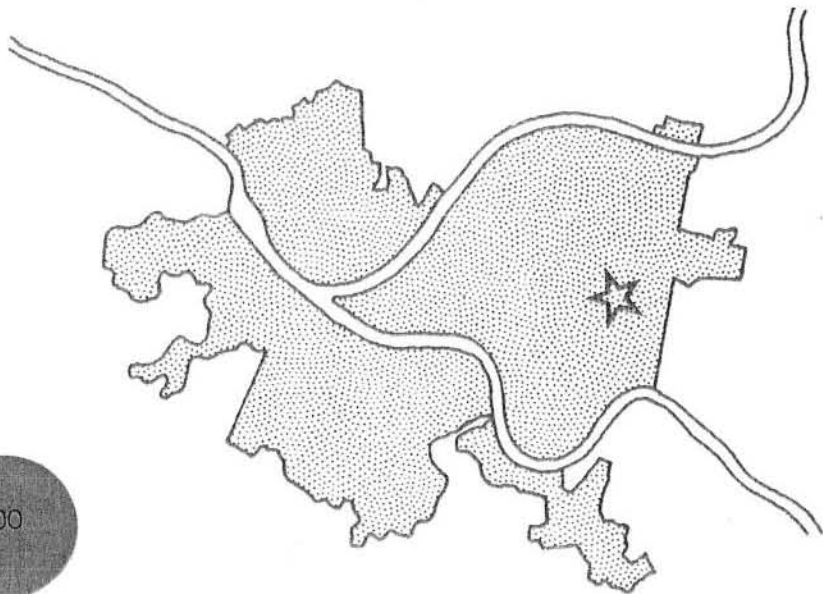


a community profile of

squirrel hill

north of forbes



prepared by
the department of city planning
pittsburgh, pa. august 1974

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PREFACE

One thing that citizens need if they are to take part in planning for their neighborhoods is up-to-date information about their neighborhoods. This booklet is an attempt by the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning to present information, primarily from the United States Census of Population and Housing, for use by citizens and community groups. Unfortunately, census material is not perfect; it may not have all the information that you need and it may not be in the most useful form for your purposes. It is, however, the best that is available.

Where possible, comparisons have been made between 1960 and 1970 characteristics, and between neighborhood and city-wide values, in order to better understand present neighborhood conditions.

The material has been divided into four sections, Population, Housing, Socio-Economic characteristics and Community Facilities. Although most of the information comes from the 1970 Census of Population and Housing, the statistics on building permits (new, and alterations) come from the city's Bureau of Building Inspection; the crime data was compiled by the Bureau of Police; and the welfare data was provided by the Allegheny County Board of Public Assistance. The summary tapes from which much of the census information was extracted were provided by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission.

SQUIRREL HILL

Greater Squirrel Hill, although primarily a residential neighborhood, contains a number of varied land uses, including Schenley Park, Frick Park, Duquesne Slag Operations, and the Forbes-Murray commercial section.

Coterminus with the boundaries of Census Tracts 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1406, 1407, 1408 and 1409, Squirrel Hill is generally bounded by the boroughs of Wilkinsburg, Edgewood, and Swissvale to the east, the Monongahela River to the south, Fifth and Penn Avenues to the north, and Schenley Park, Browns Hill Road, and Beechwood Boulevard to the west.

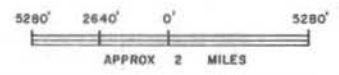
Squirrel Hill north of Forbes Avenue is residential in character with a preponderance of single family owner occupied dwellings, many of them fine quality brick. South of Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill is more apartment oriented, and it is the focus of the shopping district. It contains many modest, but sound single family residences.

Squirrel Hill has always had strong ethnic identification for Jewish immigrants and their descendants. The Forbes/Murray commercial district has preserved old world ethnic charm while adding a number of fashionable boutiques, so that it now offers everything from bagels to health foods.

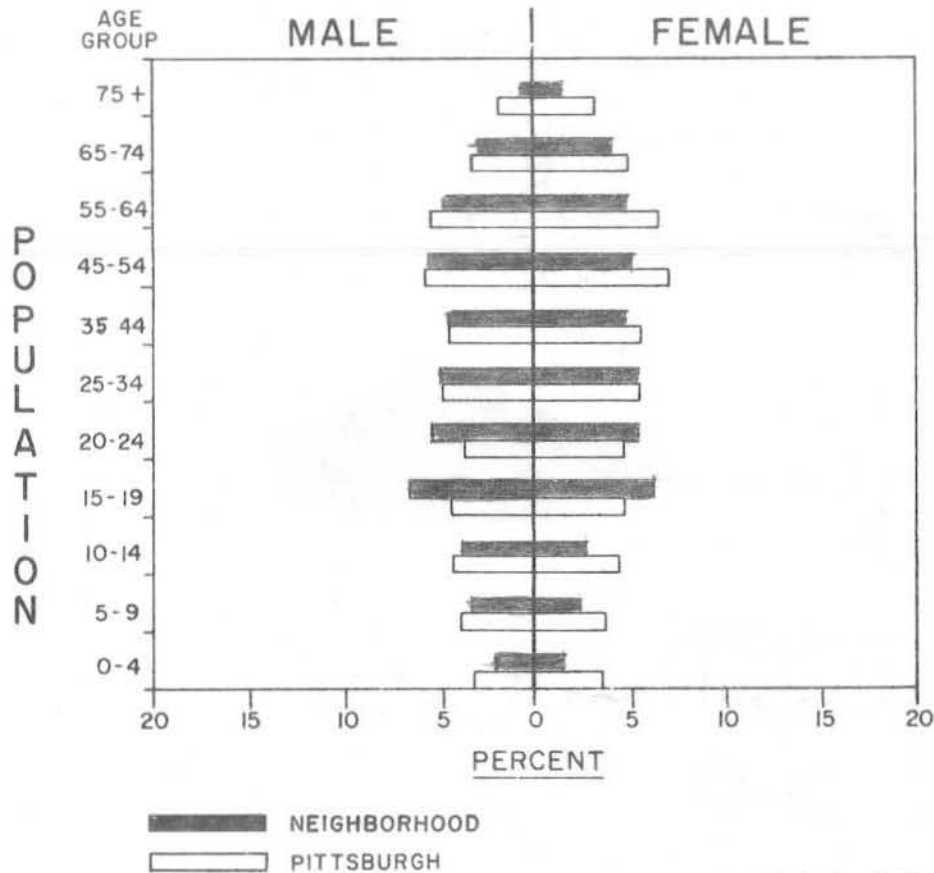
The newly formed Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition, an umbrella effort of existing groups and individuals, has been addressing itself to programs and projects that will be of benefit to residents and merchants alike.



— CENSUS TRACT OUTLINE
 — NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLINE



AGE - SEX COMPOSITION



Source: U. S. CENSUS 1970

POPULATION CHANGE, 1960-1970

The population of Squirrel Hill N has changed from 21,628 in 1960 to 21,188 in 1970, representing a 2.1% change. This compares to an average citywide change of -13.9%, where population declined from 604,332 in 1960 to 520,117 in 1970.

FAMILIES BY TYPE AND PRESENCE OF CHILDREN LESS THAN 18 YEARS OLD

The predominant family-type in this neighborhood is the husband-wife-children less than 18 category. The highest portion of families with incomes below poverty level is the female head - children less than 18 group.

MEDIAN AGE, 1970

The median age for the neighborhood is 29.2 years; for the city it is 33.6 years.

AGE-SEX COMPOSITION, 1970

According to the 1970 Census, the greatest portion of Squirrel Hill N population falls in the age 15-19 category, the smallest being the 75 & over age group. Citywide, more people are found in the age 45-54 group than in any other; the age 75 and older category is the smallest.

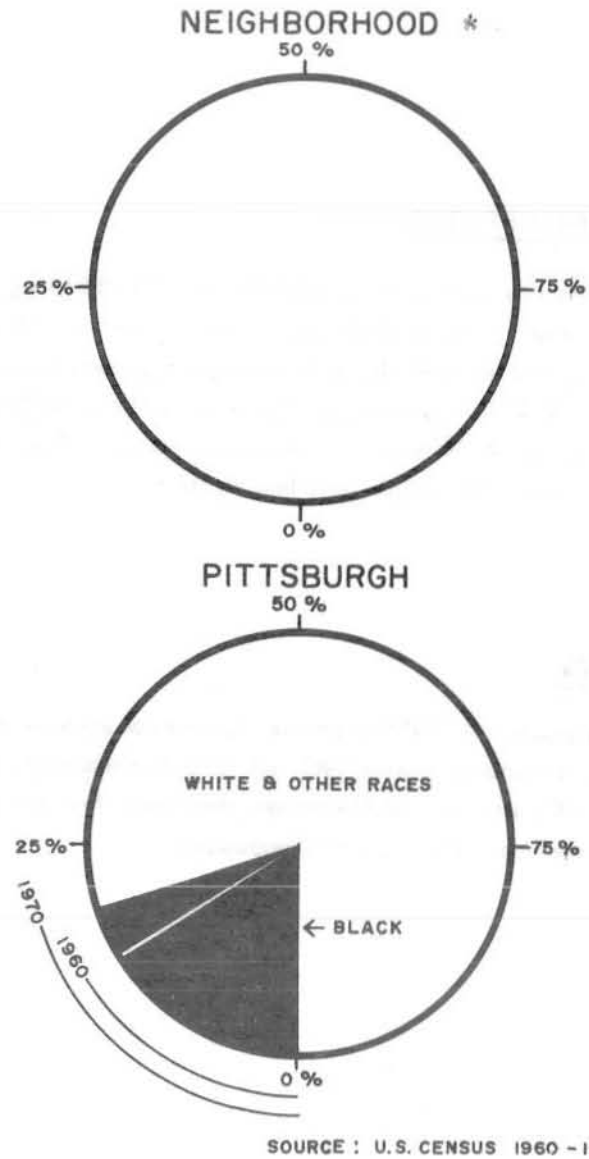
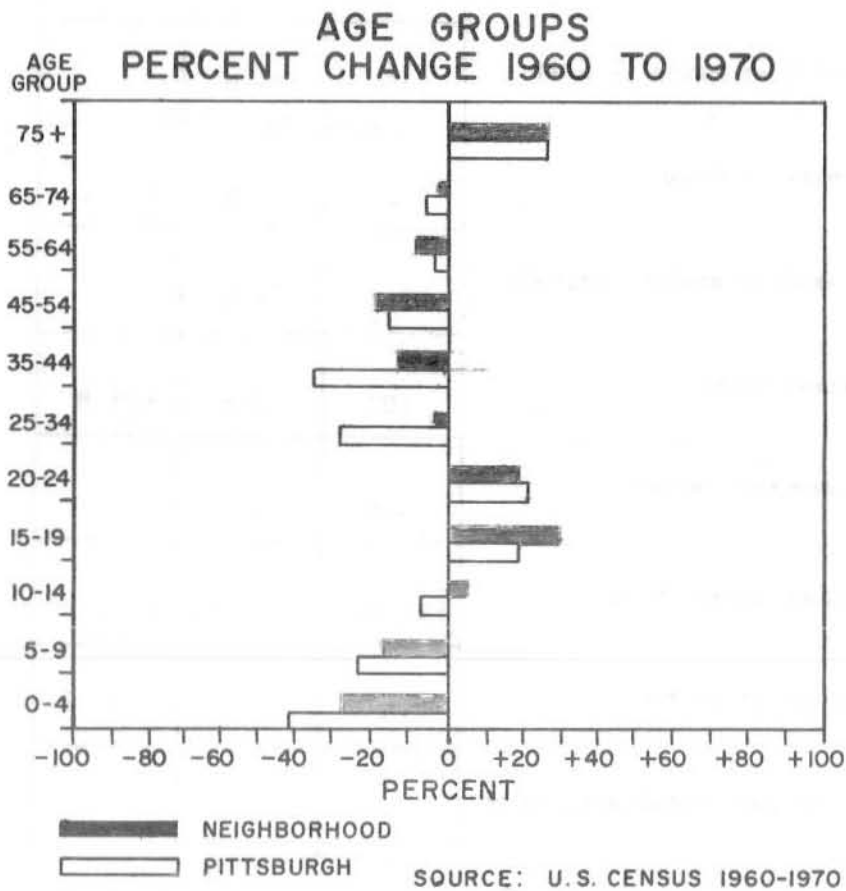
AGE-GROUP CHANGE, 1960-1970

Four age brackets increased in population between 1960 and 1970 in the neighborhood. For the city, population in the 15-19, 20-24, and the 75 years and older age groups increased.

RACE

Black population in Squirrel Hill N. constituted .9% of its 1960 population, and 1.4% of its 1970 population. For Pittsburgh, the Black population increased from 16.7% in 1960, to 20.2% in 1970.

BLACK POPULATION, 1960 - 1970



POPULATION

* Black population less than 2% in 1960 and 1970.

OCCUPANCY STATUS 1960 - 1970

OCCUPANCY STATUS

In 1960, total housing units numbered 6,426; in 1970, 6,640, representing a +3.3% change. A total of 56.0% were owner-occupied in 1970, compared to 47.2% citywide. In 1960, 182 units were vacant, as compared to 218 vacancies in 1970. This represents a 3.2% vacancy rate for 1970 as compared to the city's 6.2%. Overcrowded units comprised 1.9% of the 1960, and 1.8% of the 1970 neighborhood housing stock.

MOBILITY

For the neighborhood, 8,043 people over five years of age have changed their place of residence between 1965 and 1970. This represents 40% of its population. For the city, 159,774 changed their place of residency during those years, which is 33% of the total population.

	1960	1970	PERCENT CHANGE
TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	6426	6640	+ 3.3
TOTAL OCCUPIED UNITS	6244	6422	+ 2.8
OWNER OCCUPIED	3724	3724	0.0
PERCENT OWNER OCCUPIED	57.9	56.0	
RENTER OCCUPIED	2520	2698	+ 7.1
PERCENT RENTER OCCUPIED	39.2	40.6	
VACANT UNITS	182	218	+19.8
PERCENT VACANT	2.8	3.2	
MEDIAN MARKET VALUE	\$26,050	\$36,650	+ 40.7
MEDIAN GROSS RENT	\$ 118.	\$ 151.	+ 27.9
PERCENT OVERCROWDED UNITS	1.9	1.8	

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1960 - 1970

BUILDING ACTIVITY, 1972

In 1972, there were 71 building permit applications in this neighborhood, at an estimated construction cost of \$1,517,746. For the entire city, 4,002 permits were issued, accounting for construction in excess of \$53 million.

Also in 1972, there were 1.05 new housing units constructed per 1,000 existing units, and 8.88 alterations per 1,000 units in the neighborhood. City-wide 3.6 new housing units and 16.2 alterations were undertaken per every 1,000 existing units.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED IN 1972

	NUMBER OF PERMITS	ESTIMATED COST
NEW HOUSING UNITS	2	\$90,000
OTHER NEW STRUCTURES	3	\$651,500
EXTENSIONS & ADDITIONS	7	\$ 55,800
ALTERATIONS	59	\$218,246
TOTAL	71	\$1,517,746

SOURCE : BUREAU OF BUILDING INSPECTION

**EDUCATION: YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED BY PERSONS
25 YEARS AND OVER, 1960-1970**

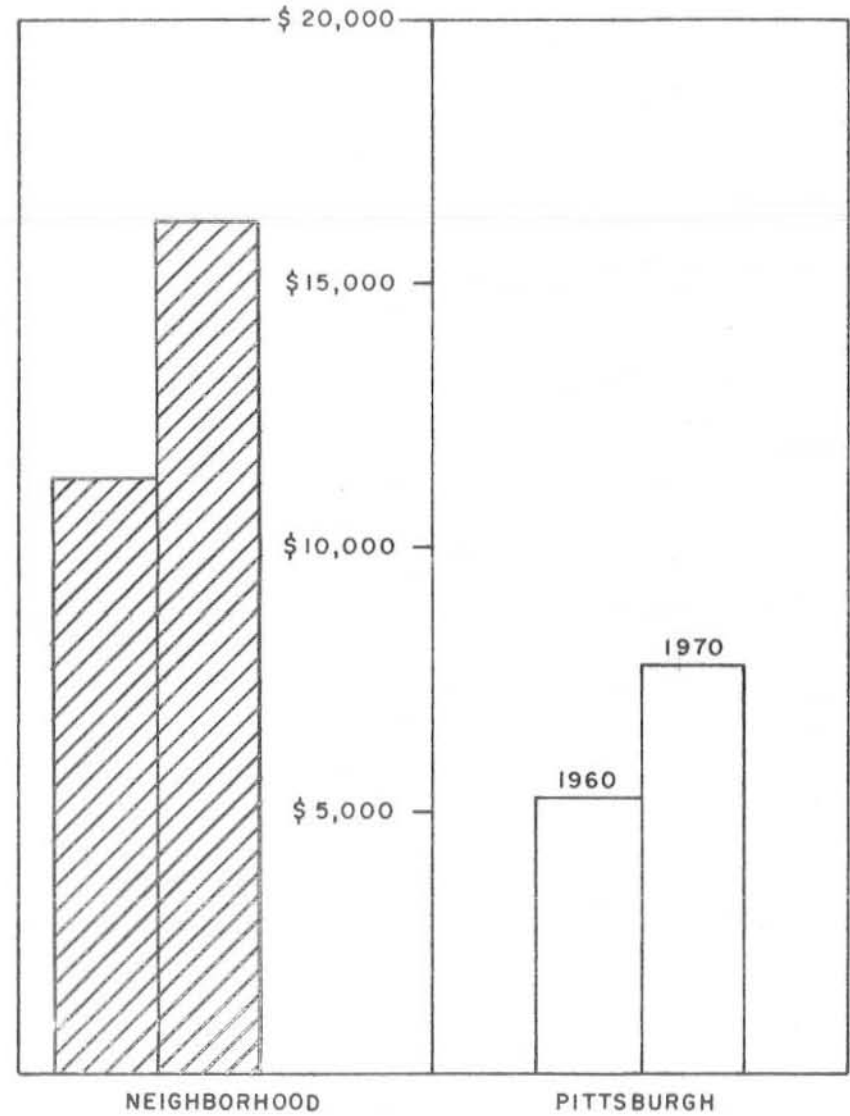
The 1970 Census indicates that, of those local residents, aged 25 and over, the largest percentage have attained a college education. In 1960, the largest percentage had attained a college education.

**SCHOOL YEARS
COMPLETED BY PERSONS
25 YEARS & OVER
1960-1970**

	1960	PERCENT OF TOTAL	1970	PERCENT OF TOTAL
NO SCHOOLING	164	1.3	110	.9
ELEMENTARY (1-8 YRS.)	1868	14.8	1243	10.7
HIGH SCHOOL (1-3 YRS.)	1341	10.6	870	7.5
HIGH SCHOOL (4 YRS.)	3028	23.9	2998	25.9
COLLEGE (1-3 YRS.)	2136	16.9	1551	13.4
COLLEGE (4 YRS.)	4124	32.6	4809	41.5
TOTAL	12,661	100.0	11,581	100.0

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1960-1970

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, 1960 - 1970

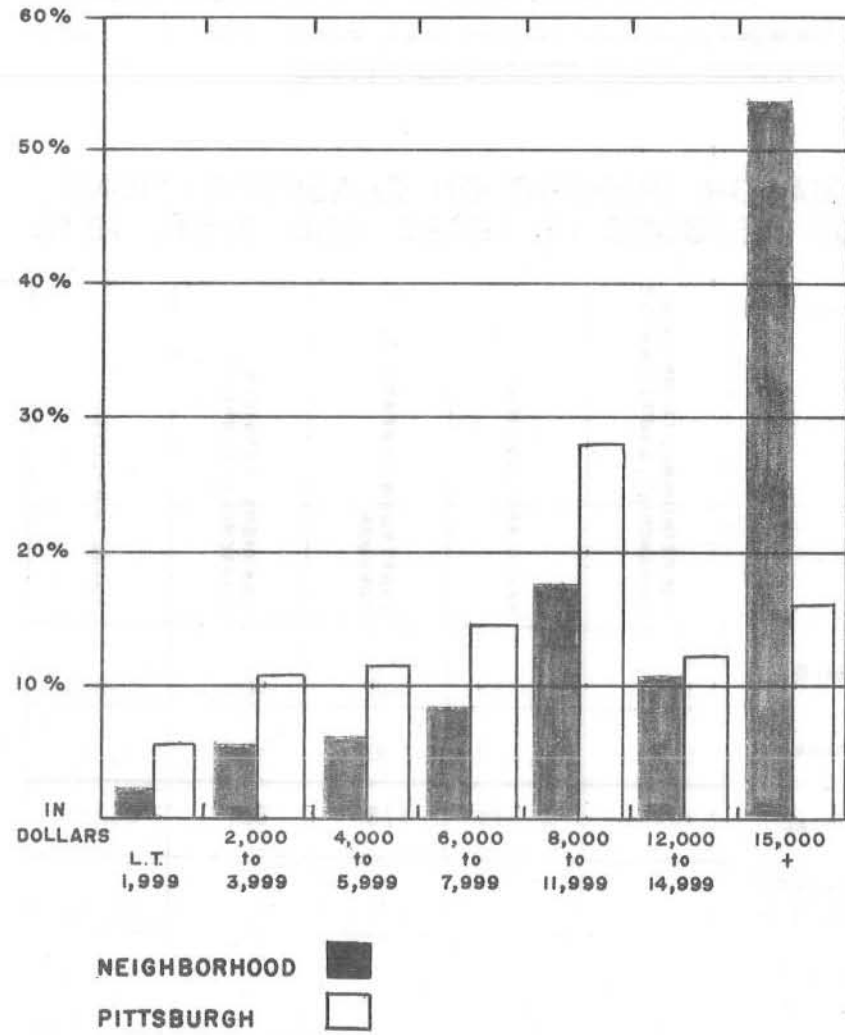


SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1960-1970

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION
OF FAMILY INCOME
BY INCOME RANGES
(IN DOLLARS)**

INCOME, MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, 1960-1970

The median income for Squirrel Hill N. families was \$11,284 in 1960. In 1970, the median family income was \$16,140, representing a ten year change of 43.0%. Citywide, the median family income rose from \$5,605 in 1960, to \$8,800 in 1970, a 57% change.



SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS 1970

**OCCUPATION: MAJOR OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATIONS
OF PERSONS 14 YEARS AND OVER, 1970**

The largest percentage of people in this neighborhood work in professional positions. This group constitutes 54% of the employed population. The largest percentage of people in the city work in sales & clerical positions, which represents 28% of the total population.

**MAJOR OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATIONS
OF PERSONS 14 YEARS AND OVER, 1970**

	PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL, MANAGERIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE	SALES AND CLERICAL	CRAFTSMEN, OPERATIVES, FOREMEN	LABORERS, SERVICES, HOUSEHOLD WORKERS	TOTAL EMPLOYED
MALE	3,111	1,025	548	400	5,084
FEMALE	1,330	1,270	130	437	3,167
TOTAL	4,441	2,295	678	837	8,251
PERCENT OF TOTAL	53.81	27.81	8.21	10.14	100.00

SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS 1970

**PERSONS RECEIVING
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN 1972**

ASSISTANCE TYPE	NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION
OLD AGE	23	.10
BLIND	6	.02
AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN	164	.77
GENERAL	78	.36
AID TO DISABLED	18	.08
TOTAL	289	1.33

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE
MARCH 2, 1973

ARRESTS FOR MAJOR CRIMES IN 1972

CRIME	NUMBER OF ARRESTS	CRIME RATE
MURDER	0	0
RAPE	5	.02
ROBBERY	62	.29
ASSAULT	45	.21
BURGLARY	365	1.72
LARCENY	339	1.60
TOTAL	816	3.84

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 1972

Of the neighborhood's total population, 1% received public assistance in 1972. Citywide, 14% of the population received some kind of assistance in the same year.

ARRESTS FOR MAJOR CRIMES, 1972

The crime rate listed here represents the number of arrests that were made for major crimes in 1972 as a ratio of the total population of the area. Major crimes are defined as murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, and larceny. In 1972, the crime rate for this neighborhood was 3.84 ; for Pittsburgh, the rate was 4.71.

SOURCE: ANNUAL REPORT OF MAJOR CRIMES
CITY OF PITTSBURGH
POLICE DEPARTMENT, 1972

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities which serve Squirrel Hill N. are not limited to those located within the confines of Squirrel Hill N. Although there are many community facilities in the general vicinity, this list is limited to police and fire stations, public libraries, public schools, City of Pittsburgh recreational facilities (indoor and outdoor), major hospitals, and major colleges and universities.

Community facilities for this neighborhood include:

Squirrel Hill

Public Facilities

Police District No. 6

Fire Engine & Truck Company No. 34

Squirrel Hill Carnegie Library

Schools

Linden Elementary

Wightman Elementary

Minadeo Elementary

Davis Elementary

Sterrett Elementary

Park Place Elementary

Colfax Elementary

Taylor Allderdice High School

Recreational Facilities

Schenley Park

Davis Playground

Frick Park

Park Place Parklet

Wightman Playground

Sterrett Playground

Colleges

Carnegie Mellon University

Chatham College

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Stephen Reichstein, Deputy Director

Nicholas A. Del Monte, Cartographer

This Document was prepared with the invaluable assistance
of Planning Aides:

Janice M. Coyne

Elisa L. Ventura

