>
D. _____	_____	_____

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: A. Other: Institutional (Row Apartments) 8 0

B. \_\_\_\_\_ C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Materials:	Foundation	Slab Concrete	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	Roof	Asphalt Shingles	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	Walls	Brick	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Walls	Vinyl Siding	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>
	Other	_____	_____	_____	Other	_____	_____	_____

Structural System: 1. Brick 2 1 2. Frame 1 4

Width: 4-8 Bays F Depth: 2 Rooms B Stories/Height: 2 Stories B

### HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Basis for Dating: x Documentary x Physical     

Explain.

Remodeled in 1999-1997.

Associated Individuals: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Architects/Engineers: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_

The 1981 Cambria County Historic Sites Survey did not consider the Calhoun House as a historic site.

(P. HINE 1980).

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Individual NR Potential:	Yes	x	No	Context(s):
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Contributes to Potential District:	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	District Name/Status:
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Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

The 1959 *Journal of the American Medical Association*

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THREATS						
Threats:	2	1 None	2 Public Development	3 Private Development	4 No threat	5 Other

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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Surveyor Name/Title:	William M. Hunter	Date:	12.01.02
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Project Name: S.R. 0056, Section 023 West End Improvements Date: 12-01-02

Organization: Heberling Associates Telephone: (814) 660-1280

Street and No.: 904 Main Street Telephone: (814)-869-1280

City, State: Alexandria, PA. Zip Code: 16611

Additional Survey Documentation: See associated survey report

Associated Survey Codes: FS 041

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# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - NARRATIVE SHEET

89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 90-37-100 FS 042  
 County: Cambria Municipality: Johnstown (Oakhurst, 20<sup>th</sup> Ward)  
 Address: North edge of Oakhurst (East of Daniel Street, North of Sheridan Street).  
 Historic/Other Name: Oakhurst Homes (Extension) Johnstown Housing

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The 1953 extension of the Oakhurst Homes public housing project occupies a densely developed 26-acre campus on the northeastern edge of Oakhurst, Johnstown's 20<sup>th</sup> ward. The development consists of 53 apartment buildings, a community building, and a gashouse arranged in linear and courtyard plans to the north of the old community of Sheridan Station. There are seven different types of apartment buildings in the development, each sharing characteristics such as a slab concrete foundation, light frame construction, low asphalt shingle roofs, and modern one-over-one light replacement windows. The buildings are topped with both hipped and side gable roof arrangements, the hipped roofs having wide eaves and overhangs. Unlike the old section of the Oakhurst Homes, all apartments feature both front and rear entries.

The building's front and rear elevations present different window and door spacing, reflecting a design that accounts for the hillside topography. When in a linear plan, the buildings face the road; when in a courtyard plan, the buildings face each other, away from the road. The facades usually have large shed roof porches, supported by squared columns. The rear of the buildings often features small hipped entry porches, supported by decorative brackets. The brackets, wide roof eaves, and some roof vents are the only obvious decorative elements on the buildings. Most elements of the complex, like the concrete block trash bins, are purely functional.

Twenty-one of the buildings are rectangular two-story brick apartments (113 ft. x 25 ft.) containing six dwelling units: the two pairs of middle units each have six rooms and the end units have four rooms. These buildings feature a one-and-a-half-story brick boiler house on an end, its large brick chimney breaking the low side gable roof. The buildings are symmetrical, with large shed roofs marking the front entry to the units, the small gabled porch roof covering the rear entry. Pairs of large one-over-one light replacement windows set within the frame portion of the exterior dominate the façade. Portions of the exterior are vinyl sided, framed by the partial brick veneer. Four buildings are duplicates of this plan, but have a basement, rather than an attached, boiler system.

Seventeen of the buildings are reductions of this standard plan, the smaller (106 ft x 25 ft) apartment buildings housing four four-room and one six-room units. These small buildings do not have an attached boiler house (having a basement boiler), though they share the same general design and materials. Five smaller (76 ft x 25 ft) buildings house a balanced array of four four-room apartments, and feature a large central porch flanked by smaller side porches. These are also devoid of the attached boiler house. Three buildings have similar modest dimensions (75 ft x 25 ft), are divided into five units, and have the attached one-story boiler house. Finally, three apartment buildings are the smallest (69 ft x 25 ft) of the class, housing only three units within a bilateral tripartite arrangement.

The gas meter station or "gas house" is a small (10 ft x 13 ft) one-story brick structure housing the central gas distribution system, supplying the diffuse boiler systems with fuel. The boilers in turn provide hot water to use and for the baseboard heating systems. This building was built in 1953, and was rehabilitated in 1995.

The community center, now serving as a day-care center and administration building, is similar in design to the apartments. Like the apartments, the two-story building rests on a slab concrete foundation, though it is constructed of concrete blocks. The exterior is covered with a brick veneer. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingle treatment. The rectangular core (87 ft x 32 ft) features three small additions; a pair of one story brick stair additions to the east and west sides, and a large two-story brick addition to the west. A fenced asphalt lot serving as a playground surrounds the building.

(continued)

**PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - NARRATIVE SHEET****89C****Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation**Survey Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel/Other No.: 90-37-100 FS 042County: Cambria Municipality: Johnstown (Oakhurst, 20<sup>th</sup> Ward)Address: North edge of Oakhurst (East of Daniel Street, North of Sheridan Street)Historic/Other Name: Oakhurst Homes (Extension) Johnstown Housing**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONT'D):**

Built into a hillside, the campus reflects extensive excavation and landscaping. Many of the buildings are partially excavated into the slope, resulting in a split-level design at their rear. Sidewalks that conform to the curvilinear road network join the generously spaced buildings. The original tree plantings are now nearing maturity. The terraced landscaping requires a series of stairs and steps, and provides for several level ball fields and basketball courts.

Designed and constructed a decade after the first phase of the Oakhurst Homes, the Oakhurst Extension features a decided improvement in design and materials, requiring less dramatic alterations during ongoing renovation activity. Notable alterations include 1996 interior work, and the 1997 replacement of both the shed and hipped porches, in addition to residing with vinyl and the replacement of all windows.

# PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM - NARRATIVE SHEET

89C

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau for Historic Preservation

Survey Code: _____	Tax Parcel/Other No.: 90-37-100	FS 042
County: Cambria	Municipality: Johnstown (Oakhurst, 20 <sup>th</sup> Ward)	
Address: North edge of Oakhurst (East of Daniel Street, North of Sheridan Street)		
Historic/Other Name: Oakhurst Homes (Extension)		Johnstown Housing

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The formation of the Johnstown Redevelopment Authority in 1949 marked the beginning of an aggressive program of urban renewal and "slum" clearance in the old urban core. The construction of additional public housing by the Johnstown Housing Authority in 1953 was viewed as but one-step in a comprehensive housing program that envisioned slum clearance and re-housing as the major goal (Mitchell 1993:120). The populations displaced by "slum clearance" would disperse through the West End and in the expanding Oakhurst projects.

Topographic restraints on developable space, the older housing stock, and the marginalized nature of the old city's population insured the civic improvements would take a substantial toll on the built environment, both in the old core and on the new urban fringe. To make space for the second phase of the Oakhurst Homes, Crown Construction Company, the forerunner of the Crown American Corporation was awarded a contract for the demolition of thirty-nine buildings in Oakhurst. The site was near the location of Sheridan Station, an early trade and transportation center.

The 26-acre campus developed between a suburban residential section on the south, a clay pit and brick kiln on the north, the original Oakhurst Homes development on the west and the Conemaugh River, with the few material remnants of Sheridan Station, on the east. Though geographically distant from the urban core and employment centers, in 1952, the Oakhurst Shuttle was motorized to service the new development. Oakhurst Homes remains the largest public housing concentration in Johnstown.

Designed for durability according to a standard plan, the 1953 extension of the Oakhurst Homes is an example of the evolution of public housing in Johnstown. Retaining design values similar to other public buildings such as schools and community centers, the buildings are, by their nature, undistinguished. Built in concert with an aggressive program of urban renewal and slum clearance, the buildings mark a shift away from the urban core at the period of Johnstown's peak population. Yet, the buildings and campus cannot be said to reach the standard of exceptional importance, particularly in light of the large-scale construction of similar facilities across Pennsylvania. Though an interesting example of the infrastructure of social engineering, we agree with Richard Burkert of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association that the Oakhurst Extension falls short of the threshold of significance, and is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register.



PHOTO 2



PHOTO 3



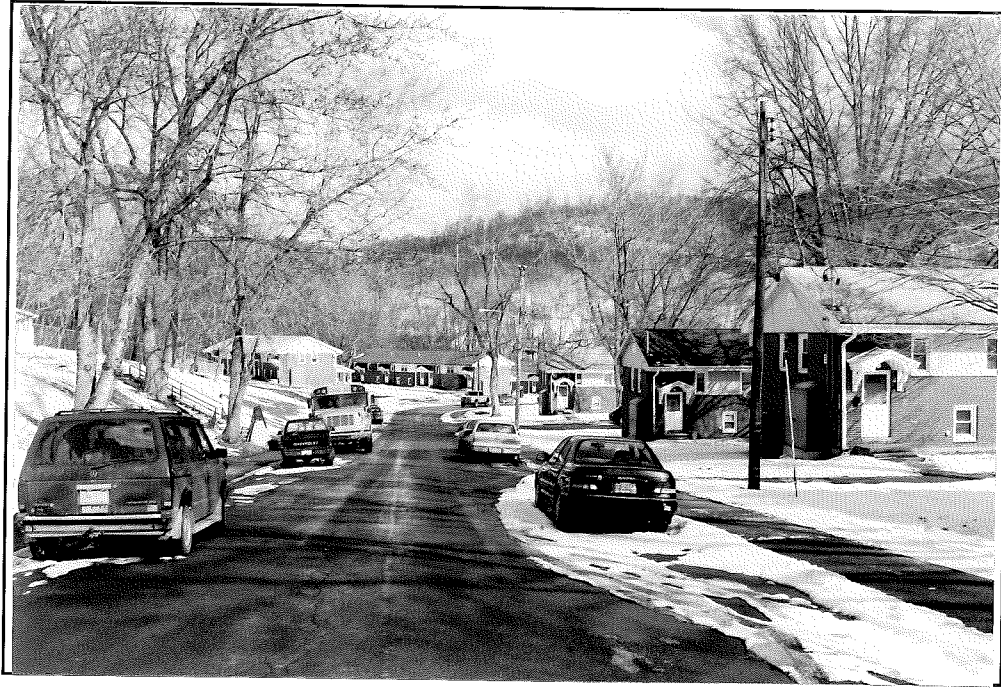


PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5