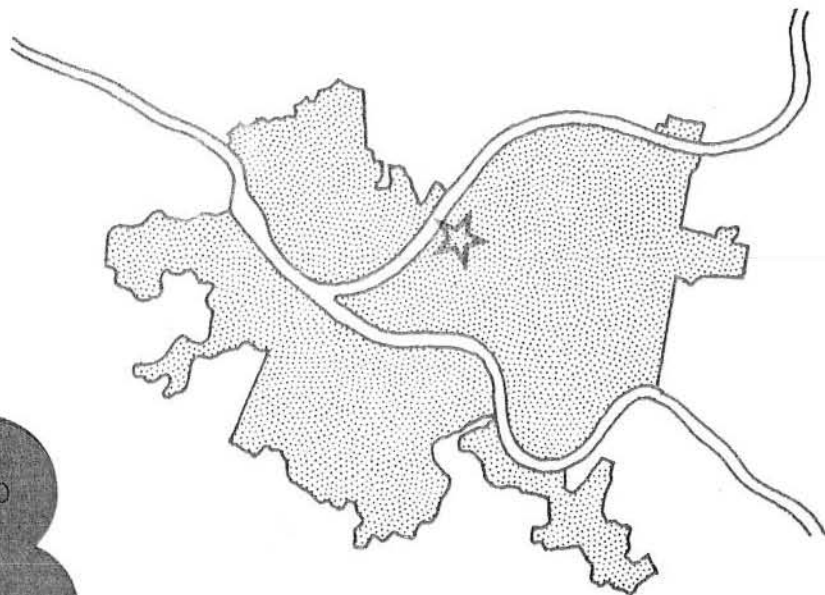


# a community profile of *polish hill*



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

0600



## 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.

## POLISH HILL

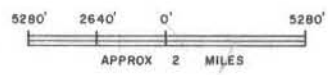
Polish Hill is known to most by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church dome, a landmark to any person using Bigelow Boulevard. The church, and the square it dominates, is a symbolic center of this closely knit community.

Residents are largely descendants of Polish families who came to work in the mills along the Allegheny River Valley. These families, seeking to better themselves, moved up the slope to escape the noise and smoke of the valley.

Most of the housing is the original frame construction, built in rows or as small detached single family dwellings located across the slope which rises from the valley to Bigelow Boulevard.

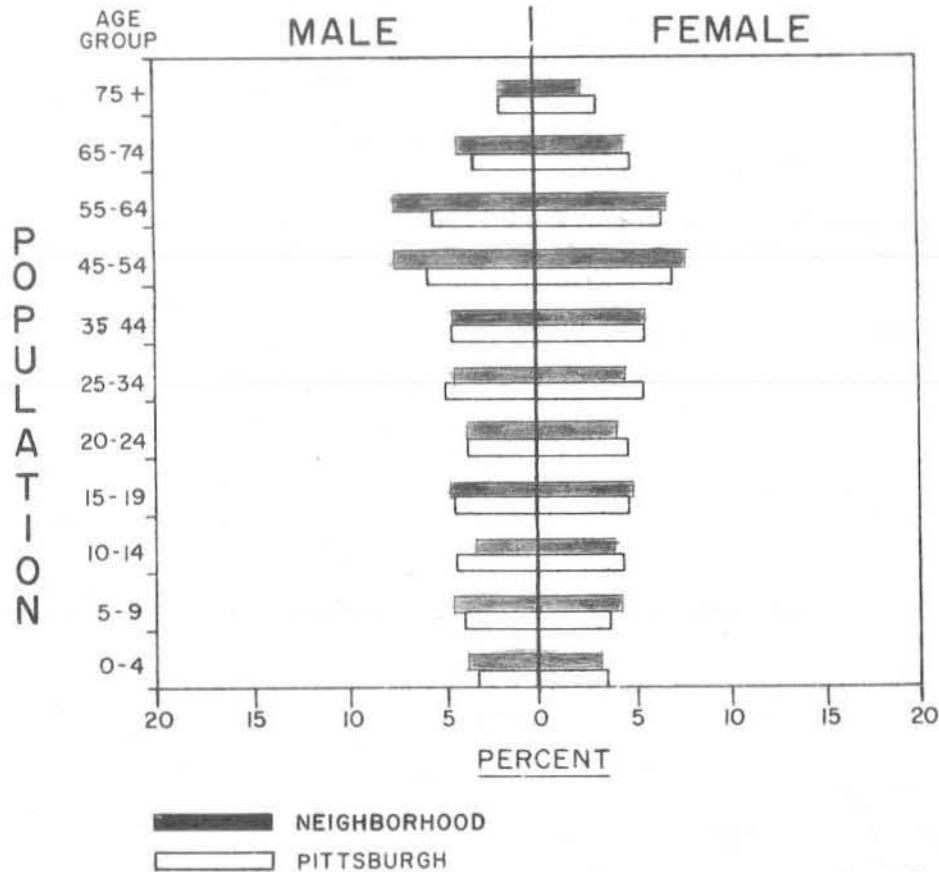
Present Polish Hill residents are keeping alive the traditions of their ethnic heritage and bettering their community. As individuals and through strong community association, residents are continually striving to halt the population decline and increase the quality of life in Polish Hill.

Polish Hill is generally considered to be that area of the city along Bigelow Boulevard, from the Bloomfield Bridge to 27th Street, and down the slope to the valley below. For statistical purposes, the community is included in Census Tracts 602 and 605.



— CENSUS TRACT OUTLINE  
 — NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLINE

## AGE - SEX COMPOSITION



Source: U. S. CENSUS 1970

### AGE-SEX COMPOSITION, 1970

According to the 1970 Census, the greatest portion of Polish Hill's population falls in the age 45-54 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.

### POPULATION CHANGE, 1960-1970

The population of Polish Hill has changed from 4,120 in 1960 to 3,005 in 1970, representing a -27.1% 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-family - no 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 37.6 years; for the city it is 33.6 years.

### AGE-GROUP CHANGE, 1960-1970

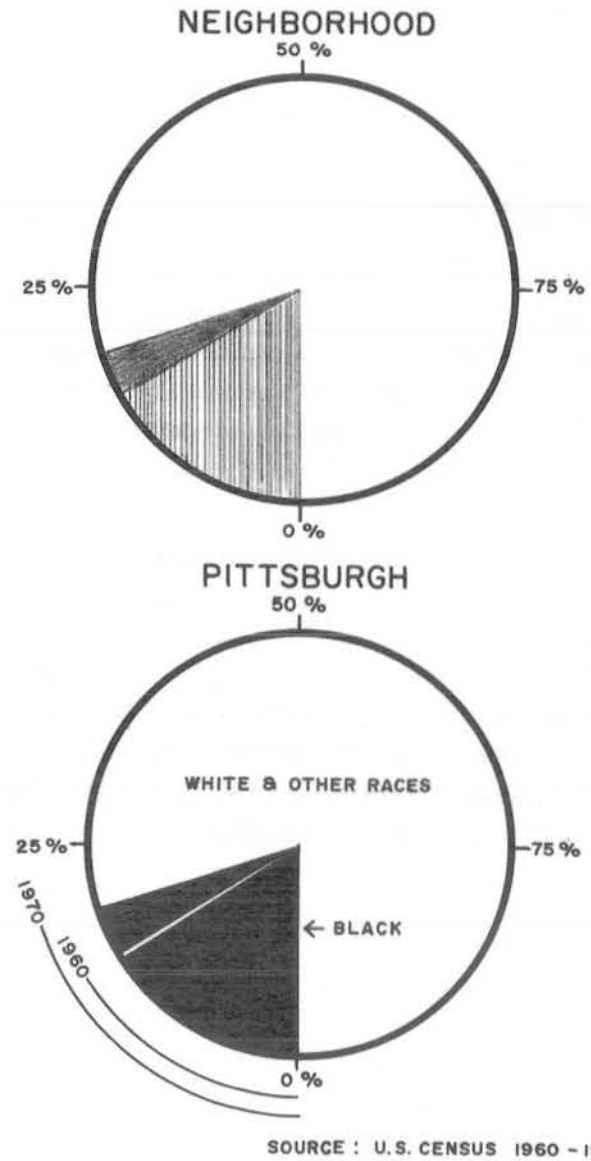
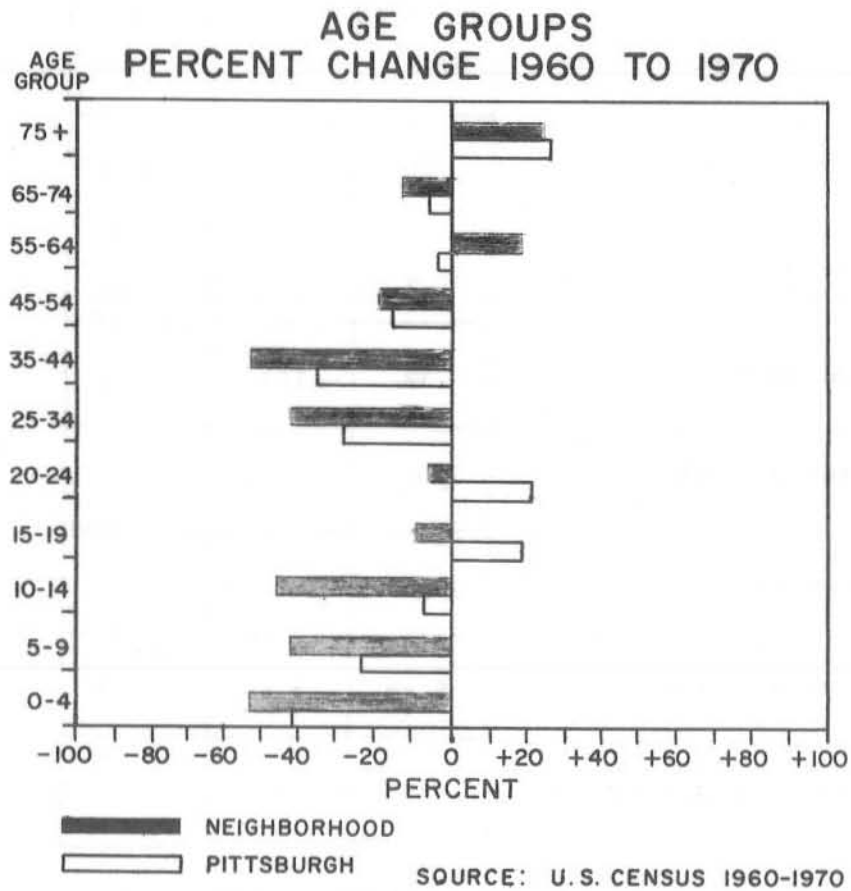
Two age brackets increased in population between 1960 and 1970 in the neighborhood. For the city, population in the 15-19, 20-24, and the 75 years and older age groups increased.

# BLACK POPULATION, 1960 - 1970

## RACE

Black population in Polish Hill constituted 16.7% of its 1960 population, and 14.2% of its 1970 population. For Pittsburgh, the Black population increased from 16.7% in 1960, to 20.2% in 1970.

POPULATION



## OCCUPANCY STATUS 1960 - 1970

### OCCUPANCY STATUS

In 1960, total housing units numbered 1,281; in 1970, 1,225, representing a -4.4% change. A total of 40.8% were owner-occupied in 1970, compared to 47.2% citywide. In 1960, 38 units were vacant, as compared to 163 vacancies in 1970. This represents a 13.3% vacancy rate for 1970 as compared to the city's 6.2%. Overcrowded units comprised 18.2% of the 1960, and 9.7% of the 1970 neighborhood housing stock.

### MOBILITY

For the neighborhood, 597 people over five years of age have changed their place of residence between 1965 and 1970. This represents 22% 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	1281	1225	- 4.4
TOTAL OCCUPIED UNITS	1243	1062	- 14.5
OWNER OCCUPIED	501	501	0.0
PERCENT OWNER OCCUPIED	39.9	40.8	
RENTER OCCUPIED	742	561	- 24.3
PERCENT RENTER OCCUPIED	57.9	45.7	
VACANT UNITS	38	163	+328.9
PERCENT VACANT	2.9	13.3	
MEDIAN MARKET VALUE	\$ 5655	\$ 6922	+ 22.4
MEDIAN GROSS RENT	\$ 48	\$ 63	+ 31.2
PERCENT OVERCROWDED UNITS	18.2	9.7	

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1960 - 1970



**BUILDING ACTIVITY, 1972**

In 1972, there were 20 building permit applications in this neighborhood, at an estimated construction cost of \$89,762 . For the entire city, 4,002 permits were issued, accounting for construction in excess of \$53 million.

Also in 1972, there were 0.0 new housing units constructed per 1,000 existing units, and 15.49 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		
OTHER NEW STRUCTURES		
EXTENSIONS & ADDITIONS	1	\$ 38,000
ALTERATIONS	19	51,762
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$ 89,762</b>

SOURCE : BUREAU OF BUILDING INSPECTION

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

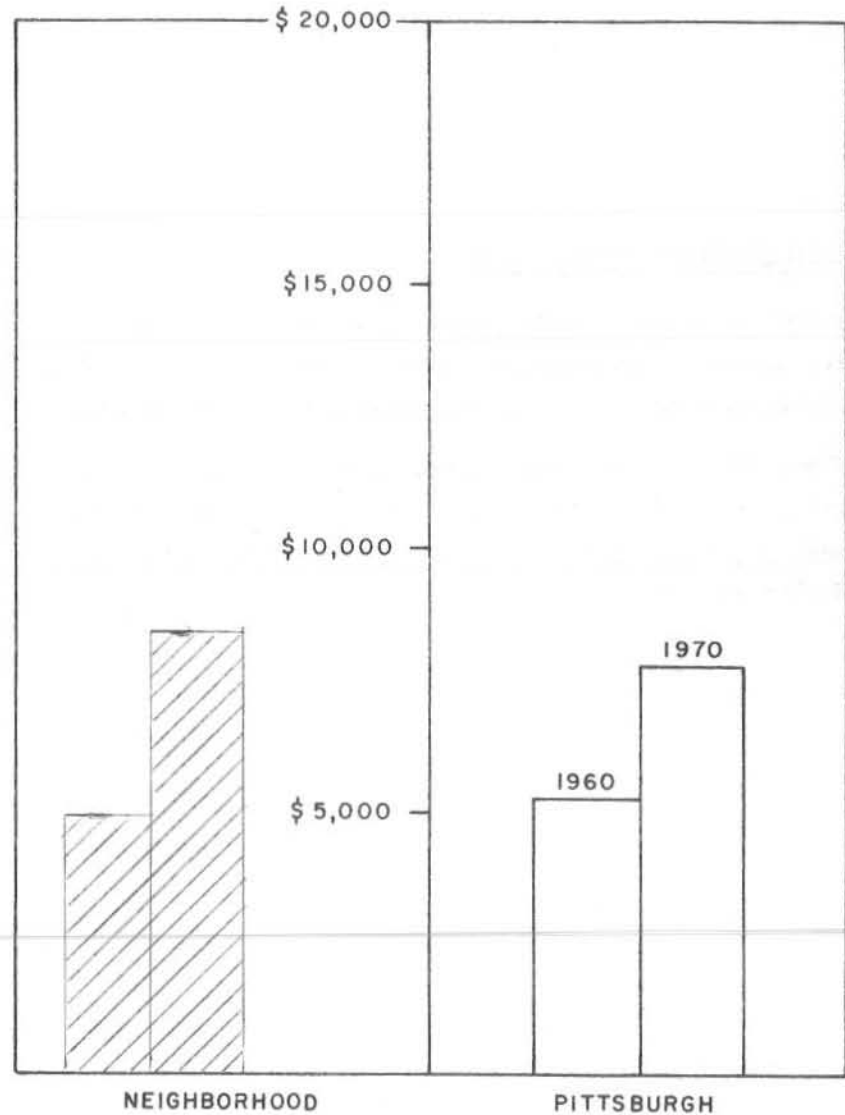
The 1970 Census indicates that, of those local residents, aged 25 and over, the largest percentage have attained a elementary education. In 1960, the largest percentage had attained a elementary education.

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

	1960	PERCENT OF TOTAL	1970	PERCENT OF TOTAL
NO SCHOOLING	112	4.6	48	2.6
ELEMENTARY (1-8 YRS.)	1300	54.0	728	39.3
HIGH SCHOOL (1-3 YRS.)	500	20.8	605	32.6
HIGH SCHOOL (4 YRS.)	409	17.0	418	22.5
COLLEGE (1-3 YRS.)	39	1.6	33	1.8
COLLEGE (4 YRS.)	49	2.0	22	1.2
TOTAL	2409	100.0	1854	100.0

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1960-1970

**MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, 1960 - 1970**

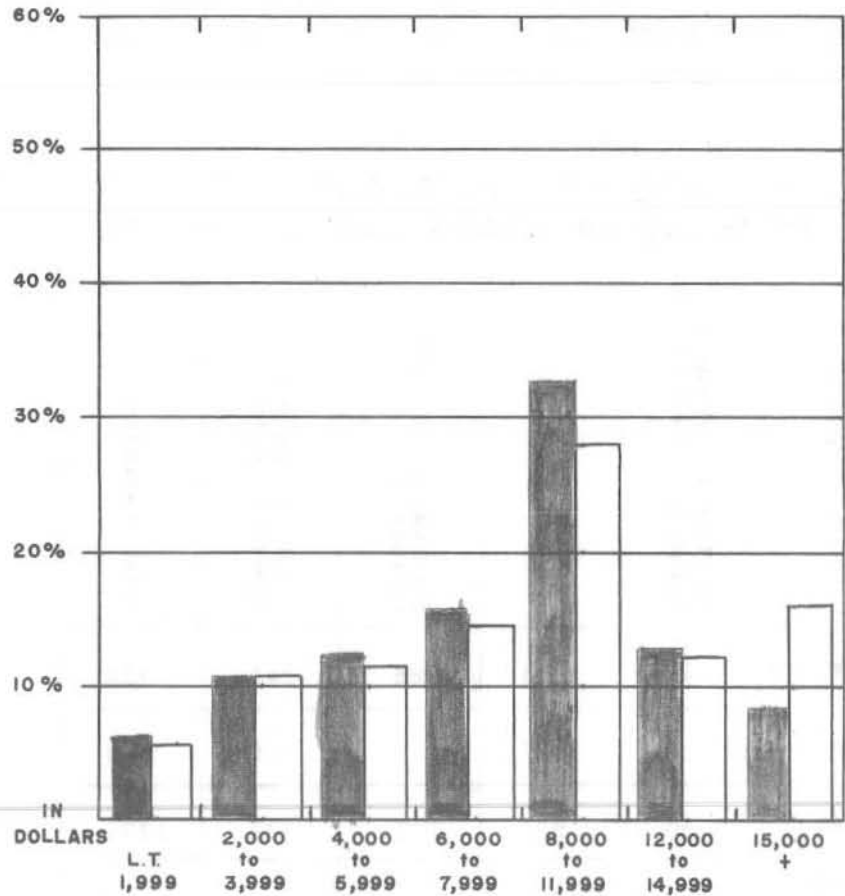


SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1960-1970

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

INCOME, MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME, 1960-1970

The median income for Polish Hill families was \$4,941 in 1960. In 1970, the median family income was \$8,361, representing a ten year change of 68.3%. Citywide, the median family income rose from \$5,605 in 1960, to \$8,800 in 1970, a 57% change.



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NEIGHBORHOOD   
PITTSBURGH

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 craftsmen-foremen positions. This group constitutes 43% 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	41	84	388	245	758
FEMALE	9	187	124	126	446
TOTAL	50	271	512	371	1204
PERCENT OF TOTAL	4.14	22.50	42.52	30.81	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	.76
BLIND	5	.16
AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN	189	6.28
GENERAL	45	1.49
AID TO DISABLED	33	1.09
TOTAL	295	9.78

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

## ARRESTS FOR MAJOR CRIMES IN 1972

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES, 1972

Of the neighborhood's total population, 10% 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 3.03 ; for Pittsburgh, the rate was 4.71.

CRIME	NUMBER OF ARRESTS	CRIME RATE
MURDER	0	.00
RAPE	0	.00
ROBBERY	6	.20
ASSAULT	14	.47
BURGLARY	40	1.33
LARCENY	31	1.03
TOTAL	91	3.03

S O C I O - E C C O N O M I C

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

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Community facilities which serve Polish Hill are not limited to those located within the confines of Polish Hill. 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:

Polish Hill

Public Facilities

No. 3 Police Station

No. 7 and No. 25 Fire Stations

Recreation

West Penn Recreation Center - 30th and Brereton

Melwood Tot Lot

Health

St. Francis Hospital

West Penn Hospital

Schools

Woolslayer Elementary

Arsenal Middle

Schenley High

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