



INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY HISTORIC NOMINATION FORM

HRC Staff Use Only

Date Received:

Parcel No.:

Ward:

Zoning Classification:

Bldg. Inspector:

Council District:

Fee Schedule

Please make check payable to *Treasurer, City of Pittsburgh*

Individual Landmark Nomination:	\$100.00
District Nomination:	\$250.00

1. HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY:

Howe Spring

2. CURRENT NAME OF PROPERTY:

Howe Springs

3. LOCATION

a. Street: South Side of Fifth Ave. between S. Highland Ave. & College St.

b. City, State, Zip Code: _____

c. Neighborhood: Shadyside

4. OWNERSHIP

d. Owner(s): Arnheim & Neely, Inc.

e. Street: 425 N. Craig St. Suite 100

f. City, State, Zip Code: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213 Phone: (412) 391-1900

5. CLASSIFICATION AND USE – Check all that apply

Type

Structure

District

Site

Object

Ownership

Private – home

Private – other

Public – government

Public - other

Place of religious worship

Current Use:

Ornamental

6. NOMINATED BY:

- a. Name: Preservation Pittsburgh
- b. Street: 1501 Reedsdale St., Suite 5003
- c. City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, Pa., 15233
- d. Phone: (412) 256-8755 Email: info@preservationpgh.org

7. 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: 1896, renovated 1910
- b. Architectural Style: 1896, Romanesque; 1910 Neoclassical
- c. Architect/Builder: 1896, Alden & Harlowe (architects), John Schreiner (Contractor); 1910 addition, W.H. Van Tine (architect), contractor unknown.

Narrative: See attached.

8. 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 attached.

9. 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;

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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 attached.

10. 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: _____

11. 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.-

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

12. PHOTO LOGS: *Please Attach*

13. BIBLIOGRAPHY: *Please Attach*

14. NOMINATION FORM PREPARED BY:

a. Name: Preservation Pittsburgh

b. Street: 1501 Reedsdale St., Suite 5003

c. City, State, Zip: Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233

d. Phone: (412) 256.8755 Email: info@preservationpgh.org

e. Signature: _____



HISTORIC NOMINATION – INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE NOMINATION FORM

1. Indicate the original name of the property if it is currently known by a different name; e.g. Union Station.
2. Indicate the current name of the property
3. Indicate the street address for the property. For districts, attach a separate sheet listing the street address of each property included in the nomination and a clear street map of the area showing the boundaries of the proposed district.
4. Indicate the owner of the property and his or her mailing address. For districts, attach a separate sheet listing the owner of each property and his or her mailing address.
5. Check the classification as indicated.
 - a. **“Historic Structure”** means anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires directly or indirectly, a permanent location on the land, including walks, fences, signs, steps and sidewalks at which events that made a significant contribution to national, state or local history occurred or which involved a close association with the lives of people of nations, state or local significance; or an outstanding example of a period, style, architectural movement, or method of construction; or one of the last surviving works of a pioneer architect, builder or designer; or one of the last survivors of a particular style or period of construction.
 - b. **“Historic District”** means a defined territorial division of land which shall include more than one (1) contiguous or related parcels of property, specifically identified by separate resolution, at which events occurred that made a significant contribution to national, state, or local history, or which contains more than one historic structure or historic landmarks, or which contains groups, rows or sets of structures or landmarks, or which contains an aggregate example of a period, style, architectural movements or method of construction, providing distinguishing characteristics of the architectural type or architectural period it represents.
 - c. **“Historic Site”** means the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archaeological value regardless of the value of any existing structures.
 - d. **“Historic Object”** means a material thing of historic significance for functional, aesthetic cultural or scientific reasons that may be, by nature or design, moveable yet related to a specific setting or environment.
6. Indicate the person(s) responsible for the nomination. Please note: According to the Historic Preservation Ordinance:

“Nomination of an area, property, site, or object for consideration and designation as a Historic Structure, Historic District, Historic Site, or Historic Object may be submitted to the Historic Review Commission by any of the following:

- a. The Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh
 - b. A Member of the Historic Review Commission
 - c. A Member of the City Planning Commission
 - d. A Member of the Pittsburgh City Council
 - e. The Owner of Record or any person residing in the City of Pittsburgh for at least one year (for the nomination of a Historic Structure, Site or Object)
 - f. A signed petition of 25% of the owners of record (for the nomination of a Historic District)
7. Write a physical description of the nominated property or district. Include the following information as applicable:
- architectural style(s)
 - arrangement of architectural elements
 - building materials
 - method(s) of construction
 - visual character
 - street pattern
 - density
 - type and arrangement of buildings
 - topography
 - history of the development of the area
8. Provide a narrative history of the structure, district, site, or object. Include the following information when available:
- History of the development of the area;
 - Circumstances which brought the structure, district, site, or object into being;
 - Biographical information on architects, builders, developers, artisans, planners, or others who created or contributed to the structure, district, site, or object;
 - Contextual background on building type(s) and/or style(s);
 - Importance of the structure, district, site, or object in the larger community over the course of its existence.
 - Include a bibliography of all sources consulted at the end. Where historical information is uncertain or disputed, reference sources in the text.
9. Listed below are the categories and criteria for historic designation as set forth in the Pittsburgh Historic Preservation Ordinance. Describe in detail how the structure, district, site, or object meets one or more of the criteria. According to that legislation in Section 1.4 of the Pittsburgh Historic Preservation Ordinance, *Criteria for Designation*, a building must meet at least one of the following criteria in order to be designated:
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;

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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.
- 10.** 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.”
- 11.** The nomination must be accompanied by evidence that the nominator has made a good-faith effort to communicate his or her interest in the historic designation of this landmark or district to the owner(s) of these properties. Describe how this was done, and attach evidence that the owner(s) of the nominated landmark or of the properties within the nominated district have been informed of the nomination. This may include a copy of a notification letter with a mailing list, a letter confirming phone calls, or a petition signed by affected property owners.
- 12.** Clear photographs of the nominated buildings or districts should accompany the nomination form. The applicant shall include photographs of all elevations of an individual building and its setting, or the front elevation of each building in a district. In the case of closely spaced buildings or rowhouses, several buildings may be included in one photograph. Each photograph must be labeled with the street address of the building(s) and the month and year the photograph was taken.
- 13.** Copies of major supporting documents should accompany the nomination form. Such documents may include, but are not limited to:
- historic photographs;
 - historic and contemporary maps;
 - historic or contemporary texts describing the subject property or district;
 - historic or contemporary texts describing people, places, or events that comprise the historic context of the subject property or district.
 - Oversized materials (such as architectural drawings) and materials too fragile to copy may be accepted.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the nominator to provide the Historic Review Commission and its Staff with information sufficient to fairly evaluate the nomination. **Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted. Fee must be included. Nominations must be submitted in both electronic and hard-copy format.**

CHECKLIST: INSERT NAME OF PROPERTY HERE

- #1-6 Nomination Form:** Address, Ownership, Classification, Nominator Info.
 - #7: Description
 - #8: History
 - #9: Significance
- #10 Integrity**
- #11 Consent of Property Owners**
- #12 Photographs of Property:** numbered and labeled
- #13 List of Supporting Documents**

- Fee**
- Hard-Copy nomination**
- Electronic nomination (Word Format for text).**

Howe Springs Addendum

7. Description

The Howe Spring (Fig. 1) is a portico with strong Neoclassical Revival influences that abuts the southern sidewalk of Fifth Ave. in Shadyside. The structure is a cast-concrete portico consisting of four free-standing Doric columns and four piers. The interior of the structure houses three basins along the back wall, supported by three sculpted heads and a set of curved steps just below the center basin. Just to the upper right of each basin is a small, circular metal opening engaged in the wall. There is a small, square opening in the center of the ceiling which appears to have housed a former light fixture and the entire floor is covered with square, burnt-orange tiles set out in a grid pattern.

The words “Howe Springs” carved into the concrete adorn the lintel of the opening. A small balustrade frames the top of the structure with four square piers anchoring each corner.

The structure is surrounded by an alcove also constructed of poured, molded concrete, with each side sloping diagonally from the back wall to the street.

8. History

The date, name, and origin of the natural spring that would be tapped to create the Howe Springs is unknown. An article published in October of 1896 when the excavations began for the first structure to grace the natural springs sets forth that the natural spring was originally home to a Native American settlement, who originally named the site that would be later renamed “Greystone” by General Howe (1808-1877).¹ It was after the tragedy of the Johnstown Flood in 1889 that the Howe family first connected the spring on their property to Fifth Ave. below to make the water accessible and free to the people.²

The first recorded structure (Fig. 2) was designed by one of the nation’s most prominent architectural firms, Alden & Harlow (and constructed by John Shreiner of Allegheny for \$5,000), and has been thoroughly documented. The Pittsburgh Press describes the future structure by stating:

The fountain will be in the form of a semi-circular polished granite wall, 20 feet in diameter and nine feet high, with the end of the wall flush with the pavement on Fifth Avenue. In the center of the fountain and rising somewhat higher than the rest of the wall is a square tower-like well, which contains the fountain proper. On the entablature beneath the curved cornice appears the inscription “Howe spring, erected to the memory of Thomas M. Howe.” Beneath this is an elliptical niche, four feet high and 1 foot deep, in the center of which, carved in bas relief, is a

¹ “Gen. Howe Fountain.” *Pittsburgh Press*, October 18, 1896.

² “George Wilkins Guthrie and Florence J. Howe...” *The Pittsburgh Press*, April 7, 1938.

*swimming dolphin. From its open mouth the water will issue. A broad granite basin will be placed beneath it to catch the water.*³

This is supported by the numerous lithographs and photographs of the spring (Figures 2-7). We are given an indication as to why such an elaborate structure was created for the springs by the actions of Thomas Howe's wife after his death. His wife was responsible for the creation of the Alden & Harlow addition to the spring and in an effort to ensure the spring will forever provide water to the public and honor her husband's memory offered the spring, and surrounding land, to the City along with an endowment of \$75,000 managed by a board of trustees.⁴ For reasons unknown, this plan failed to materialize but it is clear that the Howe Family wished that the spring would continue to be accessible to the public.

After Mrs. Mary A. Howe passed away, the Howe heirs decided to sell the Greystone Estate, including the Howe Springs, to Michael Benedum in 1910. In doing so, however, they included a broad clause in the deed, which would ensure that the spring remain free, accessible, and open to the public:

*It is hereby understood and agreed, however, as a part of the consideration for this conveyance that that portion of the property fronting one hundred (100) feet on Fifth Avenue and extending back one hundred and ninety (190) feet on which is the spring and fountain known as the "Howe Spring" (and the center line of which hundred (100) feet passes through the center of said fountain as now located and at right angles to Fifth Avenue) is conveyed under and subject to the following conditions, viz.: The Grantee above named her heirs and assigns shall have the possession and control of said property and shall keep the same in good order and repair and maintain the fountain as it now is but shall do no act which will injuriously affect said spring. She shall allow the public the free use of the water from said spring at the said fountain as long as the water continues to be fit for drinking purposes. Should the spring hereafter fail or become permanently unfit for drinking purposes, the same shall be closed, and this condition shall therefor cease and determined.*⁵

A visual of this reserve can be seen on a site survey of the Howe Estate made at the request of Sarah Benedum Shortly (Figs. 8 & 8.1). After the deed was signed, circumstances would arise that would directly test the resolve of these stipulations and the Howe heirs. On April 5, 1911 the Pittsburgh Daily Post reported that after the water in Howe Spring was found to be impure by the City Water Bureau, city workers – perhaps inadvertently or on purpose – destroyed the spring house that fed the spring. Howe's descendants, who "in refusing substantial offers for the strip of ground, which has a frontage of 100 feet in Fifth Avenue, to insure the public of perpetual access to this source of a pure natural water supply..." quickly took action against the City and the current owner.⁶ By April 6, the architect working on constructing the new Benedum Estate, W.H. Van Tine, had proposed a new design for the spring

³ "Gen. Howe Fountain." *The Pittsburgh Press*, October 18, 1896.

⁴ "Amateur Sports." *The Pittsburgh Press*, September 28, 1896.

⁵ Deed of Sale from George W. Guthrie et al to Sarah Nancy Benedum, 27 December 1910, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book vol. 1695, pp. 127-130. County Recorder's Office, Pittsburgh, Pa.

⁶ "War on Over Howe Spring." *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 5, 1911.

house, averting further crisis.⁷ On April 7th, it was reported that in addition to the replacement of the spring house, plans were made for the construction of a new spring on Fifth Avenue and that these plans already had the approval of the public works department.⁸

By January of 1912, the new structure – and access to the springs – was nearly complete. It was heralded the perfect marriage of classical design and modern building materials (namely, concrete). The *Post Daily Post* goes so far as to equate the new structure to the ancient Greek Oracle at Delphi.⁹ Finally on Saturday, June 15th, 1912 Howe Springs was once again open to the public and the improvements to the spring, including the new structure of Fifth Avenue, a 4,000 barrel-of-water-capacity reservoir, and state-of-the-art filtration system were all heralded by the public.¹⁰ The Sewer and Drainage Plan of Greystone (Figs. 9. & 9.1) and full size rendering of the grounds (Fig. 10. & 10.1) supports the description of the new Howe Spring and also provides some indication of where the old spring house was located. This new plan for Howe Springs would not again make the headlines until August 16, 1916 when the Supt. Charles Findley of the Bureau of Water “admitted with a whole lot of pride that the water from city mains that tasted so good to a lot of aqua pura connoisseurs.”¹¹ Although it does not state exactly when Howe Spring was converted to City Water, the description of the sequence of events that followed the 1911 destruction of the Alden & Harlow spring would seem to fit.

The Benedum property, including Howe Springs, was gifted to Carlow University in 1962 and while extensive work was done to convert the Greystone mansion to serve as a dormitory, an extensive search of university archives provided no evidence that any alterations or extensive repairs were completed during the university’s stewardship. Members of college staff and academics also recounted that water flowed from the three basins in the portico into the mid 1980s when the property was sold and developed into town homes.¹² A telephonic interview with Arthur Lubetz, head of the architectural firm responsible for designing the new development, provided no indication of when the water to the springs was shut off.¹³

⁷ “Plan to Improve the Howe Spring.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 6, 1911.

⁸ “To Protect Howe Spring.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 7, 1911.

⁹ “Howe Spring in Grecian Shelter.” *The Pittsburgh Daily Post*, January 2, 1912.

¹⁰ “Howe Spring again Open to the Public.” *The Pittsburgh Press*, June 15, 1912.

¹¹ “Howe Spring Water ‘Bubbles’ from Ordinary City Main.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, August 16, 1912.

¹² “Edwardian Mansion put to ‘80s use.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, March 27, 1986.

¹³ Arthur Lubetz. Oral interview, 28 April 2016, by Matthew W.C. Falcone telephonically. Partial transcription in the possession of Matthew W.C. Falcone, Pittsburgh, Pa.

9. Significance

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;*

Howe Springs' existence can be directly attributed to Thomas Marshall Howe, who was one of Pittsburgh's most prominent citizens and is known for his work in finance, politics, and philanthropy. After moving to Pittsburgh from Bloomfield, Oh in 1829 he gained employment at Mason & McDonough, Drygood merchants and would work in a variety of finance positions, such as serving as president of Exchange National Bank Pittsburgh, director of Pittsburgh & Boston Mining Company, and president of Howe, Brown & Company, Ltd., steelmakers. Howe was also very active politically, serving two terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1850-1854 representing Pittsburgh as a member of the Whig Party and would go on to be one of the founding members of the Republican Party in 1858. Representative Howe would also decline President Grant's nomination to serve as Secretary of the Treasury and President Hayes nomination to serve as the Secretary of War. He also served as Assistant Adjunct General for the Western District of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during the Civil War.¹⁴

Howe would also serve as the resident and incorporator for Allegheny Cemetery of Pittsburgh for nearly three decades and also served as president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce from its inception to his death. He also was co-trustee of the Estate of the Reverend Charles Avery, which was devoted to "abolitionist causes and educational institutions for the elevation of the color-race of the United States and Africa". Along those same lines, General Howe was also a benefactor to the Zion Hill Collegiate Institute and Avery College.¹⁵

Michael Late Benedum also played a significant role in the furtherance of Howe Springs, having paid for the creation of the second spring house on the site. Benedum was also a prominent resident of Pittsburgh, noted for successfully making money in oil and natural gas industry and making significant philanthropic contributions to a host of different causes in Pittsburgh and beyond. His contributions through the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation still have a tremendous impact on our City.¹⁶

¹⁴ "Howe, Thomas Marshall," *Directory of the United States Congress*, June 12, 2016, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=H000854>.

¹⁵ Fairclough, Adam. *Teaching Equality: Black Schools in the Age of Jim Crow* (Athens: University of Georgia Press), 2001.

¹⁶ Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. "Michael Benedum's Enduring Legacy, \$500 in Cash and Million Dollars' Worth of Nerve," 2008 Annual Report, (2008).

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;*

The first structure to grace Howe Springs was designed by the architecture firm Alden & Harlow, which was originally founded as Longfellow, Alden & Harlow. Active primarily in Boston and Pittsburgh, the firm was successors to H.H. Richardson and was most notable for their Romanesque Revival designs.¹⁷ The firm is responsible for training a host of notable architects such as Frederick Scheibler, William Steele, and Henry Seaver and designing some of the most prominent landmarks in Western Pennsylvania, such as the Carnegie Library of Homestead (1986), the Greenhouse & Playhouse at the Frick Estate (1897) People's Savings Bank Building (1901-2), Byer-Lyons House (1898), and Mellon Park (1912).¹⁸

The second structure on the site of Howe Springs was designed by another prominent architect, William H. Van Tine (Fig. 11). Van Tine began his career in Pittsburgh but was primarily active in Michigan. He is best noted for his work in designing Fair Lane (a Michigan State & U.S. National Register of Historic Places site), Henry Ford's Estate in Dearborn, Mi. and his design of Michael Benedum's Greystone.¹⁹

5. *Its exemplification of important planning and urban design techniques distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design or detail;*

See item 9.

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;*

Howe Springs appears to have played an important role in the leisure activities of many Pittsburghers, particularly those interested in bicycling. In photographs, etchings, stories, correspondence, and news reports it is frequently depicted as a gathering spot for cyclists and cycling groups as they used the spring to get fresh water during their excursions. Herlihy sets forth that Pittsburgh had an active, and growing, "wheelman" community that was following social trends to be a more inclusive and accessible leisure sport to classes other than the elite, number about three hundred riders at the turn of the century.²⁰

¹⁷ Floyd, Margaret. *Architecture after Richardson: Regionalism before Modernism--Longfellow, Alden, and Harlow in Boston and Pittsburgh*, University of Chicago Press with Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Chicago and Pittsburgh, 1st edition, 1994.

¹⁸ Kidney, Walter. *Landmark Architecture: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County*, page 234, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1985.

¹⁹ C. Scribner's Sons. "The Henry Ford Estate, Dearborn, Mich." *Architecture*, vol. 33, no. III, pp. 58-60, March 1916.

²⁰ David V. Herlihy, *The Lost Cyclist*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010).

When announcements were made by the Howe family to construct the Alden & Harlow addition to the natural spring, one of the first one of the first publications to print the story was, interestingly, the “Amateur Sports” section (whose avatar includes an image of a cyclist) of the Pittsburgh Press (Fig. 12).²¹ In fact many of the newspaper articles that describe the events surrounding Howe Spring(s) specifically call attention to its primary users “pedestrians and wheelmen.”²² In photographs and renderings too, cyclists, particularly in groups, are heavily represented, which is notably absent from other visual documentation of other springs in the city (Figs. 3, 6 & 7). Interestingly, a photograph of the group of cyclists in front of the Alden & Harlow Howe Spring was included in an historical retrospective of the East End is seen in a significantly more negative light by the author, labeling the same wheelmen as “Two-Wheeled Riff Raff” and claiming they were “Loafing” by the spring (Fig. 13).²³

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;*

The history of natural springs within the City of Pittsburgh is exceptionally complex and one marked by a notable absence in peer-reviewed literature. This is, perhaps, because of the nature of the springs themselves, an ever-shifting narthex between the natural and built worlds, as well as because of their fragmented of their presence throughout the City.

Geological & Early History

Natural springs have played an important part in human development and their history in Western Pennsylvania, particularly in Pittsburgh, is no exception. Western Pennsylvania is marked with a number of springs that stretch throughout Appalachia, many of which are now marked by small towns bearing their names: Berkley Springs, Seven Springs, etc. What sets the springs within the City of Pittsburgh apart from their rural counterparts is the confluence of topography, population density, and cultural interaction.

During Pittsburgh’s early development, these springs provided European-American settlers a generally clean source of drinking water and some of the earliest roads in the area, Nemaocolin Trail and Forbes Road, cut through the forest and purposefully remained near to some of the larger springs, like Snyder Spring, to provide fresh drinking water to travelers.²⁴ And Western Pennsylvania was littered with many different geological types of natural spring from which early settler could choose. The simplest spring, according to Stanley N. Davis, a professor of geology at Stanford University, is one where the land surface intersects the water table of an area, which is a common feature in hilly Pittsburgh and is the type of spring we see in Voegtly Spring (Fig. 14). These springs, however, are largely dependent on the

²¹ *Amateur Sports*. The Pittsburgh Press, December 3, 1896.

²² See: “An Atmosphere Oppressive”, “Amateur Sports (Sept 28, 1896)”, “Sketches at the Springs”, “Amateur Sports (October 18, 1896).

²³ “Two-Wheeled Riff Raff Loaf on Fifth Ave.,” Publication Unknown, Source: Chatham University Archives.

²⁴ Charles McColleston, *The Point of Pittsburgh, Production and Struggle at the Forks of the Ohio*, (Pittsburgh: Allegheny Commercial Printing, 2008).

amount of rainfall the area receives and can run dry. Additionally, the ground material may not provide adequate filtration, leaving the water susceptible to disease and parasites.²⁵ Ancient tectonic activity in the Appalachians also create another type of spring whereby geologic faults (a fracture in the earth's crust where subsurface rocks have broken and slid past one another) bring deep ground water to the land's surface where it is discharged (Fig. 15).²⁶

Unfortunately, records of springs and the role they played in Pittsburgh's early development are obscure and the first we see them enter into the official records is at the end of the 19th century. In a petition to Pittsburgh City Council dated April 3, 1912 the petitioners mention that "On the old Voegtly Place is a spring that has supplied the people of that section with the purest of water for the past fifty years or more."²⁷ This would place the spring as serving a function in the community around 1860, which is the oldest document reference to a spring within Pittsburgh (then Allegheny City). Similarly in an advertisement printed in the Pittsburgh Daily Post on July 26, 1893 from E.M. Hukill, president of the Apollo Spring Water Company challenges the public of Pittsburgh's East End to prove claims that the company obtains its bottled water from Howe Spring.²⁸ What is particularly significant about this article is that it pre-exists the construction of the Alden & Harlow spring on the site by three years, indicating that the spring was an active water source to the community before a formal structure was dedicated on the site and confirms elements of a later article which recounts the spring's ancient history.²⁹

Popularity & Form

Technological advances at the dawn of the Victorian Era helped to spur development outside, and in the further reaches, of the City. It is during this time we see established springs, like that in Thaw's Spring in Beechwood take on a new form (Fig. 16). From the etching of the spring from the Pittsburgh Press dated May 14th, 1899 shows that the once natural spring has now been enclosed in stone, elevated for greater access, and encircled by a large pond to capture the unused run off.³⁰ This image directly contrasts with that of the Pittsburgh Daily Post etching from August 8, 1897 which shows the "Sylvan Avenue's Natural Spring" in which a flowing stream of water can be seen emerging from just under the tree roots (Fig. 17).³¹

We see a similar attention to springs paid in the trolley line suburbs that arose during this time. From July 13th, 1905's Pittsburgh Daily Post, we see an advertisement for Brookline, the "15-Minute Suburb" with an image of the newly renovated Brookline Spring on Berkshire Ave. The image of the walled spring shows a well-manicured garden on either side of a wide promenade encircling the spring and

²⁵ Stanly Davis & R.J.M. DeWiest, *Hydrology*, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1966).

²⁶ Francis H. Chapelle, *Wellsprings, a Natural History of Bottled Spring Water* (New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London: Rutgers University Press, 2005), pp. 34-37.

²⁷ B.A. Overbeck & Harry C. Koehler, Petition for the Preservation of Spring on the Old Voegtly Farm, Robinson Road, 24th Ward, City, Petition, April 3, 1912.

²⁸ "A Chance for an East Ender." *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, July 26, 1893.

²⁹ "Gen. Howe Fountain." *Pittsburgh Press*, October 18, 1896.

³⁰ "Sketches at the Springs." *The Pittsburgh Press*, May, 14, 1899.

³¹ "Hazelwood Hill Springs." *The Pittsburgh Daily Post*, August 8, 1897.

several well-dressed figures gathering just in front of the spring (Fig. 18). The author states the preservation of the spring:

*...signifies that we are not only bending our energies to establish improvements of magnitude, like the great Brookline T-railed, double-tracked trolley and Brookline's twenty-five miles of Porterblocked paved streets, macadamized streets, sanitary sewers streets, granolithic-stone sidewalks, city-water mains, gas mains and electric-lighted streets, but that we are quick to introduce any valued luxury that will contribute to the property's unusualness and to the welfare of the people who locate on it.*³²

This contrast of a list of modern amenities with an image of a newly renovated spring draws attention to the changing place that springs played to the Victorian mind. No longer were springs a necessary, functional part of a community but one used for defining a community and creating a sense of place. Interestingly the Freehold Real Estate Co. who took out the advertisement use the Brookline Spring to convey a sense of luxury, going so far as to claim "the water is pure, sparkling, ice cold, and as inexhaustible as that of the famous Howe Spring on Fifth Avenue, in the East End."

The equation of luxury and Howe Spring is not without merit. Since its inception as a publically-accessible spring after the Johnstown Flood, Howe Springs was meant to convey a sense of grandeur that permeated the Gilded Age aesthetic. The exact design of the original version of Howe Springs has, unfortunately, not been recorded so its precise design and interaction with Fifth Ave. can only be speculated. We do get a sense of some of the spring's early history from the Pittsburgh Press' October 18th, 1896 article which states the natural spring sat near fifty feet back from Fifth Ave., and it was an "Indian Settlement" and after the property was acquired by General Thomas Howe, it was renamed "Greystone" spring. The first recorded structure was designed by one of the nation's most prominent architectural firms, Alden & Harlow (constructed by John Shreiner of Allegheny for \$5,000), and has been thoroughly documented. The Pittsburgh Press describes the future structure by stating:

*The fountain will be in the form of a semi-circular polished granite wall, 20 feet in diameter and nine feet high, with the end of the wall flush with the pavement on Fifth Avenue. In the center of the fountain and rising somewhat higher than the rest of the wall is a square tower-like well, which contains the fountain proper. On the entablature beneath the curved cornice appears the inscription "Howe spring, erected to the memory of Thomas M. Howe." Beneath this is an elliptical niche, four feet high and 1 foot deep, in the center of which, carved in bas relief, is a swimming dolphin. From its open mouth the water will issue. A broad granite basin will be placed beneath it to catch the water.*³³

This description is supported by the numerous lithographs and photographs of the spring (Figs.2-7). We are given a clue as to why such an elaborate structure was created for the springs by the actions of Thomas Howe's wife after his death. His wife was responsible for the creation of the Alden & Harlow addition to the spring and in an effort to ensure the spring will forever provide water to the public and honor her husband's memory offered the spring, and surrounding land, to the City along with an

³² "Brookline, the 15-Minute Suburb." *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, July 13, 1905.

³³ "Gen. Howe Fountain." *The Pittsburgh Press*, October 18, 1896.

endowment of \$75,000 managed by a board of trustees³⁴. For reasons unknown, this plan failed to materialize but it is clear that the Howe Family wished that the spring would continue to be accessible to the public. In the sale of Greystone to the Benedums, the Howe descendants included a strong stipulation requiring for the upkeep of the spring and that the public may continue to freely access its water.³⁵

Through a series of unfortunate, if not suspect, circumstances the Alden & Harlow Howe Spring met a rather unceremonious demise shortly after Benedum acquired the property in 1910. On April 5, 1911 the Pittsburgh Daily Post reported that after the water in Howe Spring was found to be impure by the City Water Bureau, workers – perhaps inadvertently or on purpose – destroyed the spring house that fed the spring. Howe’s descendants, who “...in refusing substantial offers for the strip of ground, which has a frontage of 100 feet in Fifth avenue, to insure the public of perpetual access to this source of a pure natural water supply...” quickly took action against the City and the current owner.³⁶ By April 6, the architect working on constructing the new Benedum Estate, W.H. Van Tine, had proposed a new design for the spring house, averting further crisis.³⁷ On April 7th, it was reported that in addition to the replacement of the spring house, plans were made for the construction of a new spring on Fifth avenue and that these plans already had the approval of the public works department.³⁸ The spring designed and constructed by W.H. Van Tine in 1912 is the Howe Spring that remains with us today (Fig. 11). While it is an exceptional example of the system of springs that existed in Pittsburgh it does call attention to the public-private relationship surrounding these springs. Perhaps nowhere was this relationship more evident than with in the many parks around the City.

Springs in Pittsburgh Parks

Due to the topographical nature of the City, natural springs were, and continue to be, a common feature in most neighborhoods. It was in many of the newly formed parks, however, that the natural springs would become an attraction, often adopting structural and stylistic elements to reflect popular design and aesthetic trends. This was particularly true of the Victorian Era, when park design centered on creating a balance between the perception of the natural world and a heavily manicured green environment. The trend is largely viewed as a reaction against society’s rapid industrialization and has a visual manifestation in the use of natural materials.

Highland Park’s “Rustic Spring” is, perhaps, a prime example of this aesthetic (Fig. 19). The spring is quite literally off the beaten path, partially situated in an alcove obscured from view by a railing composed entirely of unrefined, untreated wooden branches that appear to be quickly succumbing to the vines and undergrowth they frame. Here only the newel post, consisting of an upended log, shows signs of refinement in that its crown has been refined to a point. Near to it, the balusters of the railing

³⁴ “Amateur Sports.” *The Pittsburgh Press*, September 28, 1896.

³⁵ Deed of Sale from George W. Guthrie et al to Sarah Nancy Benedum, 27 December 1910, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book vol. 1695, pp. 127-130. County Recorder's Office, Pittsburgh, Pa.

³⁶ “War on Over Howe Spring.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 5, 1911.

³⁷ “Plan to Improve the Howe Spring.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 6, 1911.

³⁸ “To Protect Howe Spring.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, April 7, 1911.

are placed at sporadic intervals and at differing angles, which sharply contrasts to the strong horizontal lines of the stairway on right. The spring itself is framed by rocks and boulders of various sizes, which appear to support a recess into the hillside and what appears to be a cup hanging from a string is the only hint of a manufactured object in this scene.

While the Rustic Spring is exceptional in its devotion to a “rustic” aesthetic, it is by no means alone. We see a very similar visual in the Spring at Carnegie Lake (Fig. 20), Tunnel and Spring, Highland Park (Fig. 21), and Thaw’s Spring, Beechwood (Fig. 22). At all of these springs, we see the same visual elements the help to create, and define, a motif – hewn stones, unrefined wooden railings, and manicured ivy and other “wild” vines heling to seclude the natural springs. In addition to providing a rustic aesthetic, it should be noted that this would also help to keep the water cool. Review Park also contained a spring that reflects this rustic motif in its “Rustic Spring House” (Fig. 23). Here we are presented with an image of a spring house that appears largely constructed of natural materials. The walls of the springhouse appear to be made of untreated lathe on a wooden frame, which supports a roof thatched. The same textured used to depict the roof appears to continue to envelop one of the sides of the building, suggesting that the springhouse supports robust vegetation similar to the views of “Rustic Spring” or “Spring at Carnegie Lake”. It is also apparent from this etching that the springhouse was open on at least two sides and that a path leading to both suggests it was designed for ease of access.

The use of unrefined material for the construction of this springhouse is also reminiscent of traditional Native American dwellings local to the region like an Iroquois longhouse (Fig. 24) or Lanni-Lenape and Shawnee wigwams (Fig. 25). As Marilyn Evert sets forth, this visual connection was not coincidental but reflective of a larger societal interest in Native American culture before the turn of the 20th century.³⁹ While Riverview Park’s Rustic Spring House and much of the information surrounding its existence has been lost to us, the Catahecassa Monument (formerly fountain) in Schenley Park remains and is an excellent example of the revival of interest had in shaping this prominent spring.

The Catahecassa Fountain (Fig. 26) is roughly-hewn granite monolith with a bas-relief bust of Chief Catahecassa located above a bronze plaque bearing the inscription:

Catahecassa, Blackhoof, war chief of the Shawnees, was present at the defeat of Braddock in 1755 and took part in all subsequent wars until the treaty of Greenville in 1795, after which he remained a friend and ally of the United States.

The original structure that graced Snyder’s Spring as depicted in the Pittsburgh Press article dated May 14, 1889 consisted of a small stone alcove, immediately adjacent to a small pathway leading up to the Neill Log Cabin (Fig. 27).⁴⁰ The location of the Catahecassa Monument in other depictions would indicate it was connected to the same spring.

The current location of the stele, in comparison to historic photographs, indicates the original surrounding landscaping has been either removed or altered and the placement of the fountain – or

³⁹ Marilyn Evert, *Discovering Pittsburgh’s Sculpture* (Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1983), p.196.

⁴⁰ “Sketches at the Springs.” *Pittsburgh Press*, May 14, 1899.

width of the adjacent road – altered. An article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette dated December 17, 1928 indicates that the effigy of “Chief Catahegasso [sic]” was damaged and repaired in 1922 and that vandals had, during the night of December 16th, 1928, “demolished [the] stone effigy”.⁴¹ Demolition and vandalism proved to be a constant threat for all of Pittsburgh’s springs but much larger forces were at play which would ultimately lead to their demise.

Decline

Changes in technology, society, and political pressure at the turn of the 20th century would ultimately lead to the decline of Pittsburgh’s many springs. Despite their aesthetic value, they were increasingly seen by the City of Pittsburgh as a public health hazard and one by one were ultimately converted to public water sources, deactivated, or destroyed. The natural springs around Pittsburgh once provided natural and relatively clean drinking water to countless neighborhoods but with the City’s population booming and industrial activity on the rise, they became a dangerous, if not deadly, contributor to one of the worst public health crisis in the City’s history, typhoid.

According to Tarr & Yosie, at the turn of the 20th century Pittsburgh had the highest death rate – well over 100 deaths per 100,000 persons compared to the average for northern cities of 35 deaths per 100,000 persons – of America’s largest cities.⁴² These rates were even more staggering in working-class sections of Pittsburgh which attracted large numbers of immigrants and African Americans. As a 1909 Pittsburgh Survey article notes, “those who could not afford to buy bottled water continued to drink filth”.⁴³ To counter this epidemic, residents were advised to boil all drinking water but much more aggressive steps were ultimately taken by Pittsburgh’s City Council, Pittsburgh’s Health Department, and several private foundations. It was during this period, roughly 1890 to 1900, that the private springs in and around Pittsburgh were closed.

We see one this new negative view of the springs from Director E. M. Bigelow in an 1897 article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette whose headline reads “Increase of Typhoid Causes Director Bigelow to Act – All Springs Considered Dangerous”. It is here Director Bigelow proclaims that “within the next three weeks it is my intention to have all of the springs in the city chemically analyzed and such tests will be frequently made.”⁴⁴ Testing of all springs on a regular basis would continue on a regular basis and results, which were often grim, were regularly published in the paper. For example, in an article published in the Pittsburgh Daily Post from September 22, 1906 states that “Only Two City Springs Are Not Contaminated”⁴⁵

It was clear that once a spring was contaminated, it was closed, often permanently, to the public. In some extreme cases we see springs that had a structural component, like the Frick Spring located

⁴¹ “Vandals Ruin Effigy.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 17, 1928.

⁴² Joel Tarr & Terry Yosie, “Critical Decisions in Pittsburgh Water and Wastewater Treatment,” in *Devastation and Renewal*, ed. Joel Tarr (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003), pp. 70-74

⁴³ Clayton R. Koppes and William Norris, “Ethnicity, Class, and Mortality in the Industrial City: A Case Study of Typhoid Fever in Pittsburgh, 1890-1910,” (*Journal of Urban History May 1985*) 11: p.271.

⁴⁴ “Spring Water Analyses.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, July 9, 1897.

⁴⁵ “Only Two City Springs are Not Contaminated.” *Pittsburgh Daily Post*, September 22, 1906.

opposite the entrance to the Carnegie Institute, was destroyed by city workmen (Fig. 28).⁴⁶ Interestingly, this destruction was relatively uncommon and exceptions to the trend of closing public access to these springs can be found. In Spring Hill, the regrading of Robinson Road (now Damas Street) by the Department of Public Works also eliminated a natural spring used by the community. This led to a public petition being filed with Pittsburgh City Council and the creation of a new spring structure (a “Type B. watering trough”) in 1912 (Fig. 29).⁴⁷ While the creation of a community spring during a period focused away from their use may seem unusual, its location (just below farmland) and the overwhelming public support may account for its creation. During roughly the same period we also see the temporary closure and partial destruction of the tremendously popular Howe Spring, which was met with a tremendous amount of controversy and public outcry. It is perhaps because of this spring’s popularity that it was not announced until 1916 by the city’s Bureau of Water that the natural spring feeding Howe Springs has been closed and replaced by water from the city water supply.⁴⁸

Despite the health concerns surrounding springs, there were times that the springs would serve an important need in the community, particularly when the City’s water mains were compromised. It’s recorded that at several times during the early 20th century when a water line would break, there would be a public rush on the springs, most notably Howe. At Voegtly Spring, residents vividly recall the role the spring played during the Great St. Patrick’s Day Flood of 1936. On March 17, 1936 Pittsburgh was ravaged as the three rivers exceeded 40 feet of the usual levels. Aside from immediate rescue efforts, local authorities’ greatest concern was a water famine. Despite the presence of water everywhere, there was very little *clean* water to drink because a number of the city’s water facilities were damaged. Officials urged the population to conserve water and boil whatever water they used from the city’s system.⁴⁹ The spring on Spring Hill was never compromised during the flood and residents from across the city of Pittsburgh flocked to the neighborhood to get clean water. In fact, the line at the spring grew so long that some Spring Hill residents had to wait until 11pm to get water for themselves. This provision of water helped reduce the burden on the City’s water system to mitigate the threat of a water famine. Mrs. Fohl remembers, “Spring Hill became the place to go to. We were without power for over a week and they told us we had to boil all our water, but we didn’t have to worry about that. The spring got so crowded that some people would have to wait until 11 o’clock at night to get their water. Hospitals would come with their trucks and big containers to get the water they needed. It should have been in the paper, but I guess word of mouth was enough for it to get really crowded.” The spring water more directly saved lives by providing clean water to local hospitals, who sent truckloads of large containers to collect the water needed to treat their patients and contribute to the city’s recovery effort.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ “The Frick Spring.” *The Pittsburgh Press*, July 17, 1906.

⁴⁷ B.A. Overbeck & Harry C. Koehler, Petition for the Preservation of Spring on the Old Voegtly Farm, Robinson Road, 24th Ward, City, Petition, April 3, 1912.

⁴⁸ “Howe Spring Water ‘Bubbles’ from Ordinary City Main.” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, August 16, 1916.

⁴⁹ “Water Supply Running Low.” *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. March 20, 1936.

⁵⁰ Bee Fohl. Oral Interview, 07 October 2010, by Rayva Virginkar and Charles Gamper near Bee Fohl’s Residence. Partial transcript in the possession of Matthew W.C. Falcone, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Today natural springs still exist across all of Pittsburgh but only a handful of springs that once had a structural component remain. Springs within the City, whether they be natural, constructed, or a hybrid of both played an integral role in Pittsburgh's history. They assisted in the settlement of Pittsburgh, played an integral part in both promoting, and perhaps hindering, the overall health and wellbeing of its residents, provided a social gathering point for our communities, and were often the benefactors of some of the most philanthropic endeavors of Pittsburgh's most prominent citizens. Of all of the springs mentioned in this section it should be noted that only Howe Springs, Voegtly Spring, and Catahecassa Fountain (Snyder Spring) remain. Of these only Voegtly Spring has natural spring water running through it.

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.

For nearly a century Howe Spring stood as the only structure abutting Fifth Ave.'s south side for several hundred feet. Given the topography of that side of the street, a steep rise elevates most structures on that side of the street out of view from the public right-of-way. We get a sense of Howe Springs' solitude from a series of photographs dating from the late 19th century to today (Figs. 2-7, 30). The town homes dating from the 1980s that are part of the site today remain largely out of view as they rise above Fifth Ave. and are obscured from view by trees and foliage, which harken back to those present when the spring was first constructed.

A key indicator of Howe Spring's physical presence in the community can be seen from how it is incorporated into real estate listings from shortly after it was constructed. From the ten year period from 1899 to 1909, "Howe Springs" was used in forty (40) unique and individual advertisements for boarders, renters, workers, houses for sale, rooms to let, and a host of other inquiries (Figs. 31). What is perhaps most notable about these advertisements is that during this period of time the entirety of the South Side of Fifth Avenue was occupied by Howe's Estate (Greystone) and a handful of other properties of other prominent Pittsburgh families. This would significantly narrow the number of residents and geographic area around the spring itself to primarily those on the south side of the street. We get a better sense of the neighborhood density from the 1911 G.M. Hopkins & Co. map (Fig. 32).

10. Integrity

Howe Springs retains a high level of integrity despite having minor alterations over the years. It appears the tile floor was added at some point after the spring's construction and the small electric light that hung from the ceiling has been removed. Some of the surrounding concrete is showing signs of age and water damage and water to the catch basins no longer flows (the original spigots have been removed and filled in).

Howe Springs Images



Fig. 1. *Howe Springs*, March 6, 2012, Source, Wikimedia:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/24/Howe_Springs_-_Fifth_Avenue%2C_Pittsburgh%2C_PA_-_DSC04990-001.JPG



Fig. 2. *Howe Spring, 5th Av., Pittsburgh, Pa. East Liberty*, Postmarked April 29, 1909, Source: Postcard.



Fig. 3. *Howe Spring, c. late 1890s*, Source: Pittsburgh's Shadyside.



THE HOWE SPRING, ON FIFTH AVENUE

This beautiful spring, on one of Pittsburg's fashionable residence streets, is greatly appreciated by the poor, who come long distances to fill jugs and pails with its cold, delicious water.

Fig. 4. *The Howe Spring, on Fifth Avenue*, date unknown, Source: Chatham University Archives, publication unknown, single page removed from book.

COOL WATERS OF HOWE SPRING HAVE REFRESHED MILLIONS



Unaffected by Onslaught of Years, Famous East End Fountain Continues to Slake Thirst of All Comers

**ANALYSIS HAS SHOWN
THAT STREAM IS PURE**

Many Tender Recollections Cling Around Moss Grown Granite Pile, Erected in Memory of Early Pittsburger

A veritable oasis in a thirsty desert is the Howe spring at the corner of Fifth and Highland avenues, East End.

With a seemingly endless supply of clear, almost ice cold, sparkling water, this spring furnishes refreshment for both man and beast through the long hot months of the summer and also cares for the only slightly lesser demand made on it throughout the winter.

It has been stated, and authoritatively, too, that about 50 per cent of the families living in the East End section, Homewood, Brushston, and even as far east as Wilkinsburg, derive their water supply from this spring. It has been there for so long and has come unscathed through so many typhoid fever and other epidemics, that residents of that section of the city feel certain the waters of this spring are in reality liquid health and many for the past two generations have used no other.

An attractive fount of Maine granite marks the front of this wonderful spring and dispenses the water through three outlets in the shape of serpents' heads. This fountain was erected in 1896 by Mrs. Thomas M. Howe in memory of her husband, the late General Thomas M. Howe, a descendant of one of the pioneer families of this district, and at one time mayor of the city. On the face of the artistic granite pile is the following inscription:

HOWE SPRING,
Erected in Memory of
THOMAS M. HOWE,
1896.

The water which has flowed in a steady and undiminished stream since beyond recollection of the oldest inhabitant, has its origin in the hills on the south side of Fifth avenue. With the advent of the sewerage system in the East End many years ago most of the wells and springs in that section either "went dry" or else became contaminated and fell into disuse.



PICTURES TAKEN AT THE HOWE SPRING.

Not so with the Howe spring, or "Grey-sione," as it was called before Mrs. Howe, on whose property the springs stands, erected the fountain at its mouth.

City physicians and private parties have made frequent analysis of the fluid with always the same result, it being proven chemically pure. Each new typhoid scare that caused agitation against the use of the city's water supply brought more people to the spring for their drinking water.

Ready as is the average American small boy to avail himself of anything that may prove a source of revenue, many school boys and young men of the East End earn their pocket money by carrying this water to their own as well as to their neighbors' houses. At all hours of the day, as well as far into the night, may be seen small wagons, some homemade, while others are of the more pretentious "bought" variety, each propelled by a small boy, going either to or from the spring.

Some are well loaded with buckets and cans, attesting to the enterprise of the owner, while others are fitted with partitions for the accommodation of the regulation water bottle. Some of the youngsters have built up a lucrative trade and growing into manhood, have passed the "business" on to one of the coming generation.

Probably no one is more appreciative of the Howe spring than are the employes of the lines of the Pittsburgh Railways Co., which pass that terminus of Highland avenue. If the car be on time, it is understood between the motorman and conductor that there will be a short wait at the spring while the men get a drink and fill the bucket

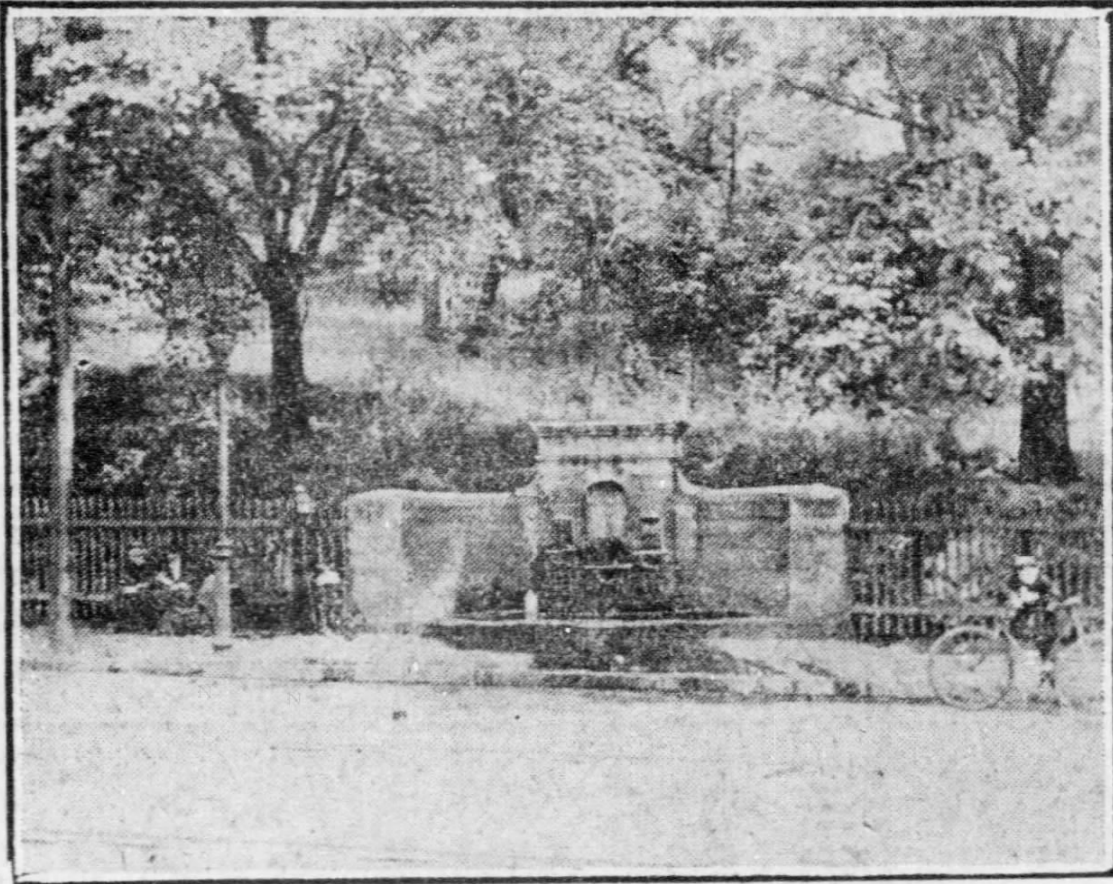
which is carried on almost every car. The younger generation of the East End frequently during the long summer evenings use the spring as a trysting place, and many friendships which have ripened into love and resulted in happy marriages have been fostered here. "Let's take a little walk up to the spring," is a common remark during the summer time and it is always acquiesced in with the greatest gusto by the person addressed.

Indeed many are the tender recollections that cling around the spring for nearly every one of the younger of the East End set. Hardly is there a boy, grown now beyond the joys of that happy state who has been raised in the vicinity of the old spring, but remembers some occasion, when as a carefree school boy, he spent some happy hours there. If he were inclined to be just a little bit wayward, he has probably played "hokey" in the woods behind the spring and spent the time when he was supposed to be at school, eating the haws that grow in abundance on the hill behind the fountain and washing them down with the sparkling water which he sipped from his cap that formed an ever ready drinking cup.

The city bred man has no "old swimmin' hole" which he may cherish as one of the tenderest recollections of youth but needless to say that any boy who was raised in the East End has approximately the same feelings with regard to the Howe spring. This granite fountain is becoming hoary and moss grown with the advance of years, but time cannot efface out the tender recollections that cling around it.

Fig. 5. Pictures Taken at The Howe Spring, March 29, 1908, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.

THE HOWE SPRING, IN FIFTH AVENUE



New Owner of Property Will Not Destroy Public Drinking Place.

Fig. 6. *The Howe Spring, in Fifth Avenue*, December 18, 1910, Source: the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

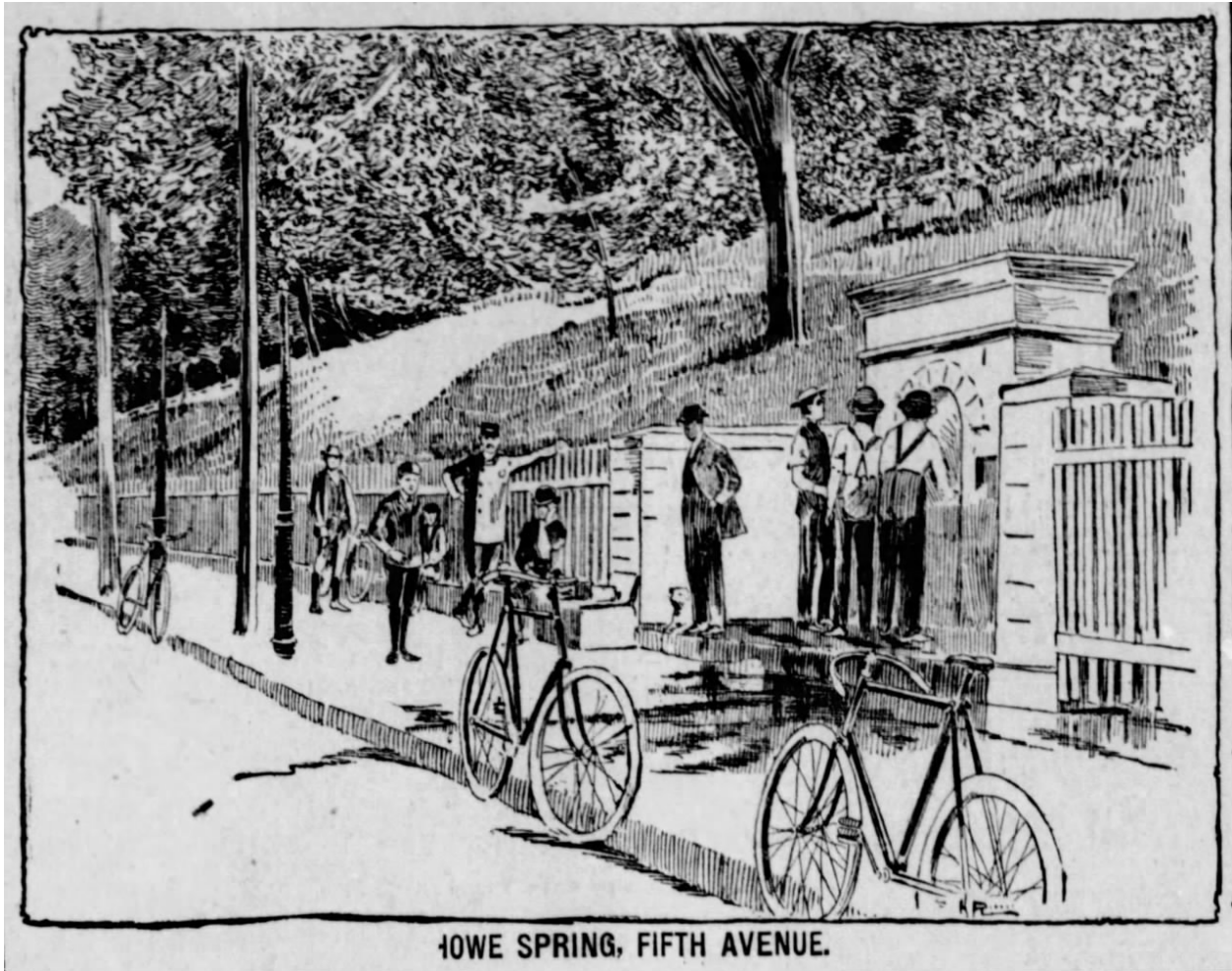


Fig. 7. *Howe Spring, Fifth Avenue*, May 14, 1899, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.

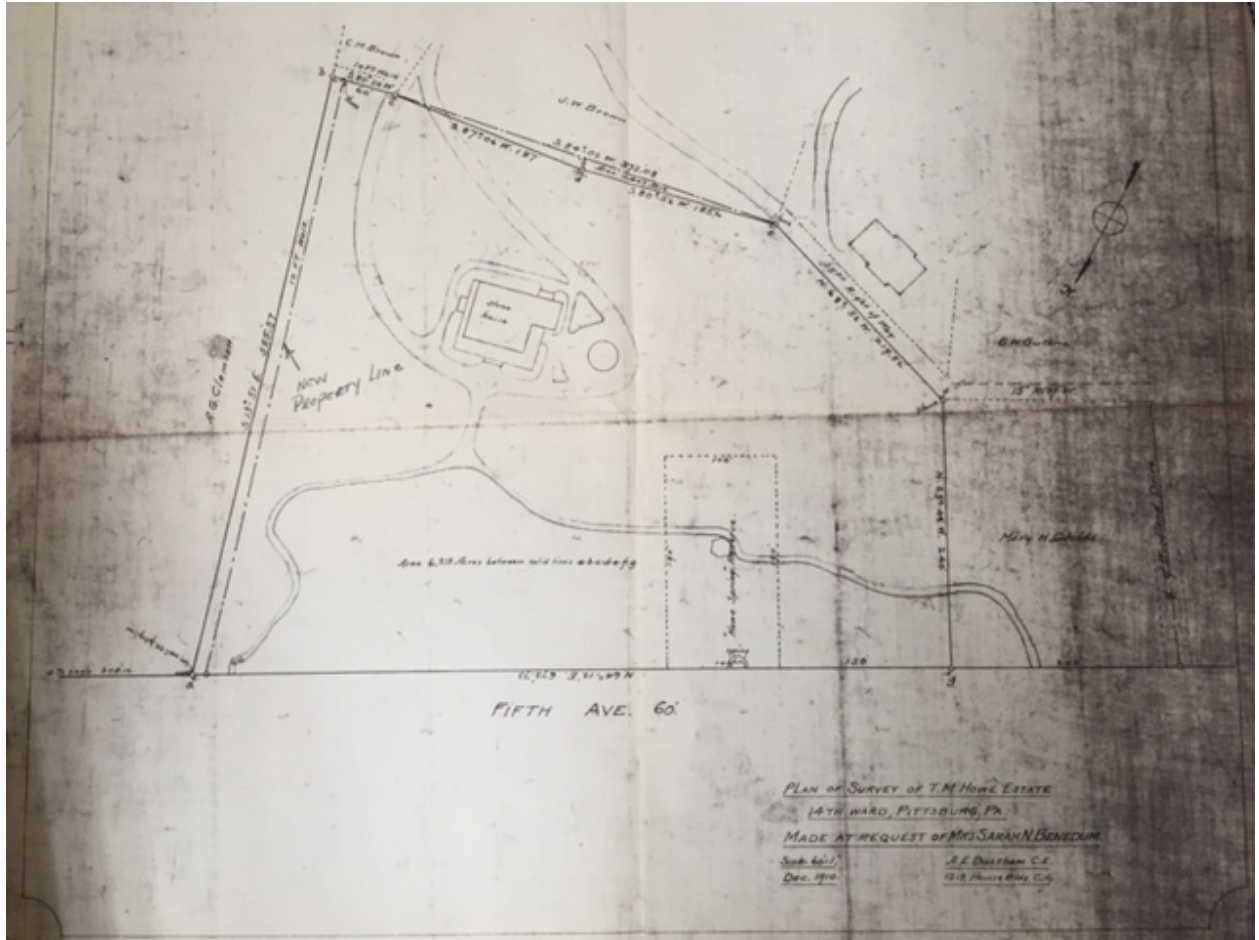


Fig. 8. Plan and Survey of T.M. Howe Estate made at the Request of Sarah Benedum, Date Unknown, Source: Chatham University Archives.

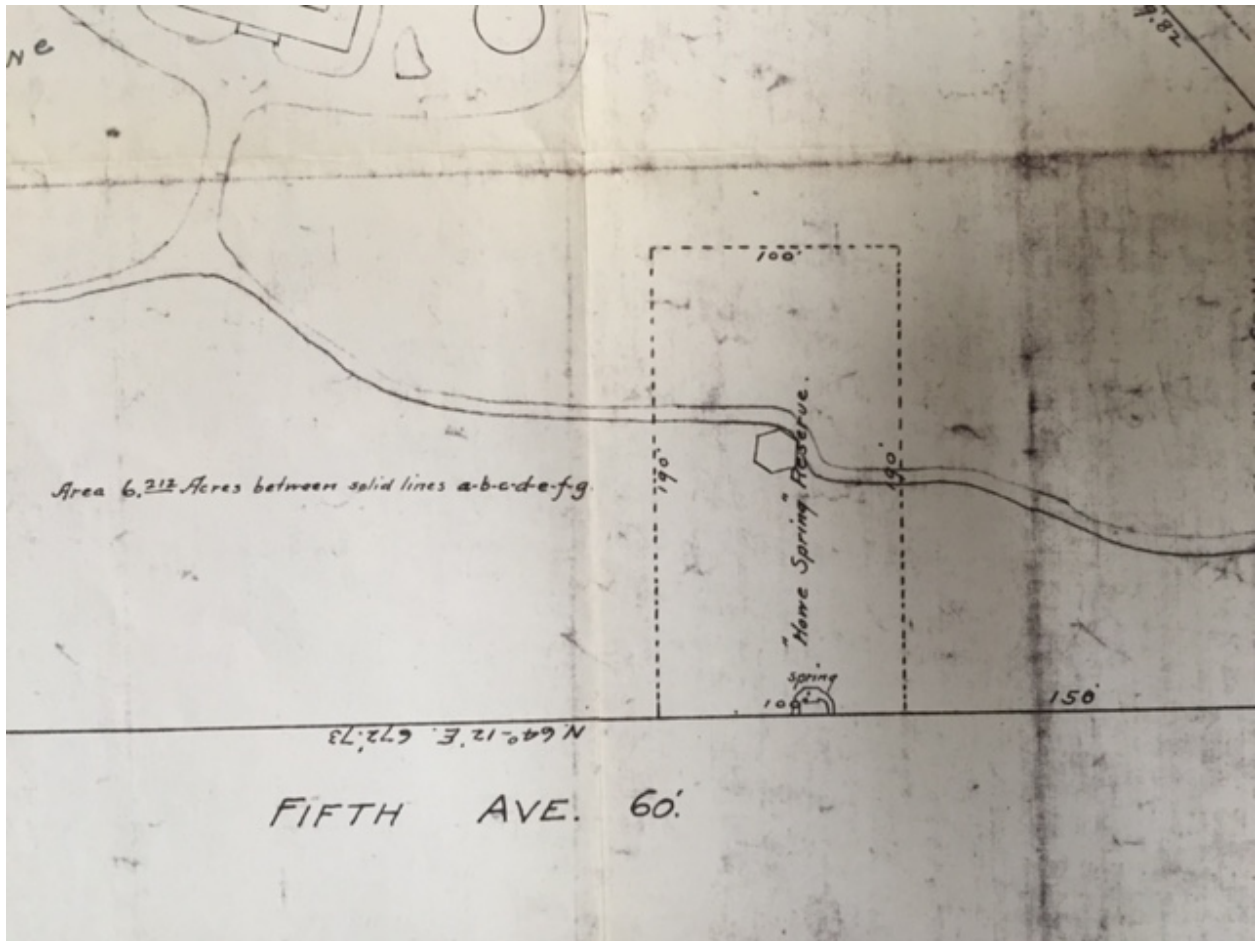


Fig. 8.1. Detail, Plan and Survey of T.M. Howe Estate made at the Request of Sarah Benedum, date unknown, Source: Chatham University Archives.

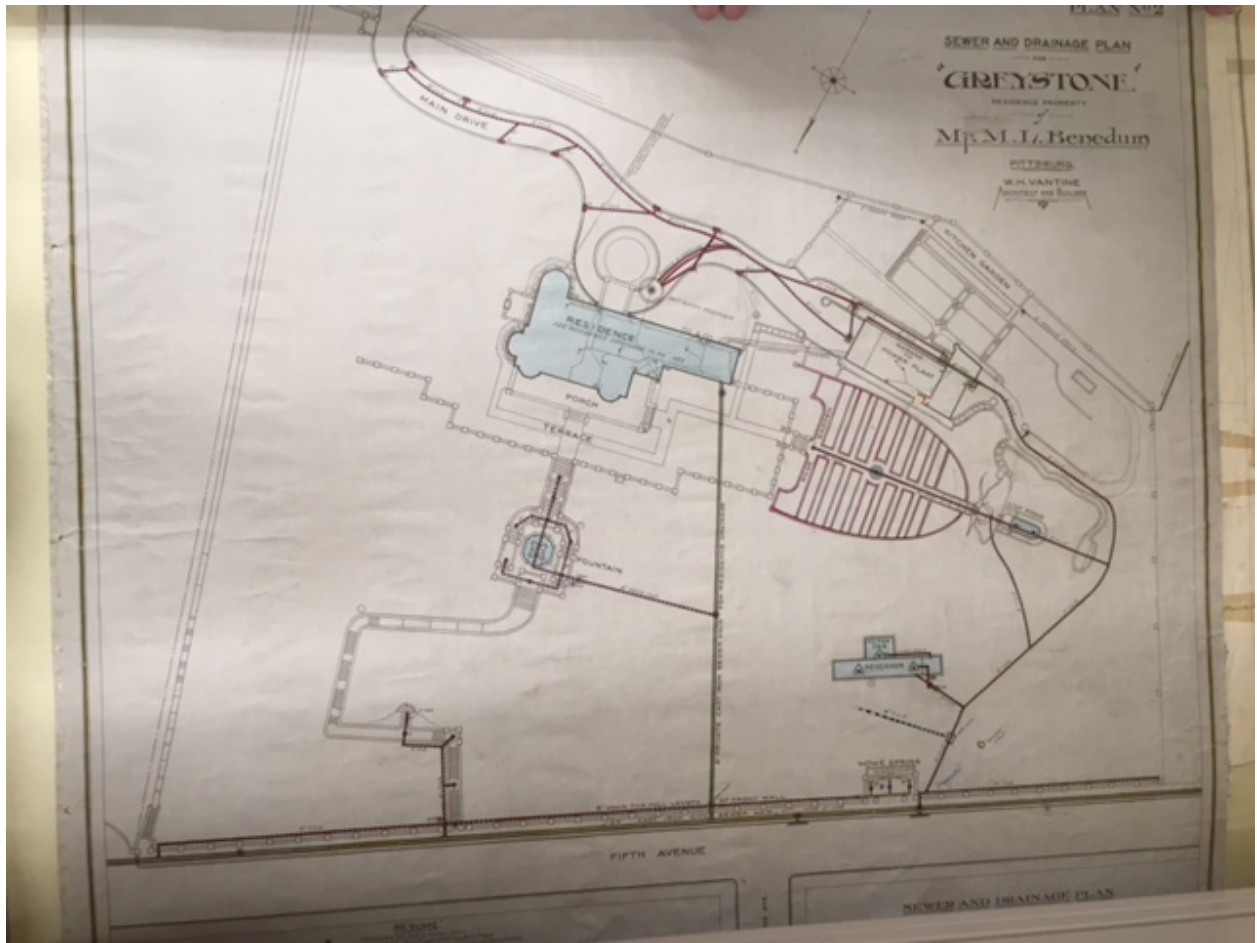


Fig. 9. Greystone, Sewer and Drainage Plan of Benedum Estate (H.R. Farhart, Engineer), November, 1912, Source: Chatham University Archives.

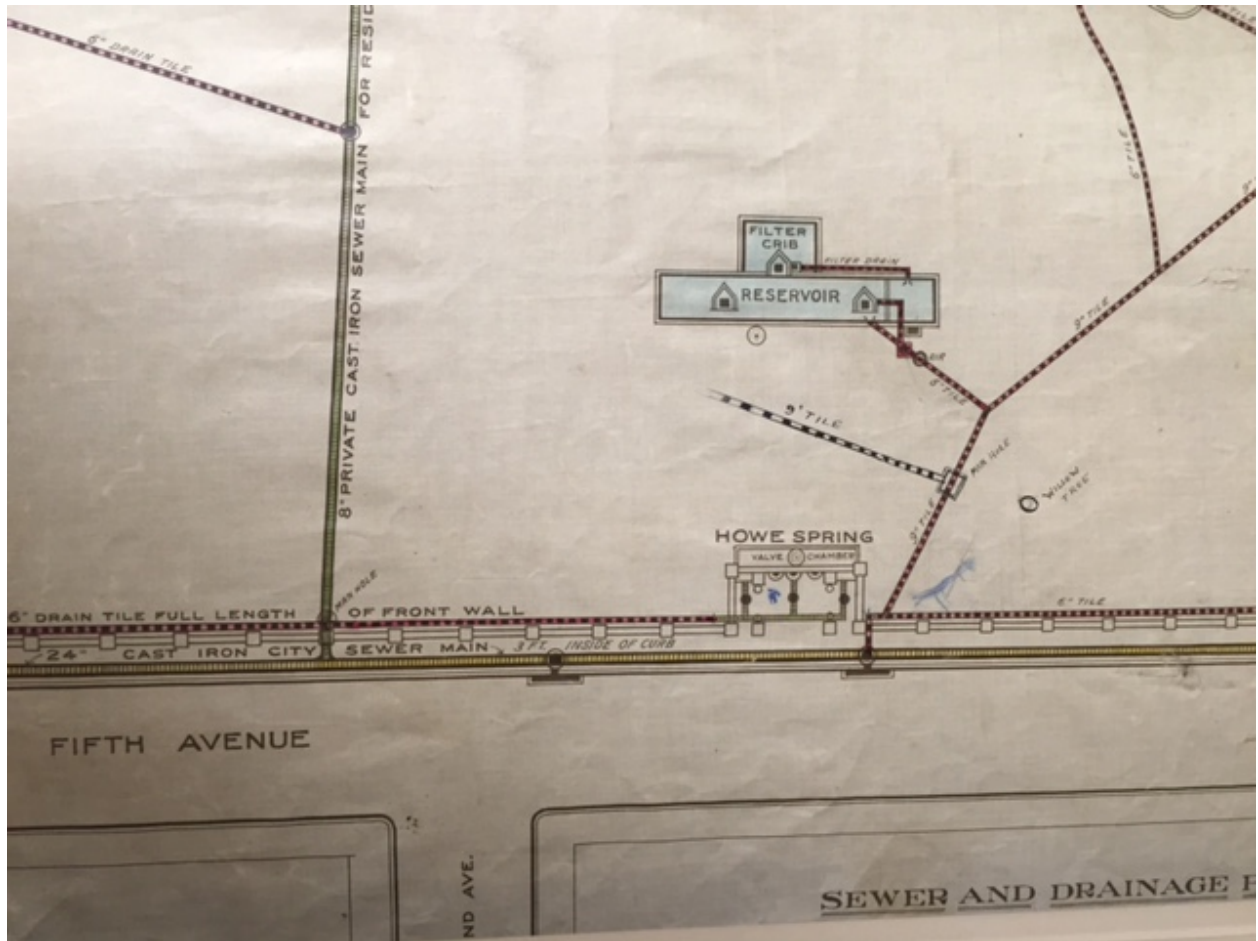


Fig. 9.1. Detail, Sewer and Drainage Plan of Benedum Estate (H.R. Farhart, Engineer), November, 1912, Source: Chatham University Archives.



Fig. 10. Greystone Estate and Grounds (W.M. Van Tine, Architect & Builder), November, 1912, Source: Chatham University Archives.



Fig. 10.1. Greystone Estate and Grounds (W.M. Van Tine, Architect & Builder), November, 1912, Source: Chatham University Archives.



Fig. 11. Howe Springs, August 3, 1914, Source: Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection:
http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/i/image/image-idx?rgn1=ic_all;xc=1;g=imls;sort=dc_da;q1=Howe%20Spring;c=hpicasc;c=hpicchatham;c=hpiccma;c=hpiccmnh;c=hpicshwp;c=hpicmonroeville;c=hpicnpl;c=hpicokmont;c=hpicphlf;c=hpicpitcairn;c=hpicpointpark;c=hpicpso;c=hpicrsc;c=hpicusc;back=back1468522326;size=20;subview=detail;resnum=1;view=entry;lastview=thumbnail;cc=hpicasc;entryid=x-715.143915.cp;viewid=20100120-CP-0093.TIF

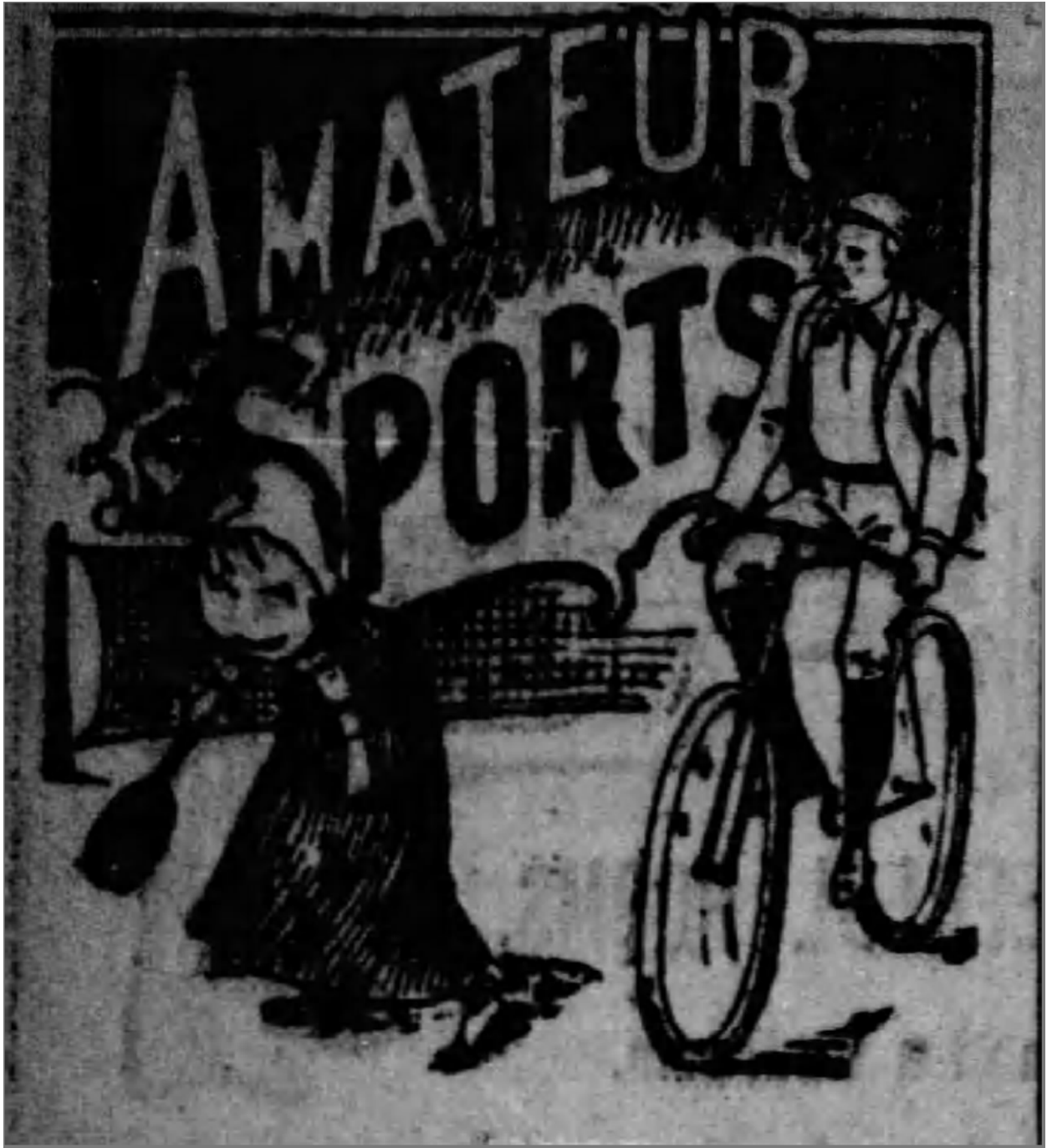


Fig. 12. *Amateur Sports*, December 3, 1896, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.



Fig. 13. *Two-Wheeled Riff Raff Load on Fifth Ave.*, Date Unknown, Source: *Publication Unknown*, Housed in Chatham University Archive.

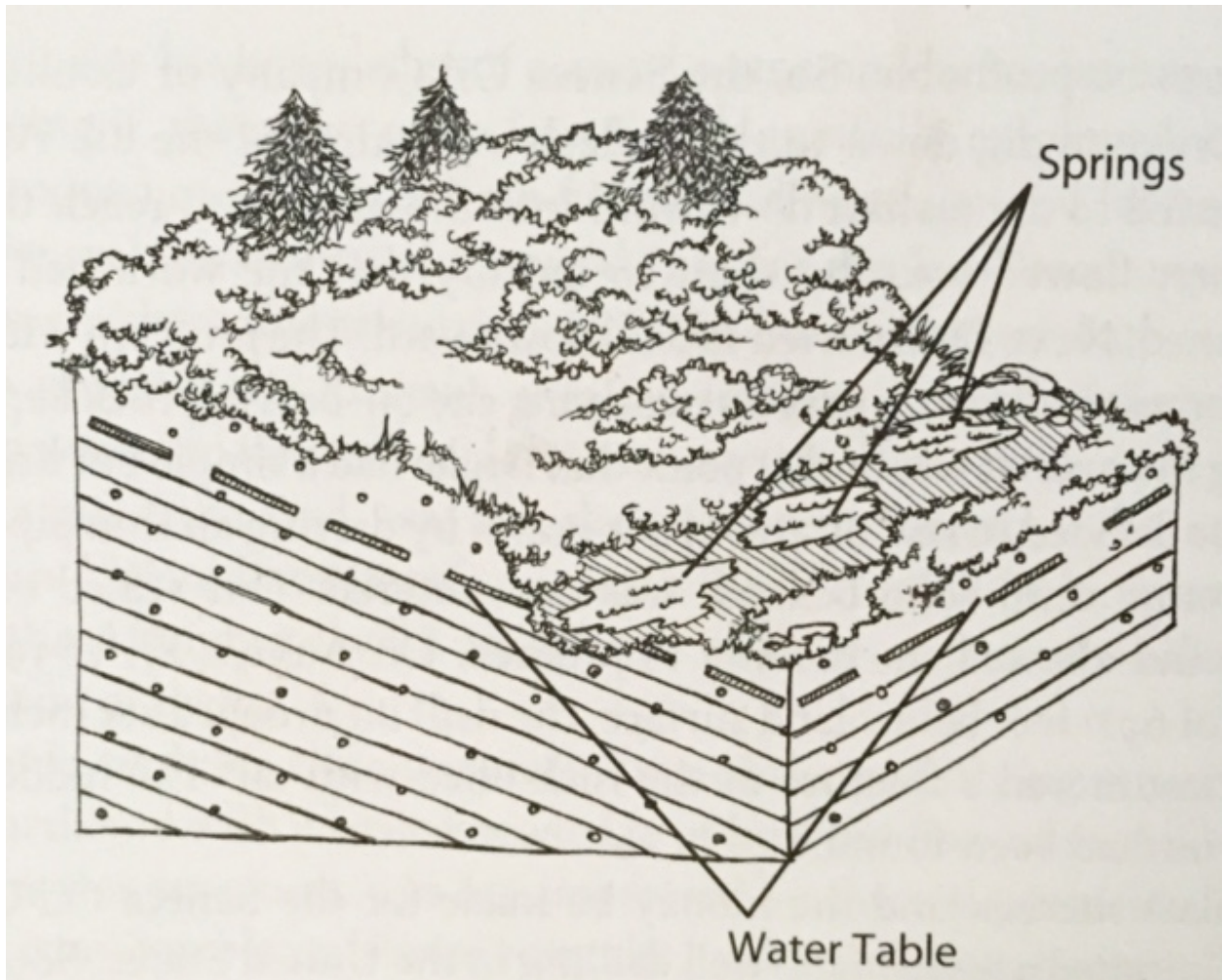


Fig. 14. How Springs Develop Where the Land Surface Intersects the Water Table. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

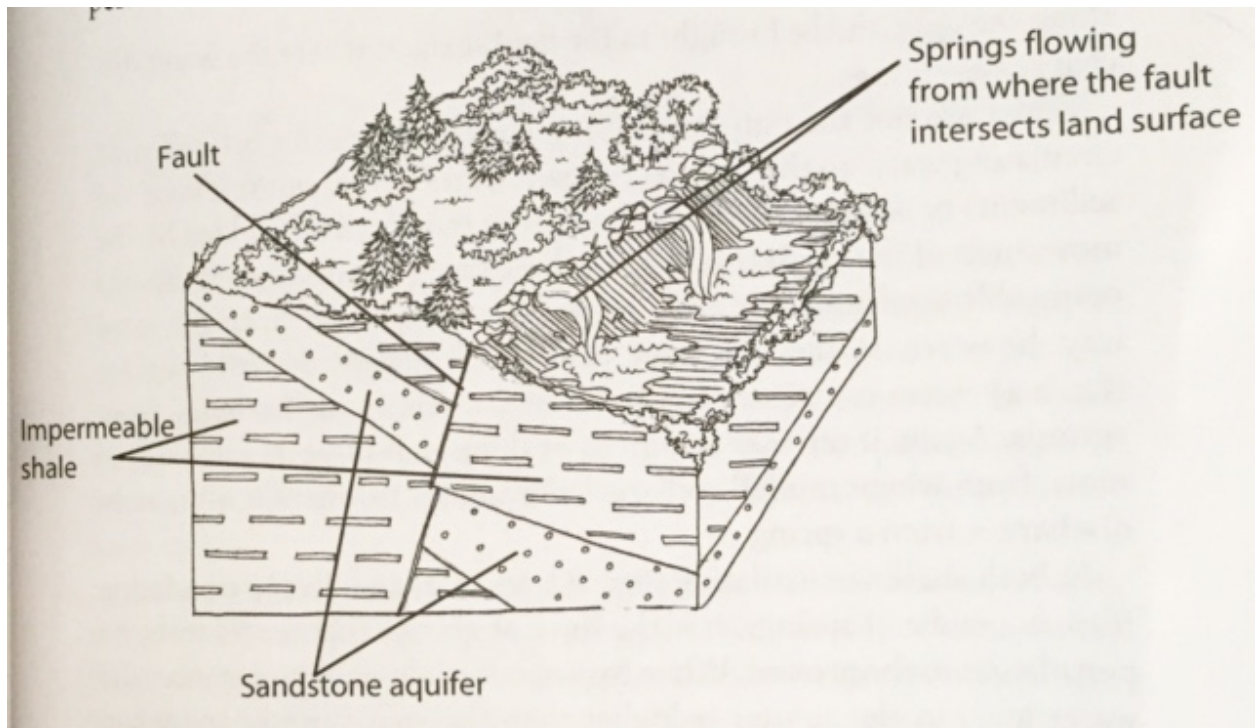


Fig. 15. How Geologic Faults Can Bring Deep Ground Water to land Surface, Where it Discharges from Springs. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.



Fig. 16. *Thaw's Spring, Beechwood*, May 14, 1899, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.



Fig. 17. *Sylvan Avenue's Natural Spring*, August 8, 1897, Source: Pittsburgh Daily Post.



Fig. 18. Brookline Spring on Berkshire Ave, July 13, 1905, Source: Pittsburgh Daily Post.



Fig. 19. *Rustic Spring, Highland Park, Pittsburg, Pa.*, Postmarked May 5, 1912, Source: Postcard.



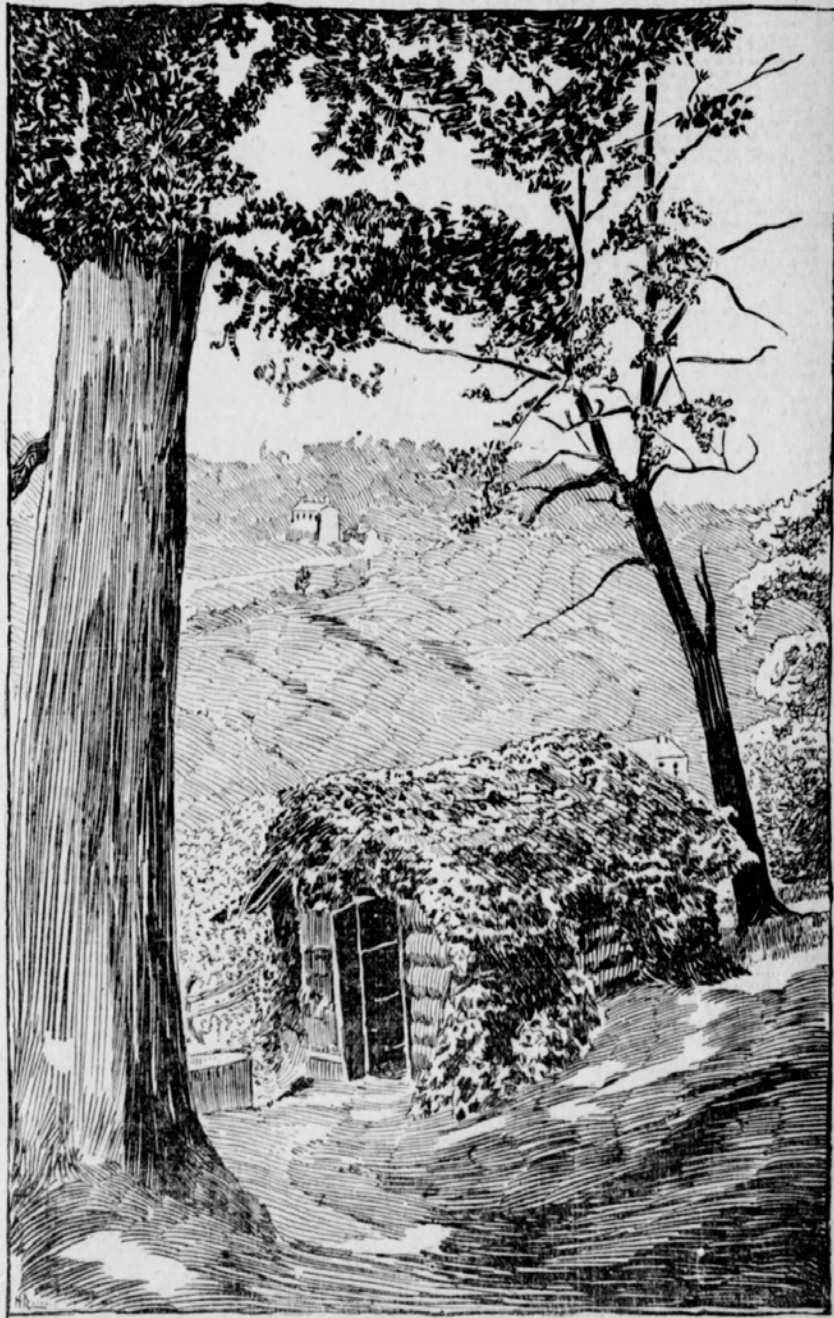
Fig. 20. *Spring at Carnegie Lake, Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Pa. East Liberty*, Date Unknown, Source: Postcard.



Fig. 21. *Tunnel and Spring, Highland Park, Pittsburg, Pa. Postmarked October 4, 1912, Source: Postcard (Published by the Pittsburgh News Company, Pittsburg, Pa.).*



Fig. 22. *Thaw's Spring, Beechwood*, May 14, 1899, Source: the Pittsburgh Press.



RUSTIC SPRING HOUSE, RIVERVIEW PARK.

Fig. 23. *Rustic Spring House, Riverview Park*, May 14, 1899, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.

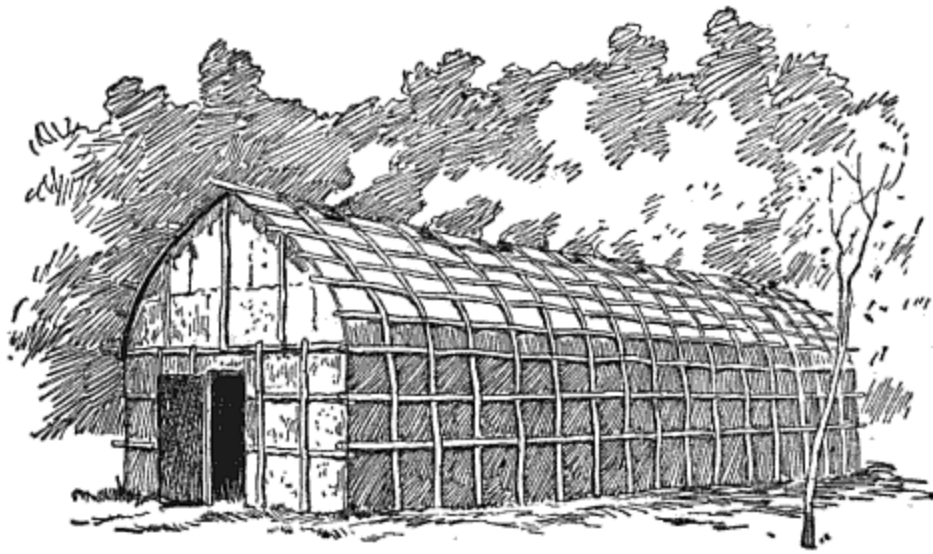


Fig. 24. *The Iroquois Longhouse*, retrieved July 5, 2016, Source: Native American NetRoots.com: <http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1081>



Fig. 25. *Shawnee Dome-shaped Wigwam*, Date Unknown, Source:



Fig. 26. *Catahecassa Stele*, May 7, 2016, Source: Matthew W.C. Falcone.

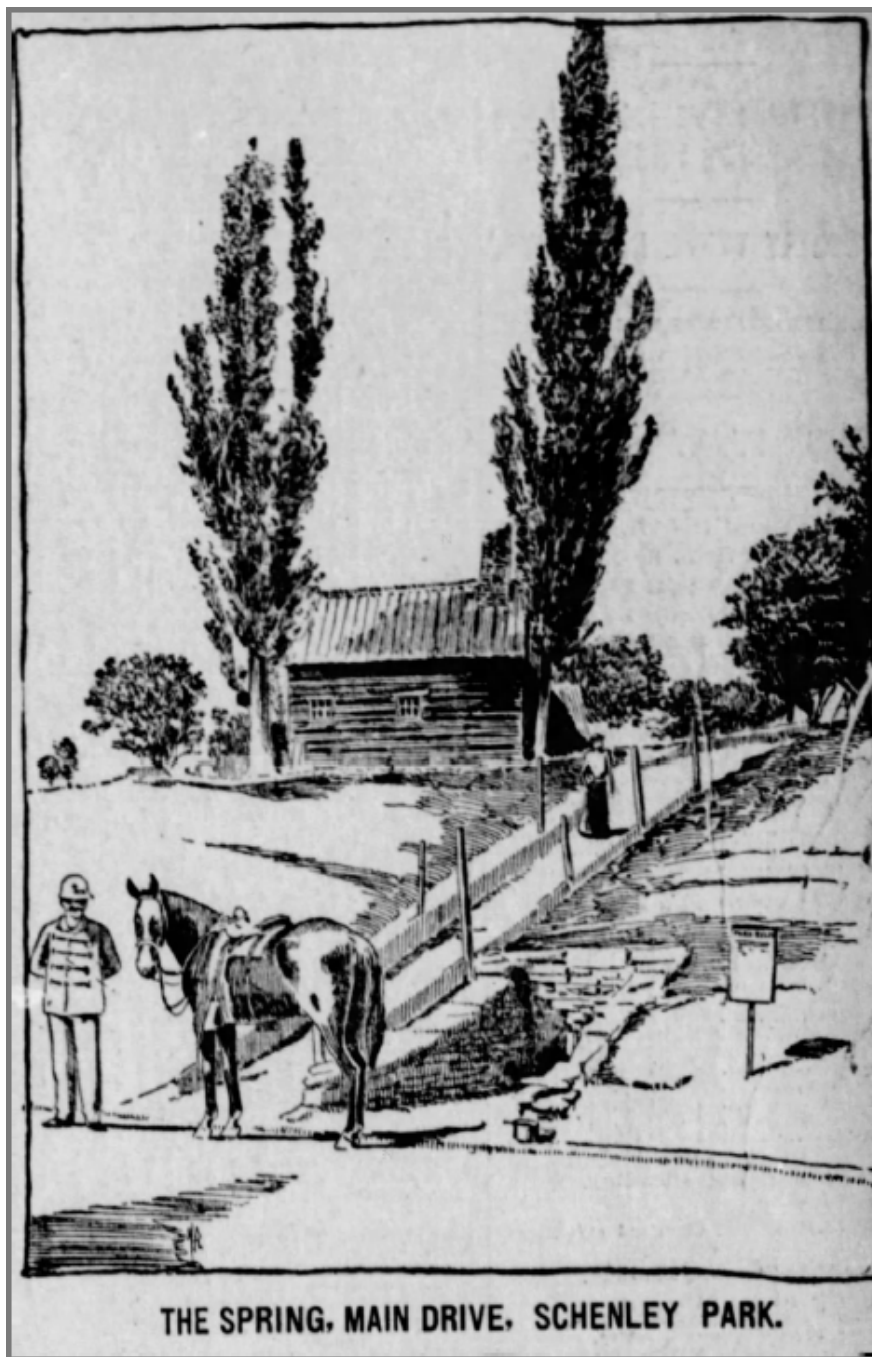
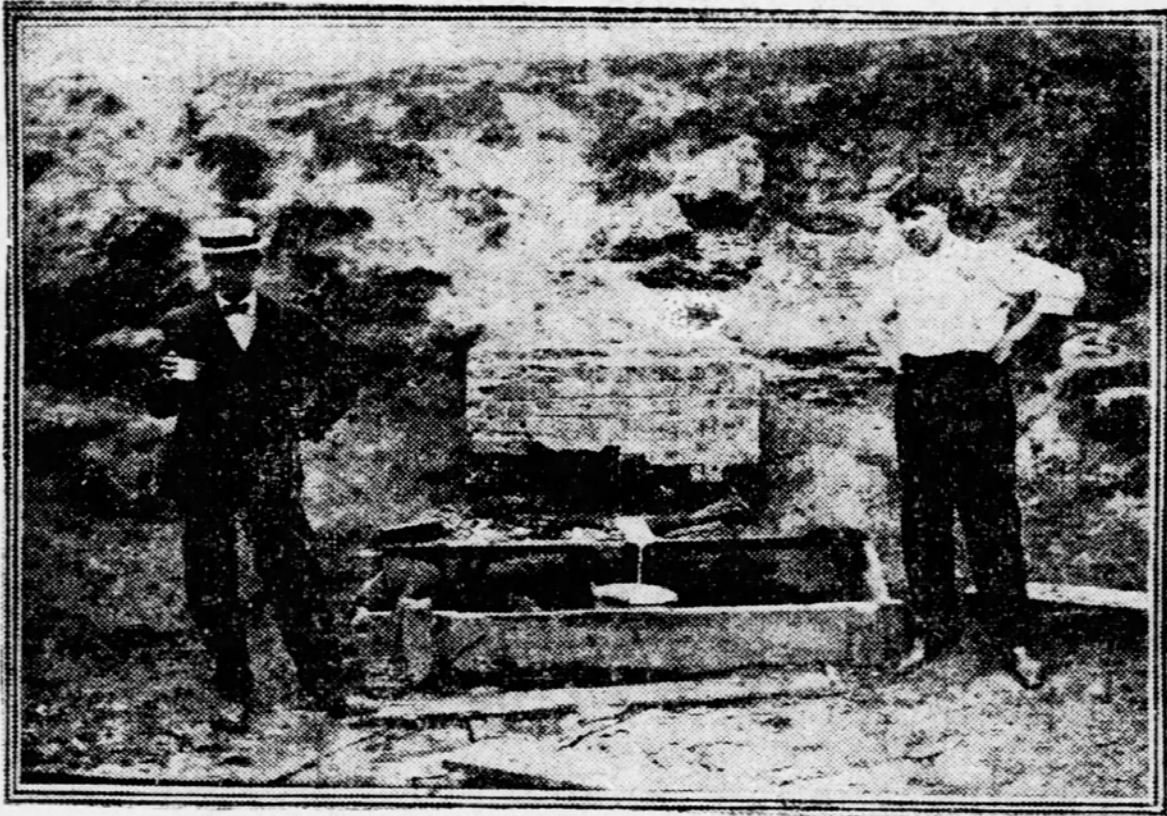


Fig. 27. *The Spring, Main Drive, Schenley Park*, May 14, 1899, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.

THE FRICK SPRING



Opposite the entrance to Carnegie Institute. The picture shows how the spring has been mutilated by workmen. Residents of the district have appealed to H. C. Frick to have the spring restored.

Fig. 28. *The Frick Spring*, July 17, 1906, Source: The Pittsburgh Press.



Fig. 29. Voegtly Spring (a.k.a. Spring Hill Spring), 1940, Source:



Fig. 30. *Repaving Fifth Avenue*, July 11, 1910, Source: Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection:

http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/i/image/image-idx?rgn1=ic_all;op2=And;rgn2=hpicasc_ci;med=1;c=hpicasc;q1=Fifth%20Avenue%20repaving%20about%2050%20feet%20east%20of%20Highland%20Avenue;q2=AIS.1971.05;back=back1468594394;size=20;subview=detail;resnum=1;view=entry;lastview=thumbnail;cc=hpicasc;entryid=x-715.101744.cp;viewid=20090422-CP-0267.TIF

1899

WANTED—Occupants for furnished front room; vicinity of Howe spring; lady or gentleman; both gases; furnace; private family. Write V 26, Press office. 928wp

WANTED—Occupant, gentleman, furnished front room, good furnace, private family, vicinity Howe spring. \$10; will give meals if desired. Write I 48, Press office. 108wp

1900

TO LET—Furnished rooms, gentlemen preferred. 404 South Highland ave., near Howe spring. 125b!

1901

Real Estate.

City and Suburban Property.

FOR SALE—Don't pay rent all your life and have nothing in the end; come to headquarters and buy a home, on easy payments and prices that can't be beat; cut this out and bring it with you. \$7,000—Well, talk about a bargain and fine home, here it is; twentieth century 8-room brick house, in Shady-side, East End; useless for me to try to describe this property on paper; must be seen to be appreciated; near Howe spring, Schenley park and all East End car lines; \$1,000 cash.

LOST.

LOST—On Friday last, between Linden ave. and Howe spring, a passbook containing printed address with manuscript notes; finder will be rewarded on returning to office at East End hotel, Penn ave., E. E. 123jc

LOST--Umbrella with carved tiger's head handle; left at Howe Spring Sunday. Finder will be rewarded on leaving at the Wordsworth, corner Marchand st. and Shady ave. 1223we

REAL ESTATE.

City and Suburban Property.

FOR SALE, EXCHANGE OR FOR RENT.

--A THANKSGIVING TREAT--
OPEN ALL DAY FOR YOUR INSPECTION.

The new and up-to-date residence on Kentucky ave., No. 6191, one minute's walk from the corner of Fifth and Highland aves.

FEATURES.

- A New Buff Brick House,
- 12 Large, Light Living Rooms,
- Billiard Room, 17x34 feet,
- 5 Bath Rooms,
- Hot Water Heat,
- Tile Porch,
- Hard Wood Floors,

Private Street, yet within
1 Minute of 5 Car Lines and
Howe Spring;

Modern in Every Respect.
Is not this attractive?

See-- S. A. DICKIE & CO.,
127 S. Highland Ave.
Telephones.

Office--Either Phone, No. 201 East.
Residence--Bell 1613-2 East. 1125s

• 1903

Boarders.

WANTED—Four or five nice gentlemen to room and board, on South Highland, near Howe Spring, who are willing to pay the right price for first-class accommodations, by April 1. Inquire at 5 West Stockton ave., Allegheny.

315p*

LOST—A bunch of keys, Wednesday evening, at Howe spring. Will finder kindly return to G. E. Turner, 1208 Farmers Bank Building?

528p

TO LET—719 College ave., E. E.—Furnished rooms for gentlemen; modern conveniences; near table board, car lines and Howe spring.

816wb

WANTED—To buy a residence near Howe Spring, Shady Avenue Baptist church, or Margaretta school; price not to exceed \$7,000 cash. Write Y 171, Press office.

93wp

BEAUTIFUL 11 room brick house, fine street,
near Fifth ave. and Howe Spring, at a great
sacrifice. Price for a few days \$15,000.

Want houses for sale, rent or exchange.

H. F. WOODBURN CO., 417 Fourth ave.

96e

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.

Your inspection is invited of the new and
modern buff brick house, No. 6100 Howe street,
300 ft. east of South Highland avenue;
mansard brick of 12 rooms and den, 2 baths,
lavatory, hardwood floors, instantaneous heater,
within 2 minutes' walk of four car lines and
noted Howe spring on Fifth avenue, yet on
private street; can be bought for \$14,500, or
will exchange for vacant; open all day Labor
day. See your agent, or

S. A. DICH
Cor. Center and
Both 'phones

NEW center hall dwelling, near Howe spring,
for vacant or smaller property.

200-ft. fine E. E. frontage for income.

9-room brick house near Forbes st., Oakland.

Five small houses for cheap lots.

Thirty clear lots for improved; will assume.

\$3,500 clear property for larger property.

Fine S. Linden ave. lot, 50x120.

Swissvale houses for Westinghouse employes.

We want property for sale, rent or ex-
change.

H. F. WOODBURN Co., 417 Fourth ave.

963p

WANTED—I have \$7,000 cash to buy a home within half mile of Howe spring, Pittsburg; property must be good investment to be considered. Q. Jones, Hamilton Building. 913wp

For Exchange.

FOR EXCHANGE—New center hall dwelling, near Howe spring, for vacant or smaller property.

200-ft. fine E. E. frontage for income.

9-room brick house near Forbes st., Oakland.

Five small houses for cheap lots.

Thirty clear lots for improved; will assume.

\$3,500 clear property for larger property.

Fine S. Linden ave. lot, 50x120.

Swissvale houses for Westinghouse employes.

We want property for sale, rent or exchange.

H. F. WOODBURN CO., 417 Fourth ave.

920p

Houses

I WISH to buy a residence within half mile of Howe Spring, Pittsburg; willing to pay from \$7,000 to \$8,000 cash; don't waste your time and mine unless you have something good to offer. Quintard Jones, Hamilton Bldg., Pittsburg. 922wd

WANTED—MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED—Room, second story; breakfast, warm luncheon, dinner; private family; home-like; near Howe spring, Wilkinsburg or Allegheny preferred; by refined young man with best references; will pay between \$25 and \$30 per month; early answer desired. Address Z 7, Office of The Post.

KENTUCKY AVE., 5918—Furnished rooms, refined neighborhood, near Howe Spring. Bell 'phone East 2215 R. 417wb

THE IMPERIAL, 17 Frankstown ave., E. E.—Nicely furnished room; best 25c meal in city. 418wp

S. HIGHLAND AVE., 421—Newly furnished rooms, with all conveniences; 2 minutes' walk to Howe Spring; reasonable rent. 430wb

SOUTH HIGHLAND AVE., 421. East End—Furnished rooms, with or without board, near Howe Spring; convenient to car lines; reasonable. 513wb

NEVILLE ST., 531—Large, airy rooms, fine shady porches, lawn and shade trees; must be seen to be appreciated; just the place for the hot months; Howe Spring water; excellent home cooking; all conveniences of home. Come and see. 65wb

CITY AND SUBURBAN ROOMS.

FURNISHED ROOMS TO LET.

726 Ivy st., East End—Four handsomely furnished rooms, suitable for light housekeeping, in residence of owner; \$35, including gas for cooking, heating and lighting; use of bath, laundry and storage rooms; Howe spring water to drink; to cultured Christian couple only; immediate possession. 924tvx

FOR SALE.

A beautiful modern home of 12 rooms, 3 baths, hardwood floors; located on Howe st., within three minutes' walk of Howe spring; near five car lines, yet in the heart of the residence center of East End; nice large lot; immediate possession; price only \$16,000.

S. A. DICKIE & COMPANY,

Cor. Center and South Highland aves.

106r

7 rooms and bath, frame house, lot 30x100;
5 minutes walk to Howe spring; 2 minutes
to cars and train; \$7,000; must be sold quick,
owner leaving city; no triflers need answer.
Address, H 97, Press Office. 425wr

6 OR 8 MEN to board; cool, light rooms;
price reasonable; excellent locality; Howe
spring water. 5882 Ellsworth ave., E. E. 729xp

FARMS AND ACREAGE.

\$700 PER ACRE.

25 acres, three coal, two miles from Mc-
Kees Rocks; frame house, 6 rooms, two barns,
chicken house, all necessary outbuildings,
never-falling spring of water; said to be equal
to Howe spring, Fifth ave.

Will trade this farm for city property.

S. ARNOLD & CO.,
434 Fourth ave.

824p

FURNISHED APARTMENT of 4 rooms in pri-
vate family, Shadyside, near Fifth ave; priv-
ilege of bath, gas for heating, lighting and
cooking, use of laundry and Howe spring wa-
ter; \$35 month to refined Christian adult couple
only. Apply Room 410, Ferguson Bldg.

1120wp

EAST END TO LET

LOVELY RESIDENCE

IN ARISTOCRATIC NEIGHBORHOOD;

STONE AND SHINGLE, 11 ROOMS, 3 TILE

BATHS, LAWNS AND SHADE TREES; MA-

CADAMIZED DRIVES; 100 YARDS FROM

HOWE SPRING; RENT \$1,800 PER YEAR.

OWNER CALLED SUDDENLY WEST.

EBBERT, COOK & McCLINTOCK,

MACHESNEY BLDG., FOURTH AVE.

521hjr

LARGE unfurnished room near Roup station
or Howe spring. State terms. Address S 18,
The Gazette Times.

ELEGANT second story front room, newly
furnished; first-class conveniences; near
Howe spring; private family. Phone 1784-W
Highland, or address X 281, E. E. Press of-
fice. 84xp

ELEGANTLY furnished second-story front room, first-class conveniences, refined neighborhood, near Howe spring. Phone 1784-W Highland, or write R 300, East End Press office. 811xp

FURNISHED ROOM—Nicely furnished in refined private family; strictly first-class conveniences, near Howe spring, East End. Write D 249, East End Press office.

98xp

STRATTON LANE, near Howe Spring—Room for women employed; rent reasonable. Highland, 4706 J.

LOST—On South Highland, between Howe spring and Alder st., gold chain, valued as a gift. Liberal reward if returned to room 24, 524 Penn ave. 1026wp

• 1909

J. V. SHAFFER,
7548 Roslyn St., Swissvale.

P. & A. Phone 925 Hawkins. 110p

NEAR Fifth ave. and Howe Spring—New solid brick house; hardwood floors, paneled and beautiful dining room; 2 baths; hot water system for heating; grand view; best neighborhood; chandeliers and decorations to be selected. For terms call Wilkins 735-L.
110wp

SOUTH HIGHLAND, 412—Nice light, airy rooms, well furnished; meals if desired; fine location; convenient Howe spring; references exchanged.
59wp

BOARD

BOARD WANTED—Rooms and board wanted for husband, wife and daughter, 9 years old. East End, near Howe Spring preferred. Address Q. Jones, Ferguson Building. 727wp

MENTION THE PRESS WHEN ANSWERING ADS.

WANTED—Fifty laborers, at Howe Spring property, Fifth and Highland aves. W. H. Van Tine, Manager. 917xp

EAST END BARGAIN.

\$10,000.00 house for \$8,500.00, in high class neighborhood; all modern conveniences; near Howe Spring and convenient to Fifth ave. and East Liberty.

CONTINENTAL TRUST CO.,

246 Fourth ave.

Court 2143.

1022p

GARDENER wanted. Capable man to take care of large property and not too strong to work. must have references. W. H. Van Tine, Mgr, Howe Spring property, Fifth and Highland aves. 123we

GARDENER—Practical gardener (German preferred) who wants good job and willing to work. W. H. Van Tine, mgr, Howe Spring property, Fifth and Highland aves. 229we

Fig. 31. Advertisements Referencing Howe Spring, 1899-1909, Sources: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh Daily Times.

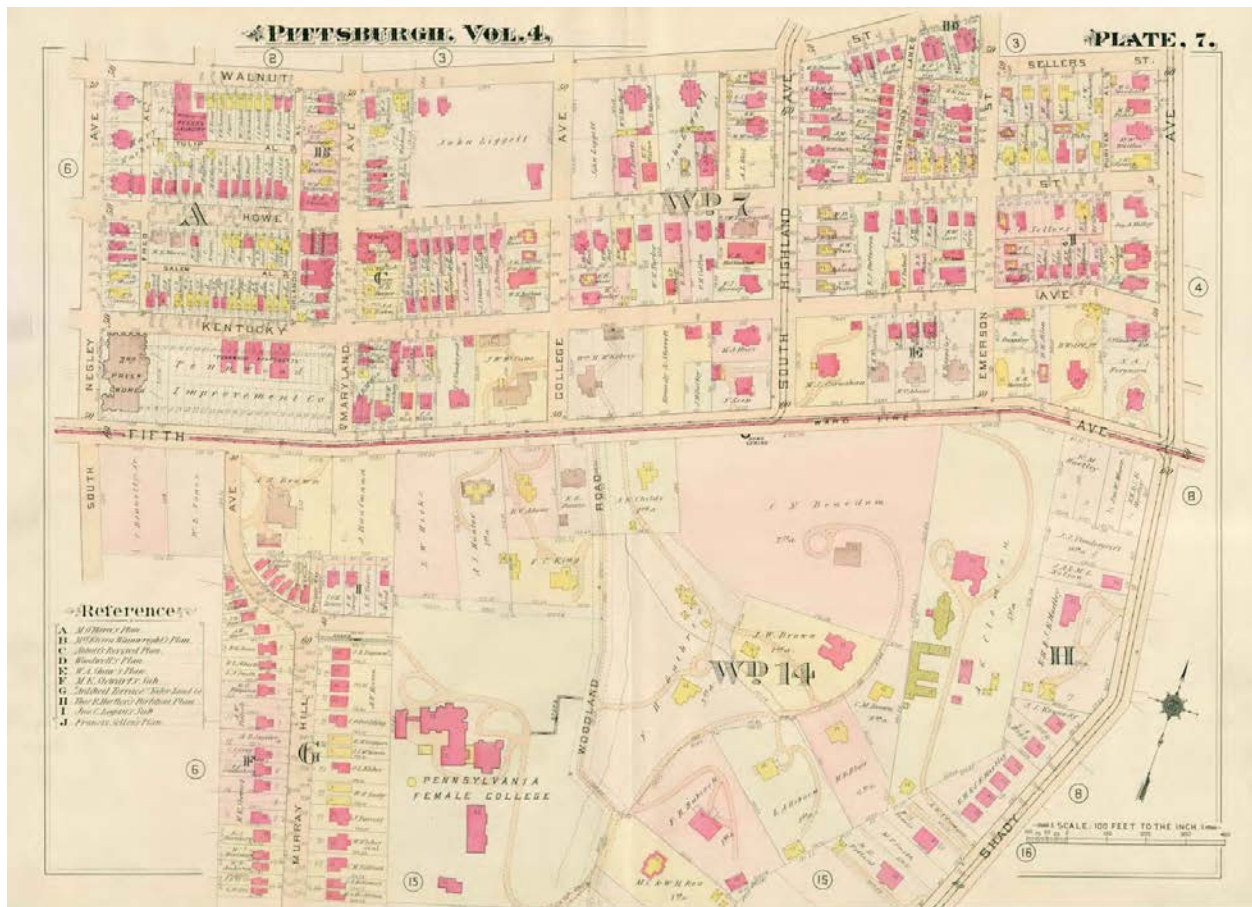


Fig. 32. Detail, G.M. Hopkins & Co. Map., 1911, Source: <http://images.library.pitt.edu/cgi-bin/i/image/image-idx?view=entry;cc=maps;entryid=x-20090514-hopkins-0009>

Howe Springs Supporting Material