An Atlas of the Sheraden Neighborhood of Pittsburgh 1977



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PITTSBURGH NEIGHBORHOOD ATLAS

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INTRODUCTION

The Pittsburgh Neighborhood Alliance was formed in 1969 by a number of neighborhood organizations that were concerned with improving the city's neighborhoods and their relations with city government. The members of the Alliance recognized that in order to negotiate effectively with city government about such major concerns as public service needs, capital improvements and transportation, it was necessary to obtain accurate, up-to-date information about the neighborhoods. Unfortunately, this information was not available.

To remedy this situation, the Alliance developed its Pittsburgh Neighborhood Atlas project. First, the boundaries of the city's neighborhoods had to be determined. The Pittsburgh Neighborhood Atlas asked people attending community meetings to name and describe the boundaries of the neighborhoods in which they lived. This information was also provided by an Atlas-initiated survey. Responses from every voting district of the city were analyzed to assure citizen involvement at the neighborhood level. Seventy-eight neighborhoods were thus identified, each made up of one or more whole voting districts in order to comply with provisions in Pittsburgh's home rule charter relating to the election of community advisory boards.

The Atlas then gathered a body of useful and up-to-date information for every neighborhood. It is the beginning of a neighborhood information system that more closely reflects neighborhood boundaries as defined by residents instead of by public officials. In the past, statistics about sections of the city have been based on information published for relatively large areas such as census tracts. For the atlas, much of the material describing neighborhood characteristics came from figures compiled for smaller areas: voting districts or census blocks. As a result, detailed information is now available for neighborhoods whose boundaries differ substantially from census tract boundaries.

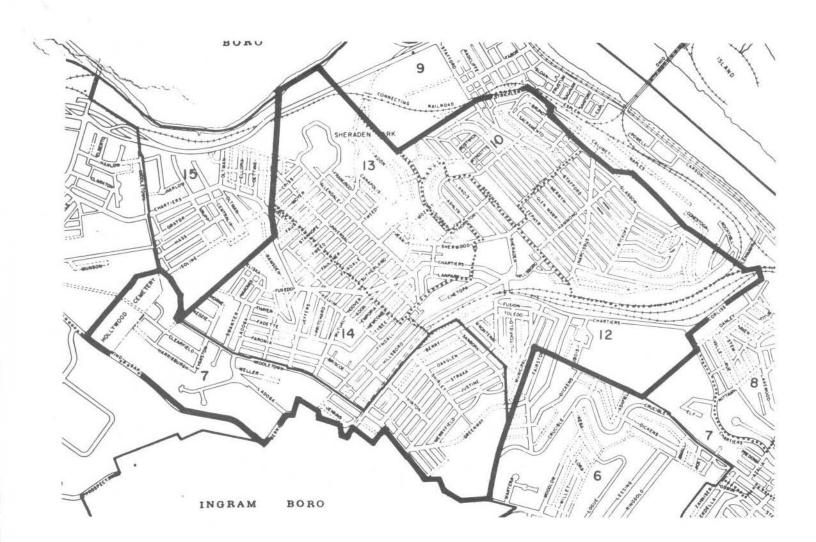
The information in this atlas provides an insight into current neighborhood conditions and the direction in which the neighborhood is moving. The best indicators showing the health of the neighborhood are provided by citizen satisfaction with the neighborhood, and changes in residential real estate transaction prices. Comparison of these statistics to those for the entire city provide a basis to begin understanding issues of neighborhood stability. In the years to come, as additional data are gathered for each of these indicators, trends will become more obvious.

It is important to recognize that neighborhood change is a complex process and that one indicator by itself may not be useful. Neighborhoods may be healthy regardless of their level of income, and therefore income-related statistics may not be useful guides by themselves. Neighborhoods must be viewed over time in terms of relative changes compared to the city as a whole, and any analysis of neighborhood conditions must focus upon all of the data in order to provide a comprehensive understanding.

To learn about specific sections of the neighborhood, figures by individual voting district or census tract may be obtained. Additional information on the neighborhood or the information system is available through the Center for Urban Research of the University of Pittsburgh, which has made an outstanding contribution to the development of this atlas.

NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Sheraden is approximately 3.3 miles west of downtown. It is estimated to be 640.6 acres in size, containing 1.9% of the city's land and 2.1% of its 1974 population. The voting districts in the neighborhood are #10, #11, #12, #13 and #14, Ward 20; and #7, Ward 28. (See Appendix for a listing of the neighborhood's census tracts.)



NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY SHERADEN

Sheraden, once a village on the railroad about four and a half miles west of Pittsburgh, was named for William Sheraden, a truck farmer and the generally accepted father of the community.

Sheraden moved to Allegheny County from his Mount Pleasant, Ohio birthplace in 1822. In 1858, Sheraden bought 122 acres of land from Mrs. Sara Bailey.
Not long after, a proposal was made to build the railroad line through the farm.
Judge Jewett, head of the new railroad company, and a Mr. Timmons, chief engineer,
called on Sheraden to get a right of way, asking what remuneration he desired.
Sheraden requested only that a railway station be placed on the site. The small
frame station erected there was used as both a telegraph office and waiting room
for passengers, and was named Sheraden Station by the appreciative company.

The nucleus of the community of Sheraden was laid out by N. P. Sawyer in 1859. Sawyer purchased about 100 acres of land lying between the railroad tunnel and Chartiers Creek from Frances King of Philadelphia. The land had been called Ashchenaz, a Biblical name derived from the 51st chapter, 57th verse of Jeremiah, where it is mentioned as the name of a kingdom and denotes, it is said, pleasant land.

Immediately after the town's first settlement, Sawyer erected a waterworks, of necessity a crude affair, but adequate at the time for residents' needs. Its cistern was above the railroad tunnels and its water supplied by a hydraulic ram.

With more and more homes going up, William Sheraden saw the need for a post office. Having first obtained approval from the Pittsburgh Post Office, Sheraden sent his son, W. J., at his own expense, to Washington to meet with postal officials. The Postmaster General gave his consent to establishment of the post office.

A progressive citizen, the elder Sheraden took a lively interest in educational matters and served as school board president. Through his efforts a number of schools were established, including a country school located on a piece of his farm land. Sheraden died in 1901 at the age of 81. In 1906, as a tribute to him, Andrew Patterson changed the community's name to Sheraden.

Sheraden was annexed to the City of Pittsburgh on November 21, 1907. The neighborhood is well supplied with churches, with many Christian denominations represented.

SHERADEN

Summary Statistics

	Neighborhood	Pittsburgh
Population (1974) % Change (1970-1974)	10,258 +3%	479,276 -8%
% Black population (1970)	2%	20%
Housing units (1974) % Vacant	3,135 3%	166,625
% Owner-occupied housing units (1974)	74%	54%
Average sales price of owner-occupied dwellings (1975)	\$18,803	\$23,518
% Residential real estate transactions with mortgages provided by financial institutions (1975)	67%	59%
Crime rate (1975)	0.023	0.053
Income index as % of city index (1974)	98%	
% Satisfied with neighborhood (1976)	44%	41%
Major neighborhood problems (1976)	Poor roads Dog litter Stray dogs	Poor roads Dog litter Burglary

CITIZEN SURVEY

The purpose of the citizen survey was to obtain attitudes about the quality of the neighborhood environment. Citizens were asked to respond to questions concerning the neighborhood as a whole, neighborhood problems, and public services. The attitudinal data, heretofore not available, are key indicators of the relative health of the neighborhood. By specifying neighborhood problems or public service needs, the information may be a useful guide for public investment or service delivery decisions.

The city-wide survey was mailed to a randomly selected sample of registered voters. Of approximately 35,000 households contacted, 9,767 responded. The sample provides a 5% response rate for each of the city's 423 voting districts. (See Appendix for a profile of the respondents as well as for statistics on voter registration.)

I. Neighborhood Satisfaction

Sheraden residents are generally more satisfied with their neighborhood than residents city-wide. Table 1 shows that 44% of the citizens responding to the survey were satisfied with their neighborhood compared to 41% in all city neighborhoods. When asked to state whether the neighborhood is better or worse than two years ago, 10% said that it was better which was less than the city-wide response of 12%. Given the opportunity to move from the neighborhood, 41% said they would continue to live there compared to a response of 45% for the city as a whole. The responses to these satisfaction questions indicate a mixed attitude of residents toward their neighborhood compared to citizens city-wide.

TABLE 1

Neighborhood Satisfaction Sheraden

Question 1: Generally, how satisfied are you with conditions in this neighborhood?

	Satisfied (%)	Dissatisfied (%)	Neither (%)
Sheraden	44	33	21
All neighborhoods	41	37	21

Question 2: Do you think this neighborhood has gotten better or worse over the past two years?

	Better (%)	Worse (%)	Not Changed (%)
Sheraden	10	48	39
All neighborhoods	12	49	36

Question 3: If you had your choice of where to live, would you continue living in this neighborhood?

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Not Sure (%)
Sheraden	41	32	21
All neighborhoods	45	32	18

SOURCE: Citizen Survey, 1976,

NOTE: The percent responses to each question do not add up to 100%. The difference is accounted for by the following: "don't know", "unable to evaluate" or no answer.

II. Neighborhood Problems

In order to identify specific neighborhood problems, residents were asked to consider twelve problems usually associated with urban communities and rate them for the neighborhood. Table 2 compares the problem ratings of the respondents from Sheraden to those from all city neighborhoods. Areas of particular concern for the neighborhood include poor roads, dog litter and stray dogs.

III. Satisfaction with Public Services

Table 3 shows the satisfaction of Sheraden residents with their public services and compares the responses to data for all city neighborhoods. City-wide, residents are least satisfied with street and alley maintenance. Sheraden residents are more satisfied with respect to the fire department and garbage collection, and less satisfied with respect to street and alley maintenance, and parks and recreation.

The Citizen Survey also asked the respondents to list the services with which they were the least satisfied and to explain the reasons for their dissatisfaction. Residents from Sheraden gave the greatest number of reasons for dissatisfaction to the services listed below. Included is a summary of the major reasons for their dissatisfaction.

- 1. Street and alley maintenance; Poor maintenance; need for better street repair program; problems with potholes.
- Parks and Recreation: Need more general recreational facilities, (e.g., equipment and playgrounds); need better supervision in recreational areas.
- Police: Insufficient police services; not enough police protection.

TABLE 2 Neighborhood Problems Sheraden

Problem Category Problem Rating - Percent Respon		nt Response		
	1	Not a	Minor or	Big or
		Problem	Moderate	Very Serious
1.	Unsafe streets			
	Sheraden	35	52	9
	All neighborhoods	25	45	21
2.	Vandalism			
	Sheraden	15	57	22
	All neighborhoods	13	49	28
3.	Rats			
	Sheraden	40	35	7
	All neighborhoods	34	33	12
4.	Burglary			
	Sheraden	18	51	22
	All neighborhoods	14	44	29
5.	Poor roads			
	Sheraden	18	44	32 ·
	All neighborhoods	17	41	33
6.	Trash and litter			
	Sheraden	32	44	19
	All neighborhoods	27	41	24
7.	Vacant buildings			
	Sheraden	51	31	8
	All neighborhoods	49	24	13
8.	Undesirable people moving into			
	the neighborhood			
	Sheraden	45	33	12
	All neighborhoods	42	28	15
9.	Stray dogs	122	40-	2.2
	Sheraden	25	45	24
	All neighborhoods	25	38	18
LO.	Dog litter			
	Sheraden	24	41	29
	All neighborhoods	21	38	32

SOURCE: Citizen Survey, 1976.

NOTE: The neighborhood percentages do not add up to 100%. The difference is accounted for by the following responses: "don't know", "unable to evaluate" or no answer. The problem categories of alcoholism and drug abuse are not included in the table because the response rates to these questions were low.

TABLE 3
Satisfaction with Public Services
Sheraden

Service		Per	Percent Response		
		Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfie	
1.	Parks and Recreation				
	Sheraden	49	21	24	
	All neighborhoods	51	15	23	
2.	Schools				
4 .	Sheraden	56	15	19	
	All neighborhoods	46	12	21	
	ATT HEIGHDUINOUS	40	12	21	
3.	Street Maintenance				
	Sheraden	34	16	48	
	All neighborhoods	32	15	49	
4.	Alley Maintenance				
	Sheraden	27	15	40	
	All neighborhoods	20	13	39	
5.	Garbage Collection				
	Sheraden	86	7	6	
	All neighborhoods	74	10	13	
6.	Police				
1771.77	Sheraden	54	19	21	
	All neighborhoods	51	17	23	
7.	Public Transportation				
	Sheraden	81	6	9	
	All neighborhoods	61	11	23	
	AII neighborhoods	01	11	23	
8.	Fire Department				
	Sheraden	88	5	2	
	All neighborhoods	78	7	3	
9.	Sewage System				
	Sheraden	75	8	9	
	All neighborhoods	63	10	13	
0.	Condition and Cost of Housing				
	Sheraden	51	20	11	
	All neighborhoods	44	17	22	

SOURCE: Citizen Survey, 1976.

NOTE: The percent responses to each question do not add up to 100%. The difference is accounted for by the following: "don't know", "unable to evaluate" or no answer. Public health and mental health/retardation services are not included in the table because the response rates to these questions were low.

CRIME RATE

The crime rate for major crimes has fluctuated over the last three years (Table 4). For 1973 the number of major crimes per capita was .021. The crime rate decreased in 1974 to .020; then increased to .023 in 1975. The crime rate in the neighborhood was less than the city per capita rate of .053 in 1975.

TABLE 4

Crime Rate: Major Crimes

Sheraden

	Major Crimes	Crime	Rate
Year	Number	Neighborhood	Pittsburgh
1973	215	.021	.043
1974	202	.020	.047
1975	231	.023	.053

SOURCE: City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Police.

NOTE: Major crimes are murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary and theft. The neighborhood crime rate is computed by dividing the number of crimes committed in the neighborhood by its adjusted population for 1974.

THE PEOPLE

Table 5 and Table 6 present data on the characteristics of the neighborhood population and compare them to city-wide statistics.

In 1974, the population of Sheraden was estimated to be 10,258, up by 3% since 1970. This compares to a city-wide population decline of 8% during the same period. Information on the racial composition of the neighborhood is not available for 1974; however, the number of Black households in the neighborhood decreased during the decade of the sixties, and the Black population was 2.1% of the neighborhood's population in 1970, compared to 20.2% for the city.

The average household size in the neighborhood was 3.05 persons in 1974, down from 1970. The percentage of the population 65 years and older was 12.6% in 1970, compared to 13.5% for the city as a whole.

TABLE 5

Population and Housing Characteristics, 1970 and 1974
Sheraden

	Neighbo	orhood	Pittsburgh	
	1970	1974	1970	1974
Population				
% Black	2.1%		20.2%	
% 65 years and over	12.6%		13.5%	
Households				
% One-person households	16.6%	17.6%	25.4%	25.5
% Retired head-of-households		27.1%		26.3
% Households with children		42.5%		32.7
% Female head-of-household				
with children		5.8%		6.4
% In owner-occupied housing unit	74.3%	73.5%	50.3%	54.2
% Households changing place of				
residence with past year		21.0%		27.0
Average household size	3.24	3.05	2.82	2.67

SOURCES: U. S. Census (1970) and R. L. Polk & Co. (1974).

NOTE: Dotted lines (....) indicate data unavailable for that year.

The turnover rate of households in the neighborhood is less than that for all of the city's neighborhoods. During 1973, 21.0% of the households in the neighborhood changed their place of residence compared to a rate of 27.0% for the city. (The figures represent households who have moved within the neighborhood or city as well as those moving into or out of the neighborhood or city.)

Female-headed households with children in 1974 comprised 5.8% of the total households in the neighborhood compared to 6.4% for the city as a whole. In 1974, one-person households consisted of 17.6% of the total households in the neighborhood compared to 25.5% city-wide and to 16.6% for the neighborhood in 1970.

TABLE 6
Neighborhood Change: 1960-1970 and 1970-1974
Sheraden

	Number	Percent	Change
	Neighborhood	Neighborhood	Pittsburgh
Population			
1960	11,735		
1970	9,975	-15	-14
1974	10,258	+ 3	- 8
Households ¹			
1960	3,428		
1970	3,074	-10	- 6
1974	3,025	- 2	-12
Black Households ²			
1960	60		
1970	48	-20	+15
1974	(Not available)	
Housing Units			
1960	3,523		
1970	3,197	- 9	- 3
1974	3,135	- 2	-12

SOURCES: U. S. Census (1960; 1970) and R. L. Polk & Co. (1974)

NOTE: The population figures reported by Polk are adjusted to account for underreporting. Population includes persons living in institutions and other group
quarters, such as nursing homes, dormitories or jails. Differences in the population, household, or housing unit count between 1970 and 1974 are due primarily
to changes occurring in the neighborhood. A small percentage of the difference
may be accounted for, however, by variations in data gathering techniques. Census statistics were compiled from information provided by all city households
answering a standard questionnaire either by mail or interview on or about April 1,
1970. R. L. Polk collected its information by a door-to-door survey carried out
over a period of several months. (See Appendix.)

¹ The number of occupied housing units equals the number of households.

²Non-white households in 1960.

NEIGHBORHOOD INCOME

The average family income in Sheraden was \$10,100, 96% of the city average, for the year 1969.* R. L. Polk and Company computes an income index for each city census tract. This index, derived from the occupations of heads of households, was used to calculate the income index of the neighborhood. In 1974, the index for Sheraden was 98% of the figure for the city as a whole.

Table 7 shows the number of neighborhood households receiving cash grants in 1974, 1975 and 1976 under the public assistance program of the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare. Public assistance in the form of food stamps, Medicaid and various social services are also available to these households, as well as to other households in need. Public assistance payments were made to 11.9% of the neighborhood households in 1976, a lower proportion than for the city overall and an increase since 1974.

TABLE 7

Public Assistance: Households Receiving Cash Grants

Sheraden

	Neighborhood		Pittsburgh	
Year	Number	Percent	Percent	
1974	304	10.1	16.0	
1975	331	11.0	17.2	
1976	358	11.9	18.0	

SOURCE: Allegheny County Board of Assistance.

NOTE: The percentages are based on 1974 Polk households. Only households receiving cash grants under Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to Dependent Children-Unemployed Parent; General Assistance, and the State Blind Pension programs are tabulated. The count is of those on assistance as of April 5, 1974, February 28, 1975 and February 27, 1976; households whose grants were terminated between reporting dates are not included.

^{*} Data not available for census tract #2801; average family income calculated only for the section of the neighborhood consisting of tracts #2004, #2005, #2006, and part of #2002, part of #2003 and part of #2802.

HOUSING

Table 6 shows that the number of housing units in Sheraden decreased during the decade of the sixties and decreased from 1970 to 1974. Of the occupied housing units in the neighborhood, 73.5% were owner-occupied in 1974 compared to a city-wide rate of 54.2%. The vacancy rate in 1974 for the neighborhood was 3.1% which was less than the city-wide rate.

The average value of owner-occupied housing in the neighborhood was \$12,800 in 1970, compared to a city-wide average of \$14,800.

TABLE 8

Housing Characteristics: 1970 and 1974 Sheraden

	Neighb	orhood	Pitts	burgh
	1970	1974	1970	1974
Housing units				
% Vacant	3.8	3.1	6.2	6.2
% One-unit structures	74.5		52.9	
Occupied housing units				
% Owner-occupied	74.3	73.5	50.3	54.2
Average value: owner- occupied units ¹	\$12,800		\$14,800	

SOURCES: U. S. Census (1970) and R. L. Polk & Co. (1974).

¹ Average value rounded to nearest one hundred dollars.

REAL ESTATE AND MORTGAGE LOAN TRANSACTIONS

The average sales price of owner-occupied housing was \$18,803 in 1975. (See Table 9.) Although the average price was less than the citywide average, the implications of this divergence are difficult to judge because of variations in the quality and size of the structures among city neighborhoods. As additional data are obtained, however, the trend in real estate prices for the neighborhood can be compared to the trend for the city as a whole in order to determine relative differences.

In order to evaluate the extent to which private lenders are involved in the neighborhood, the number of mortgage loans made on residential property each year must be divided by the number of residential real estate transactions for that year. The percentage of residential real estate transactions financed through financial institutions was 67% in 1975 in Sheraden compared to a city-wide rate of 59%. The implications of the difference between the two rates are difficult to discern because of variations in risk factors and income levels among city neighborhoods. However, as additional data become available, trends in lending activity within the neighborhood compared to other neighborhoods or to the city as a whole can be assessed.

TABLE 9

Real Estate and Mortgage Loan Statistics
Sheraden

	Neighborhood	Pittsburgh
Average sales price: owner-occupied dwellings		
1974	\$16,342	\$21,582
1975	\$18,803	\$23,518
Number of residential mortgages		
1973	62	
1974	68	
1975	65	
	li	
% Residential real estate transactions with		
mortgages provided by financial institutions		
1974	65%	58%
1975	67%	59%
•		

SOURCE: City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning.

APPENDIX

- a. <u>Data Sources</u>: Information for the atlas was obtained from the 1960 and 1970 U. S. Census of Population and Housing; R. L. Polk and Company's "Profiles of Change" for Pittsburgh in 1974; Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning and Bureau of Police; the Allegheny County Board of Assistance and Department of Elections and Voter Registration; Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission; and the Citizen Survey conducted by the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Atlas.
- b. Neighborhood Census Tracts: Part of 2002, part of 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, part of 2801 and part of 2802.
- c. <u>Methodology</u>: The opinions and characteristics of survey respondents, as well as voter registration, were recorded by voting district and then compiled for Sheraden by the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Atlas in conjunction with the Center for Urban Research, University of Pittsburgh. Other material in the atlas was drawn from statistics tabulated for city census tracts or census blocks.

The neighborhood boundaries, which were determined on the basis of whole voting districts, do not conform exactly to census tract boundaries, so minor boundary adjustments were made wherever possible to simplify data collection efforts. In Sheraden and in other parts of the city where substantial portions of a census tract fall in more than one neighborhood, the neighborhood characteristics for 1960 and 1970 were arrived at by adding together data for the census blocks in the neighborhood, item by item. The statistics from sources other than the U. S. Census were made available only by census tract, not by census block; therefore, a method for prorating the data among neighborhoods was developed. The procedure allocated data for each neighborhood containing partial census tracts on the basis of the proportion of total tract population, households, or housing units contained in each sub-section.

To compensate for under-reporting, the 1974 figure for the neighborhood population has been increased by 1.11, a factor that was derived from the U. S. Bureau of the Census 1973 population estimate for Pittsburgh. An additional adjustment has been made where applicable, since Polk and Co. does not count persons living in institutions or other group quarters. To arrive at the total estimated population for 1974, the neighborhood population was further increased by adding the number of persons in group quarters for the neighborhood according to the 1970 Census.

d. Characteristics of the Sample: In Sheraden, 210 citizens answered the questionnaire. Based on the number of replies to each question, the characteristics of the respondents can be generally described as follows: an average age of 50; 63% female, 2% Black; 89% with at least four years of high school education; 84% homeowners; and an average of 21 years in the neighborhood. The median household income falls in the range of \$10,000 to \$14,999; the average household size is 3.48 persons; and 52% of the households have no members under 18 years old living in the home.

The total sample (all respondents to the survey) was over-represented by homeowners (68% compared to 50% for Pittsburgh in 1970) and under-represented by Blacks (14% compared to a city Black population of 20% in 1970).

e. <u>Voter Registration</u>: In November, 1976, 4,647 residents of the neighborhood were registered to vote, a decrease of 48 (-1.0%) since November, 1975. In this period, city registration increased by 1.3% to 233,028 persons.

In the process of collecting data for this publication, the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Atlas staff was assisted by many community organizations. The following list reflects the organization that we were able to make contact in Sheraden:

Sheraden Improvement Council 541 Sherwood Avenue Pittsburgh, Pa. 15204 (1963)

Note: Date in parenthesis indicate when organization started.