

Individual Property Historic Nomination Form

1. Historic Name of Property: Turney House

1. Current Name of Property: 160 43rd Street

2. Location

a. Street: 160 43rd Street

b. City, State, Zip Code: Pittsburgh PA 15201

c. Neighborhood: Lawrenceville

1. Ownership

a. Owner(s): Carol Peterson

b. Street: 172 46th Street

c. City, State, Zip Code: Pittsburgh PA 15201

Phone: (412)687-0342

1. Classification and Use – Check all that apply

Type

Structure

District

Site

Object

Ownership

Private – home

Private – other

Publ– government

Public - other

Place of religious worship

Current Use:

Single family home

1. Nominated by:

a. Name: Carol Peterson

b. Street: 172 46th Street

c. City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh PA 15201

d. Phone: (412) 687 - 0342 Email: cpeterson155@yahoo.com

2. **DESCRIPTION** Provide a narrative description of the structure, district, site, or object. If it has been altered over time, indicate the date(s) and nature of the alteration(s). (Attach additional pages as needed) *If Known:*

a. Year Built: circa 1851

b. Architectural Style: Greek Revival
c. Architect/Builder: unknown
Narrative: see continuation sheet 1

1. **History** Provide a history of the structure, district, site, or object. Include a bibliography of sources consulted. (Attach additional pages as needed.) Include copies of relevant source materials with the nomination form (see Number 11).
Narrative: see continuation sheet 2

1. **SIGNIFICANCE** The *Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances, Title 11, Historic Preservation, Chapter 1: Historic Structures, Districts, Sites and Objects* lists ten criteria, at least one of which must be met for Historic Designation. Describe how the structure, district, site, or object meets one or more of these criteria and complete a narrative discussing in detail each area of significance. (Attach additional pages as needed)

The structure, building, site, district, object is significant because of (check all that apply):

1. Its location as a site of a significant historic or prehistoric event or activity;
2. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related aspects of the development of the City of Pittsburgh, State of Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
3. Its exemplification of an architectural type, style or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship;
4. Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history or development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
5. Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design or detail;
6. Its location as a site of an important archaeological resource;
7. Its association with important cultural or social aspects or events in the history of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic region, or the United States;
8. Its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development or settlement significant to the cultural history or traditions of the City, whose components may lack individual distinction;
9. Its representation of a cultural, historic, architectural, archaeological, or related theme expressed through distinctive areas, properties, sites, structures, or

objects that may or may not be contiguous; or

10. Its unique location and distinctive physical appearance or presence representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the City of Pittsburgh.

Narrative: see continuation sheet 3

1. Integrity

In addition, the ordinance specifies that “Any area, property, site, structure or object that meets any one or more of the criteria listed above shall also have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation or restoration”. (Attach additional pages as needed)

Narrative: see continuation sheet 4

1. NOTIFICATION/CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNER(S)

1.3(a)(2) Community information process.

Preceding submission of a nomination form for a District, the Historic Review Commission shall conduct at least one (1) public information meeting within or near the boundaries of the proposed district, which shall include at least one (1) member of the Department of City Planning and one (1) Commission member, to discuss the possible effects of designation. Notice shall be given to the owners of property in the proposed district in accordance with Section 1.3(b) below. The final public information meeting shall be held no more than six months before the nomination form is submitted.

1.3(a)(1)(a) Subsection F.

In the case of a nomination as a Historic District, by community-based organizations or by any individual, but in either event the nomination shall be accompanied by a petition signed by the owners of record of twenty-five (25) percent of the properties within the boundaries of the proposed District.

- Please attach documentation of your efforts to gain property owner’s consent.-
NOMINATOR IS OWNER

** The nomination of any religious property shall be accompanied by a signed letter of consent from the property’s owner.

1. Photo logs: *Please Attach* see continuation sheet 5
2. Bibliography: *Please Attach* see continuation sheet 6

3. NOMINATION FORM PREPARED BY:

- a. Name: Carol Peterson
- b. Street: 172 46th Street
- c. City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh PA 15201
- d. Phone: (412) 687-0342__ Email: cpeterson155@yahoo.com
- e. Signature: _____

Continuation Sheet 1

Description:

The house at 160 43rd Street stands at the southwest corner of 43rd and Foster streets in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh. The two-story house, measuring 16 feet wide by 30 feet deep, has a yard along its front (east), south, and rear (west) elevations, and is built to the sidewalk along its north elevation. It is of wood frame construction and is clad in clapboard siding, with vertical corner boards. Its front-gabled roof is clad in slate shingles. The house has box gutters along its north and south sides, with gable returns along its facade and rear elevation. Interior chimneys extend from the roof along the Foster Street elevation and the rear elevation.

The facade, facing 43rd Street, has a centered entrance and no windows on its first story, and one centered window opening on its second story. The front door surround is a modest interpretation of the Greek Revival style, with an entablature above unornamented flat "columns." The front entrance is fitted with a half-light door. The Foster Street (north) elevation has one window on each story. The rear (west) elevation has an offset door opening and two window openings on the first story, and one window opening on the second story. The south elevation's first story has one door opening and two window openings on its first story, and two large and one small window opening. All window openings are fitted with double-hung six-over-six light wood sash windows, with the exception of one small metal casement window on the first story of the rear elevation and one double-hung four-over-four light wood sash window on the second story of the south elevation. The second floor window openings are shorter in height than the second floor window openings. Unornamented frieze boards are below the box gutters and gables.

The house has a concrete sidewalk along 43rd Street and a red brick sidewalk along Foster Street. A carved stone drainage chute is embedded in the 43rd Street sidewalk at the bottom of a downspout. A modern wood picket fence encloses the back yard, and a metal chain link fence encloses the front yard.

A wood frame shed, originally an outhouse, stands at the southwest corner of the property. The structure has a shed roof and is clad in vertical wood planks. Its roof is clad in sheet asphalt. Its door opening is fitted with a four-panel wood door. A cast iron plumbing vent extends from the south end of the roof slope.

The house interior contains modest architectural details that date from its circa 1851 construction, an early 20th century interior remodeling, and a 1996 addition of a second floor bathroom. Its recognizable original interior features are second-floor doors with two vertical panels, similar to a handful of contemporaneous Greek Revival buildings in the neighborhood, associated door hardware, trim around those door openings, and vertical wood planks in the stairway. Components from an early 20th century interior remodeling are door and window trim on the first floor and some doors with five horizontal panels. A 1996 rehab of the house included dividing the rear bedroom to allow for a bathroom. That

work did not remove original materials, but left the circa 1851 two-panel door to that bedroom in place.

A six-inch wood pin or nail that is visible in the basement is typical of houses built in Pittsburgh before the Civil War. Work on the house in 1996 revealed a transitional construction type, with elements of both heavy timber-framed and balloon framed construction.

Continuation Sheet 2

History:

The site of 160 43rd Street was part of property between present 42nd and 47th streets below Butler Street that the Ewalt family owned during much of the 19th century. In 1846, Samuel Ewalt conveyed property between present 42nd and 43rd streets to David S. Williams. Williams subdivided the property into house lots.

Lucian B. Turney purchased property that included the site of 160 43rd Street from David S. and Sarah G. Williams on March 1, 1851. Turney paid \$375 for the property, measuring 28' along present 43rd and 42nd streets by 128' along the side lot lines. The price indicates that the property contained no buildings.

Turney was omitted from the next Pittsburgh directory that listed Lawrenceville residents, published in 1856. Beginning in 1857, directories listed him as living on 43rd (then Ewalt) Street. No other records help document the house's construction. It is likely, however, that Turney built 160 43rd Street within a short time after he bought the lot. The house's Greek Revival features, with no trace of the Italianate style that became popular locally later in the 1850s, suggest construction in the early 1850s. The house's modest size, together with Turney's occupation as a carpenter, suggest that Turney would have been able to build the house within a short time after he purchased the lot.

The former outhouse at the rear of the property is shown on an 1884 fire insurance map. The outhouse was still in use in the 1940s, if not later, as recalled by a nearby 43rd Street resident, Dorothy Matthews, who lived in the house during World War II.

Lucian Turney was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, in 1817. His family was prominent; his father, Jacob, was a county commissioner, and a brother, Jacob Jr., served as a district attorney, state senator, and congressman. Turney married Julia Ann Gorgas in the early 1840s. She was born in Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, in 1821. Her father, William Gorgas, was a clock maker and jeweler. Lucian and Julia Turney had five or six children.

The Turney family came to Lawrenceville in the 1840s. The family lived in rented quarters on 41st (then Borough) Street before 160 43rd Street was built. Lucian Turney worked as a carpenter; known records do not identify his employer, or indicate whether he was self-employed. In the 1850s, Turney served on the Lawrenceville borough

council. Records of the 1860 census show that eight members of the family lived in the small four-room house at 160 43rd Street: Lucian B. and Julia Turney, their five children, and Julia's widowed mother Ann Gorgas.

The Turney children included Margaret, who was born in 1845. On September 17, 1862, at age 17, Margaret Turney was one of 78 employees of the Allegheny Arsenal in Lawrenceville who were killed in an explosion of gunpowder. The incident was the worst civilian disaster of the Civil War. Most of the Arsenal employees who died were teenage girls and young women. The Arsenal, where munitions were manufactured for the U.S. Army, was particularly active during the Civil War. The Arsenal was established shortly after the United States government purchased property for it in 1814, and provided the impetus for Lawrenceville's early residential and commercial development. The facility was three blocks from the Turney home.

Another Turney daughter, Olive (1847-1937), became a prominent Western Pennsylvania artist and a member of the Scalp Level artists' colony in rural Cambria County. Turney, according to the website gfineart.com, "was one of the first students at the Pittsburgh School of Design in 1865. As one of George Hetzel's favorites, Turney would soon become the Saturday instructor for students who couldn't attend during the week. In 1872, she graduated with highest honors and became a full-time teacher at the school remaining dedicated as a student, teacher and assistant principal until it closed in 1904.

"During the early days at the School of Design, Olive would join artists and other students on summer sketching trips to Scalp Level. Near Johnstown, Pennsylvania it had plenty of natural beauty with mountain streams and dense forests. She would later have built a small cottage called the "Sketchbox" on the Lehman farm at Scalp Level and spend her summers there long after the other artists abandoned the tradition." As an adult, Turney's Pittsburgh home was on Amber Street in East Liberty.

The Turney family lived at 160 43rd Street until 1865, when Lucian and Julia Turney sold the house. The family later lived in Greensburg.

Patrick M. Cushing purchased 160 43rd Street from the Turneys in 1865. He was a real estate and steamship agent with an office at 4318 Butler Street. He lived at 164 43rd Street, and rented 160 43rd Street to tenants. After his death title to the property passed to a son, William B. Cushing, who lost the property in a 1910 sheriff's sale.

William Rosenberg purchased the property in 1910, and sold it to Mary and Alex Krupa for \$1825 later that year. The Krupas were among hundreds of Polish immigrant families who moved to Lawrenceville between 40th and 47th streets in the early 20th century. Alex Krupa was a self-employed tailor. At the time of the 1920 census, Alex and Mary Krupa lived at 160 43rd Street with their five children, ages two through 11. Alex Krupa died in 1927. In about 1940, Mary Krupa divided the four-room house into upstairs and downstairs apartments. The house's first bathroom, which occupied part of the first-floor kitchen, was added at some point between 1945 and 1970.

Mary Krupa owned 160 43rd Street until she died in 1965. Her estate sold the house to Cornelius and Freda Driscoll in 1967. The Driscoll family owned the house until 1996. Carol Peterson purchased the house in 1996, after it had been vacant and deteriorating for a few years. Peterson did a restoration that included returning the house to single-family use, removing asphalt shingles that covered the clapboard, and installing the house's first furnace. In 1997, Mayor Tom Murphy and the Historic Review Commission awarded Peterson a certificate of recognition for exterior restoration of the house.

Continuation Sheet 3

Significance:

The property at 160 43rd Street is significant under four of the Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances criteria for historic designation.

3. The property is significant as an example of a modest interpretation of Greek Revival architecture. The Greek Revival style is less common in Pittsburgh than later 19th century architectural styles, because fewer buildings survive from that time. Lawrenceville today contains about ten or fewer Greek Revival buildings.

7. The property is significant for its association with the 1862 Arsenal explosion, in which Margaret Turney, a resident of the house, was killed. The explosion was the largest civilian disaster of the Civil War. The other dwelling in the neighborhood that was known to be a residence of one of the people killed in the 1862 explosion, the McBride Log House at 184 38th Street, was demolished in 2011.

8. The property is significant for its exemplification of a pattern of neighborhood development. The small scale of the dwelling distinguishes it from other houses along and near 43rd Street. At the time of its construction, the house's size was similar to that of other dwellings near it. Development for about 30 years after the Civil War ended replaced other small, early dwellings with larger brick homes.

The former outhouse on the property also exemplifies Lawrenceville's early development. The neighborhood contains hundreds of houses and other buildings that were built before indoor plumbing became common in new construction in the neighborhood in the late 19th century. The structure is the only former outhouse that is known to remain in Lawrenceville.

10. The property's unique location and distinctive physical appearance make it an established and familiar visual feature of Lawrenceville. The house stands out because of its original wood siding, small scale, and simple Greek Revival details. The former outhouse in the back yard, clearly visible from the public right-of-way, contributes to the property's standing as a familiar neighborhood landmark.

Continuation Sheet 4

Integrity:

The house and former outhouse at 160 43rd Street retains sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make them worthy of preservation.

The house and former outhouse retain their original locations.

The house and former outhouse retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Restoration work on the house in 1996 and 2014 included the removal of asphalt shingles that covered the clapboard siding, the reopening of boarded windows on the north and south elevations, and the relocation of the front door opening to its original centered location from an offset position that made way for a front picture window, as “shadows” on the exposed wood siding indicated, and replication of the original front door surround using the shadow of the original surround and reference to local Greek Revival exterior house components and proportions. Work in 1996 and 2014 also included installation of six-over-six double-hung true divided light wood sash windows made by Allied Millwork.

Removing the asphalt siding in 1996 revealed the shadows of original cornice returns on the facade and rear elevation. The 1996 work on the project did not include rebuilding the cornice returns or box gutters. The 2014 project included reconstructing the front and rear gables and returns with the guidance of local preservation architect Keith Cochran, reconstructing the house’s box gutters (which had been replaced with hanging aluminum gutters), also with Cochran’s guidance, and installing a new slate roof to replace the 18-year-old asphalt shingle roof. All of the 1996 and 2014 work was done with the intention to remain as true as possible to the structure’s original appearance. The owner hired master carpenters for the restoration work.

Work in 2014 also included repairs to the outhouse, which had deteriorated.

Continuation Sheet 5

Photo Log

1. House at 160 43rd Street, facade (east elevation) and north elevation. Looking south. January 2015.
2. House at 160 43rd Street, rear (west) elevation. Looking east. January 2015.
3. House at 160 43rd Street, rear (west) and south elevations. Looking northeast. January 2015.
4. Shed/ former outhouse at 160 43rd Street. Facade (north elevation) and east elevation. Looking south. September 2014.

Continuation Sheet 6

Bibliography:

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1890 *Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania*. John M. Gresham & Company, Philadelphia.

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1872 *Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and the Adjoining Boroughs*. G.M. Hopkins & Company, Philadelphia, 1872.

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1895 *J.M. Kelly's Handbook of Greater Pittsburg*. J.M. Kelly Company, Pittsburgh.

Lowry, Patricia

1997 An Independent Woman. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, January 28, 1997: D-1.

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1997 Turney's City Homes Still Standing. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, January 28, 1997: D-2.

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1. House at 160 43rd Street, facade (east elevation) and north elevation. Looking south. January 2015.



2. House at 160 43rd Street, rear (west) elevation. Looking east. January 2015.

Photo 3: House at 160 43rd Street, rear (west) and south elevations. Looking east. January 2015.



Photo 3: House at 160 43rd Street, rear (west) and south elevations. Looking east. January 2015.



Photo 4: Shed/former outhouse at 160 43rd Street. Façade (north elevation) and east elevation. Looking south. September 2014.