

## HISTORY OF 720 AMBERSON AVENUE

Kate Aiken Reed, wife of James H. Reed had 720 Amberson Avenue built in 1879 on land carved out from the Aiken estate and given to her by her parents, David Aiken, Jr. and Caroline Aiken.

James H. Reed was an attorney who founded the law firm of Knox & Reed in 1877 with future U. S. Senator, Philander Chase Knox. Reed's law firm is still operating today under the name Reed Smith, LLP, and is internationally known. The Reeds' four children were born while they lived at 720 Amberson Avenue, including their second son, David Aiken Reed, who served as a U. S. Senator from 1923 until 1935.

In 1888, the Reed family moved from 720 Amberson Avenue to a home they had built next door and sold the home to De Witt C. Clapp. Clapp was an officer for the Park Steel Company and close to retirement age when he purchased the home. He would live there for the rest of his life.

In 1921 Katherine Reed Frazer, the youngest child of James and Kate Reed purchased 720 Amberson Avenue with her husband, attorney John G. Frazer and in 1929 significantly remodeled the home to its present size and appearance.

The Frazers hired the architecture firm of Ingham & Boyd, one of the most prestigious local architectural firms of the era, for the remodel of 720 Amberson Avenue. Ingham & Boyd redesigned 720 Amberson Avenue in the French Eclectic style, which is shown in the house's steeply pitched hipped roof and tall chimneys, nearly symmetrical facade, and circular dormers, and in details such as the open terrace, masonry construction with quoins at the corners, windows with small panes, and beaux arts detailing on the first-floor lintels and doorframe.

The house at 720 Amberson Avenue has now had a total of six owners. Detailed information on the history of 720 Amberson Avenue is contained in the following report.

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2020

## OWNERSHIP

### Pre-Construction

July 21, 1879 (Allegheny County Deed Book 395: 339): David Aiken, Jr. and Callie J. Aiken conveyed a 62' x 200' lot where 720 Amberson Avenue would be built to Kate J. Reed, their daughter and wife of James H. Reed, for \$1 and natural love and affection.

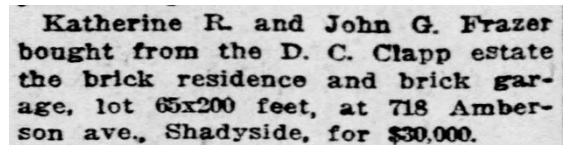
### Post-Construction

December 30, 1885 (Deed Book 536: 509): David Aiken, Jr. and Caroline J. Aiken conveyed the 70' x 200' lot next to 720 Amberson Avenue to James H. Reed for \$7,000. When the Reed family sold 720 Amberson to D. C. Clapp, three feet of this land was conveyed with the house and remains part of the property today.

April 2, 1888 (Deed Book 606: 85): James H. and Kate J. Reed conveyed 720 Amberson Avenue to D. C. Clapp for \$7,500. The lot size was 65' x 200', and the parcel was described as having a "two-story dwelling house."

D. C. Clapp died on May 5, 1925 and left 720 Amberson Avenue to his two sons, George and Charles Clapp.

February 15, 1922 (Deed Book 2094: 240): George H. and Annie L. Clapp of Edgeworth, and Charles E. and Ella H. Clapp of New York City conveyed 720 Amberson Avenue to Katharine Frazer, wife of John G. Frazer of Pittsburgh for \$30,000.



Katherine R. and John G. Frazer bought from the D. C. Clapp estate the brick residence and brick garage, lot 65x200 feet, at 718 Amberson ave., Shadyside, for \$30,000.

*From The Pittsburgh Press, March 3, 1922*

In 1945, the house at 716 Amberson Avenue was torn down and part of that lot was used to increase the lawn at 720 Amberson Avenue, bringing the lot to its current size and dimensions.

Katharine Frazer died on April 19, 1967 and left 720 Amberson Avenue to her son, John J. Frazer, Jr. (Will Book 391: 506).

August 28, 1967 (Deed Book 4541: 341): John J. Frazer, Jr., Barbara B. Frazer, and John J. Frazer, Jr., and Mellon National Bank and Trust Company, Executors under the will of Katharine Reed Frazer conveyed 720 Amberson Avenue to Richard P. and Gertrude A. Mellon for \$126,500.

This deed included three parcels: 716 and 720 Amberson Avenue and 5051 Castleman Street.

April 10, 1969 (Deed Book 4503: 475): Richard P. and Gertrude A. Mellon conveyed 720 Amberson Avenue to Gordon and Donna W. Gordon for \$75,000.

Subsequent deeds as recorded in Deed Book 10951: 604, 15703: 364 changed Gordon and Donna W. Gordon's ownership status to tenants-in-common and then to tenants-by-the-entireties.

Donna W. Gordon died on February 4, 2016.

*On December 9, 2016, William F. and Vivian Fung Benter purchased 720 Amberson Avenue from Gordon Gordon (Deed Book 16633:514).*

## AGE OF 720 AMBERSON AVENUE

### Construction

City of Pittsburgh building permit dockets show that on July 7, 1879, Mrs. Jas. H. Reed received a permit for the construction of a two-story house in the 20<sup>th</sup> Ward (now the 7<sup>th</sup> Ward) of the city. The house was to be built of brick and be 22' high, 40' wide, by 36" deep.

The Reeds hired Edwin Bindley to construct 720 Amberson Avenue. Pittsburgh city directories show that Bindley was a contractor in the late 1800s and his home and office was located at 121 Webster Avenue.

### Construction Cost

The estimated construction cost of 720 Amberson Avenue was \$6,000.

Costs of other houses built in Shadyside within a few years of 1879 included:

- 710 Bellefonte Street, \$1,200, 1886
- 357 Lehigh Avenue, \$1,800, 1880
- 620 South Negley Avenue, \$3,100, 1885
- 6105 Walnut Street, \$4,000, 1877
- 703 South Negley Avenue, \$4,200, 1884

### Architectural Style

Kate Aiken Reed likely had 720 Amberson Avenue built in the Italianate style. The Italianate style was the prevailing architectural style for homes and commercial buildings constructed in the Pittsburgh area between the early or mid-1860s and about 1885. Sanborn Insurance Company maps from 1925 and earlier show that the house was constructed of brick and had an asymmetrical footprint, bay windows, and a partial porch, which are details common in Italianate homes.

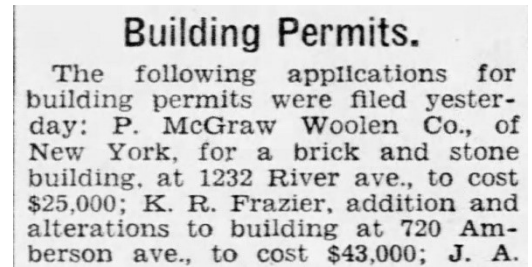
### Addition and remodeling, 1929

In 1929 the house was significantly remodeled by Katharine Frazer, the daughter of Kate Aiken Reed. Frazer spent an estimated \$43,000, which was a not insignificant amount for a new building at that time, let alone a remodel.



### The architects: Ingham & Boyd

The Frazers commissioned the Pittsburgh architectural firm of Ingham & Boyd to design the addition to and remodel 720 Amberson Avenue. Ingham & Boyd, among the most prestigious local architectural firms in the 1920s and 1930s, then had offices in room 86 of the Vandergrift Building at 323 Fourth Avenue, Downtown. The firm was a partnership of Charles T. Ingham of 215 North Linden Avenue, Point Breeze (later of 917 Bellefonte Street, Shadyside), and William Boyd of Sewickley.



*From The Pittsburgh Press, March 27, 1929.*

Ingham & Boyd, whose clients included some of Pittsburgh's wealthiest families, were often described as "society architects." Other work by Ingham & Boyd included design of:

- Shadyside: Houses at 620 Amberson Avenue, 619 Pitcairn Place, and 432 Morewood Avenue.
- Squirrel Hill: Houses at 5564 Aylesboro Avenue, 1055 Devon Road, 1233 Inverness Avenue, 5455 Dunmoyle Street, and 5256 Wilkins Avenue.
- Point Breeze: A house at 322 Richland Lane.
- Mount Washington: Chatham Village.
- Fox Chapel: the Shadyside Academy gymnasium.
- Oakland: The former Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania building, 4338 Bigelow Boulevard, and the Board of Public Education building, 341 South Bellefield Avenue.
- Wilkinsburg: The Second United Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg.
- Homewood: Westinghouse High School.
- Regent Square: Waverly Presbyterian Church, Forbes and South Braddock Avenues.
- North Side: The Buhl Planetarium

### Architectural Style

Ingham & Boyd redesigned 720 Amberson Avenue in the French Eclectic style. The style is shown in the house's form, with a steeply pitched hipped roof and tall chimneys, nearly symmetrical facade, and circular dormers, and in details such as the open terrace, masonry construction with quoins at the corners, windows with small panes, and beaux arts detailing on the first-floor lintels and doorframe.

The French Eclectic style, according to *A Field Guide to American Houses* (Virginia and Lee McAlester, 1984) was used between about 1915 and 1940. The French Eclectic style was never as common as the contemporaneous or overlapping Colonial Revival, Prairie, and Craftsman styles, and was almost always used in the design of

larger houses. In the Pittsburgh area, additional examples of the style can be found in Squirrel Hill, Point Breeze, and the Sewickley area. McAlester and McAlester note that houses in the symmetrical subtype of the French Eclectic style, like 720 Amberson Avenue, were designed with more formal facades than those built in the style's other two subtypes, with asymmetrical and towered forms.

#### Street name and numbering

The house at 720 Amberson Avenue was originally known as 718 Amberson Avenue. The address became 720 Amberson Avenue sometime in the early 1920s.

## JAMES HAY AND KATE AIKEN REED

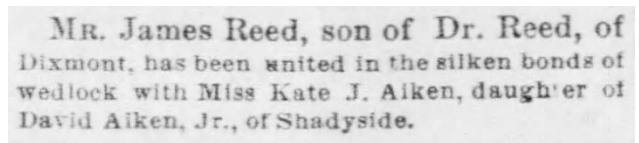
James Hay Reed was born at Dixmont Hospital on September 10, 1853, where his father, Dr. Joseph A. Reed was the first superintendent. James Reed was his parents' third child, but the first to survive past infancy. His mother, Eliza Hay Reed died in 1858, when James was still a small child.

James Reed attended public schools growing up and Western University of Pennsylvania (now the University of Pittsburgh) for college, graduating in 1872. He passed the bar in 1875 and formed the law firm of Knox & Reed with future U. S. Senator, Philander Chase Knox in 1877. Reed's law firm is still operating today, under the name Reed Smith, LLP, and has offices all over the world.

Katherine Jones Aiken was born on August 9, 1857, the oldest of ten children born to David Aiken, Jr. and Caroline Jones Aiken. David Aiken was the son of Thomas Aiken, one of the earliest settlers of Pittsburgh and was born on his father's farm, "Shady Side," in 1833. The farm was bounded by what are now Fifth Avenue, Neville Street, the East Busway, and South Aiken Avenue.

The Aiken family was very wealthy. David Aiken owned a building materials firm, Aiken & Company, and had land holdings valued at \$220,000 at the time of the 1870 census. The value of Aiken's real estate was comparable to \$8 million or more in the early 21st century. When Kate was a young child her father built the family home which is still standing at 5020 Amberson Place. Part of the land on this estate was given to Kate to build 720 Amberson Avenue.

In 1878, Kate Jones Aiken and James Hay Reed were married. City directories from 1879 show that they lived in a home on Craig Street, North of Forbes before work was completed on their home at 720 Amberson Avenue.



MR. James Reed, son of Dr. Reed, of Dixmont, has been united in the silken bonds of wedlock with Miss Kate J. Aiken, daughter of David Aiken, Jr., of Shadyside.

*From the Pittsburgh Daily Post, June 8, 1878.*

The Reeds would move into 720 (then 718) Amberson in 1879 and their four children would be born while living in the home. Their first son, Joseph Hay Reed, was born on February 24, 1879, but would, unfortunately die in 1881.

Their next son, David Aiken Reed would be born on December 21, 1880. David Reed attended Shadyside Academy, Princeton University, and received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1903. He served as a Major in the U. S. Army during World War I, and in 1923 was elected U. S. Senator, a position he held until 1935.

On May 14, 1884, James Hay Reed, Jr. was born. James Jr. would become President of American Die and Forge Company of Swissvale and build a house on Castleman Street. He died of pneumonia in 1930, at the age of 46, while on a business trip to New York.

The couple's only daughter, Katherine Aiken Reed, would be born on April 11, 1886. Katherine married attorney John Gilfillan Frazer and returned to 720 Amberson as an adult.

The 1880 U. S. Census was the first to be taken after 720 Amberson Avenue was constructed. James Reed was 26 at the time, and Kate Reed was 22. Joseph, incorrectly recorded as "George" was 1. The family employed two live-in servants: Kate Boland, 21, and Margaret Quinn, 15. Both were born in Pennsylvania and were the children of Irish immigrants.

James H. Reed purchased the lot next door to 720 Amberson in 1885 and built a new home at 716 Amberson, which would become the family home in 1888. In 1889, shortly after moving from 720 Amberson Avenue, James H. Reed and his partner, Philander Knox, successfully defended the South Fork Fishing Club against the numerous lawsuits filed against the club for causing the Johnstown Flood.

President Benjamin Harrison nominated James H. Reed to be a federal judge for the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in 1891. Judge Reed served in that position for one year before resigning in January of 1892.

James H. Reed died of kidney failure on June 17, 1927 and was buried in Allegheny Cemetery. Kate Aiken Reed died of pneumonia on May 1, 1945 at the age of 87 and is buried next to her husband.

## DEWITT C. AND DELIA HUBBARD CLAPP

DeWitt Clinton Clapp and his wife Delia Hubbard Clapp purchased 720 Amberson in 1888.

DeWitt Clapp was born in New York on July 3, 1827. At a young age, his parents moved his family to a farm near Columbus, Ohio. On January 30, 1856, he married Delia Hubbard. Hubbard had been born in Ohio on June 8, 1831. She was also raised on a farm, however her father was a physician. After the couple was married, Clapp worked his way up in business, working in many different industries, eventually becoming secretary and treasurer of the Park Steel Company.

Records of the 1890 manuscript census, which would provide information on the Clapp family in that year, were destroyed in a warehouse fire in Washington, D. C. in 1921.

When the 1900 census was enumerated, DeWitt Clapp was 72, and Delia Clapp was 69. 720 Amberson was owned without a mortgage and the Clapps employed two live-in servants: Anna B. Ayers, 22, and Ursula Gates, 27. Both servants were natives of Ohio and unmarried.

Unfortunately, Delia Clapp would become ill in 1909 and after struggling for a few weeks with progressive pernicious anemia, she passed away on June 3, 1909 at the age of 77. She was laid to rest in Allegheny Cemetery.

The 1910 census recorded the then 82-year-old De Witt Clapp as living with a "personal visitor," Anah G. Kent, 37. Kent was a native of Wisconsin who had been married for four years, and had also been counted for the census in her home state that year. In Wisconsin, she lived with her parents, Gaines Knapp, a wealthy banker and his wife, Florence Knapp, and Anah Kent's husband, George Kent, a contractor. The Knapps were originally from New York, which may explain how they knew DeWitt Clapp.

Clapp still kept Ursula Gates in his employ, and her sister, Mary Z. Gates, 40, had also joined the household as a servant.

At the time of the 1920 census, De Witt Clapp was finally retired at the age of 92. He now had a live-in nurse, Jeanette Porter, 44, to take care of him, and he still employed Ursula and Mary Gates as maids.

On October 5, 1921, De Witt C. Clapp passed away from a bowel obstruction. He was 94. He was laid to rest in Allegheny Cemetery, alongside his wife.

## JOHN G. AND KATHERINE REED FRAZIER

In 1922 Katherine Reed, now married to John Frazer, returned to 720 Amberson Avenue, the home her parents had built and the place where she was likely born. Katherine Reed had grown up next door at 716 Amberson Avenue and lead a charmed life. Her name graced the society pages of local newspapers from a very young age, detailing parties she attended, the clothes she wore, and trips she took. She graduated from Bryn Mawr College and on April 24, 1911, she married John Gilfillan Frazer.

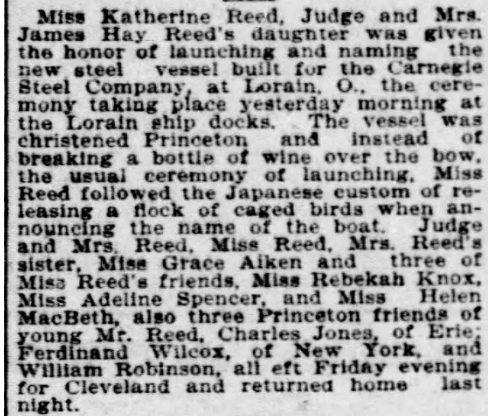
John Frazer had been born on July 19, 1880 in what is now Carnegie, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Sellers Frazer. He graduated from Princeton University in 1901 and completed his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh, while working at Katherine's father's law firm. He passed the bar in 1905 and continued working at the firm, no doubt earning the favor of his future father-in-law.

After marrying, the Frazers eventually settled into a house nearby on Castleman Street and had two children. Their daughter, Katherine Reed Frazer was born on December 27, 1912, and a son, John G. Frazer, Jr., was born on March 22, 1915.

The 1930 census was the first to record the Frazers at 720 Amberson Avenue. The census reported that the family owned a radio set, and both children attended school. Four servants also lived in the home and attended the family's needs. Edith Coggins, 26, a native of Kansas, was the family's waitress. Anna Reiser, 37, who had immigrated from Germany in 1923 and had filed her papers to become a citizen was the cook. Anna Baltes, 36, and Hilda Mayer, 23, were chambermaids. Baltes and Mayer had immigrated from Germany in 1919 and 1928, respectively, and Baltes was now a citizen of the U. S., and Mayer had filed her naturalization paperwork.

In 1940, 720 Amberson Avenue had an estimated value of \$40,000. The house's value was estimated at \$100,000 in 1930, before the Great Depression affected property values throughout the Pittsburgh area and in other regions of the United States.

John Jr. was the only child living at home in 1940, as his sister Katherine had married George Dilworth Lockhart in 1934. John Jr. was attending Harvard Law School at the time, having graduated from Princeton in 1937.



Miss Katherine Reed, Judge and Mrs. James Hay Reed's daughter was given the honor of launching and naming the new steel vessel built for the Carnegie Steel Company, at Lorain, O., the ceremony taking place yesterday morning at the Lorain ship docks. The vessel was christened Princeton and instead of breaking a bottle of wine over the bow, the usual ceremony of launching, Miss Reed followed the Japanese custom of releasing a flock of caged birds when announcing the name of the boat. Judge and Mrs. Reed, Miss Reed, Mrs. Reed's sister, Miss Grace Aiken and three of Miss Reed's friends, Miss Rebekah Knox, Miss Adeline Spencer, and Miss Helen MacBeth, also three Princeton friends of young Mr. Reed, Charles Jones of Erie; Ferdinand Wilcox, of New York, and William Robinson, all left Friday evening for Cleveland and returned home last night.

*From the Pittsburgh Daily Post, July 29, 1900.*

Anna Baltés, now 47, still lived with the family as a maid, along with Isabel Ferguson, 27, a naturalized immigrant from Scotland. Mary Williams, 46, from New Jersey was the cook, and Aina Creutcher, 39, a naturalized Swedish immigrant worked as a waitress.

The 1940 census is the last census that provides information on occupants of 720 Amberson Avenue. Manuscript census records are withheld from public view for 72 years to protect the privacy of persons who were enumerated.

John G. Frazer died of heart failure on April 17, 1942, at the age of 61. Katherine Reed Frazer would live at 720 Amberson Avenue for the rest of her life. She died of a stroke on April 19, 1967. They were laid to rest in the family mausoleum in Homewood Cemetery.

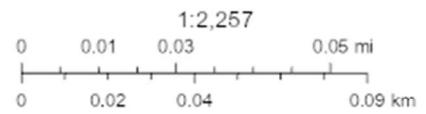
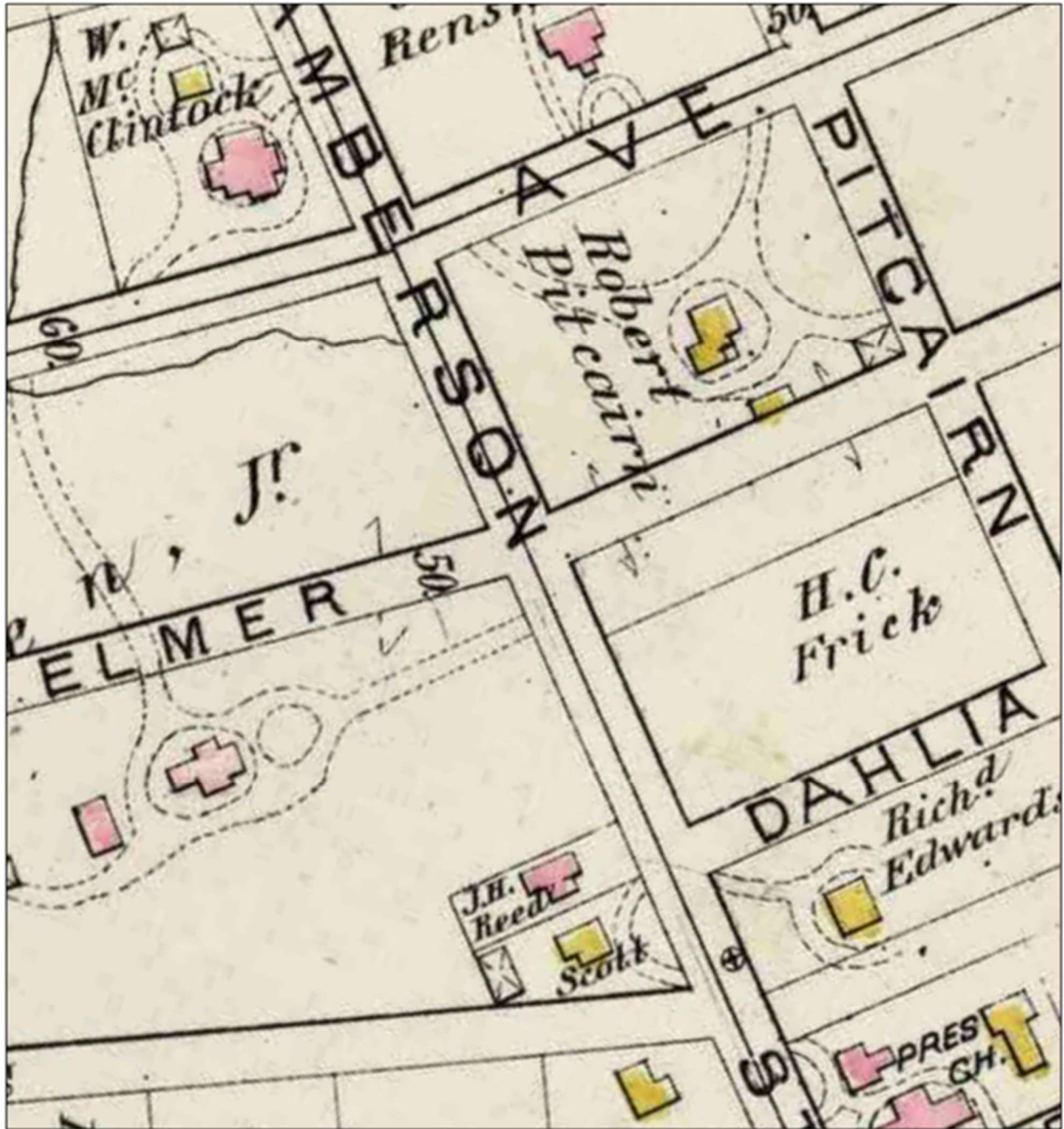
## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The following materials accompany this report:

- Copies of parts of plat maps of the area around 720 Amberson Avenue published in 1872, 1882, 1890, 1906, and 1923.
- Copies of parts of fire insurance maps of the area around 720 Amberson Avenue, published in 1893 and 1906.
- The obituary of James Hay Reed from *The Pittsburgh Press*, June 18, 1927.
- The obituary of Kate Aiken Reed from *The Pittsburgh Press*, May 2, 1945.
- The obituary of Delia Hubbard Clapp from *The Pittsburgh Press*, June 4, 1909.
- The obituary of DeWitt Clinton Clapp from *The Pittsburgh Press*, October 5, 1921.
- "Society," from *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 25, 1911.
- "55-Year-Old Reed Mansion in Shady Side Will be Razed," from *The Pittsburgh Press*, July 8, 1945.
- The obituary of John G. Frazer from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 18, 1942.
- The obituary of Katherine Reed Frazer from the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 20, 1967.



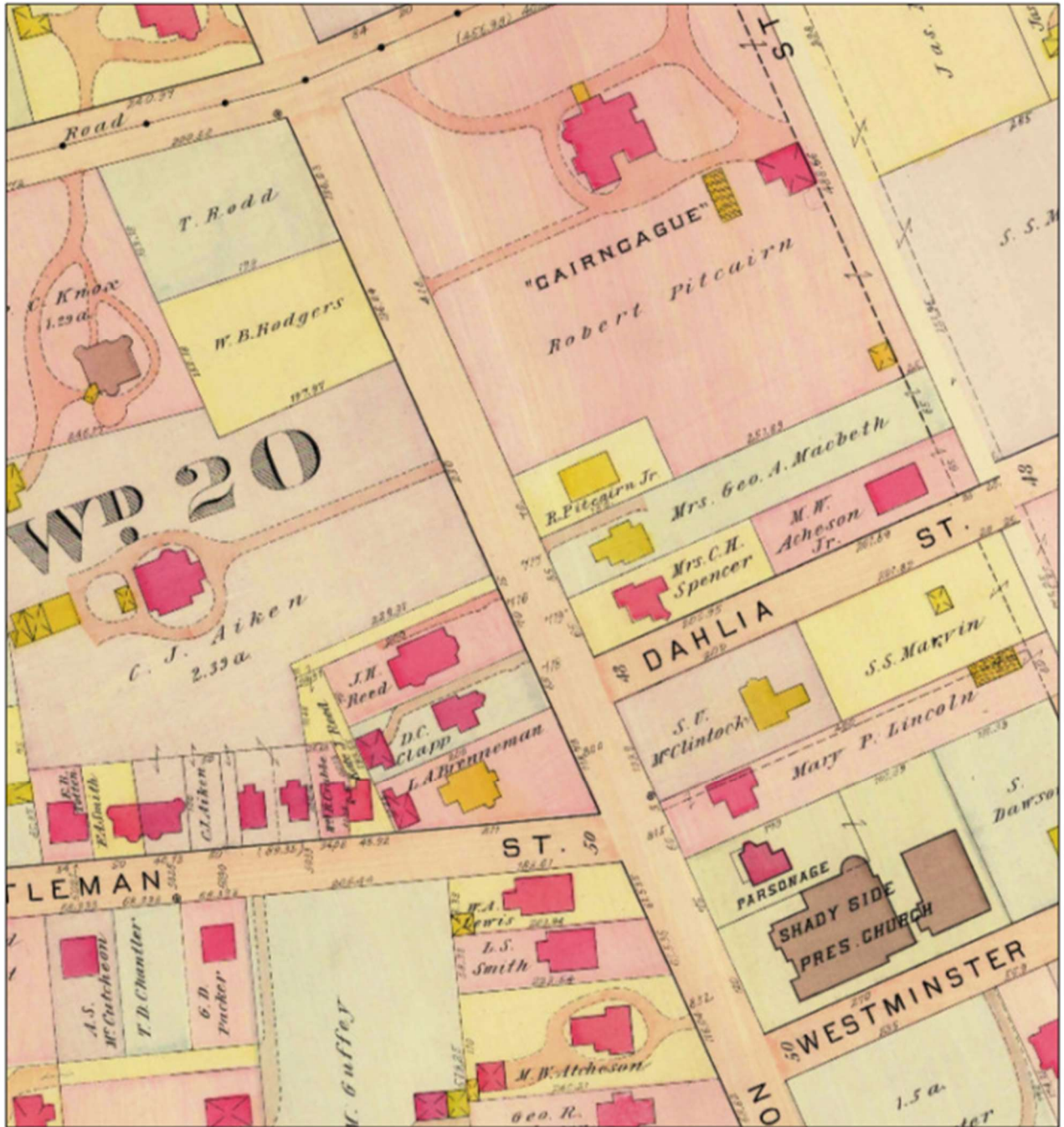




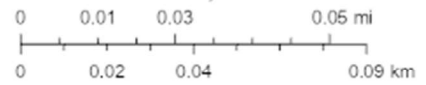




1906



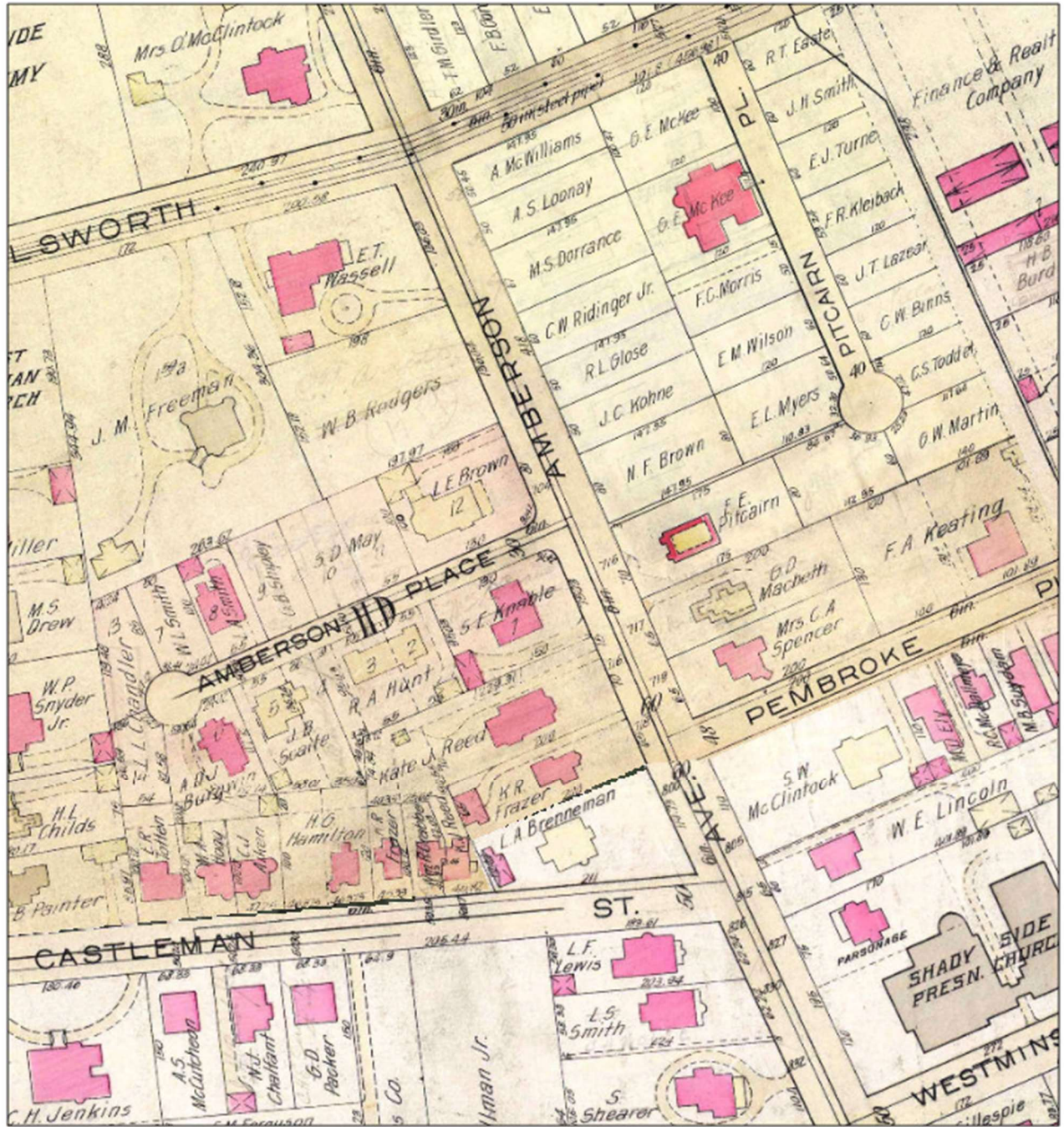
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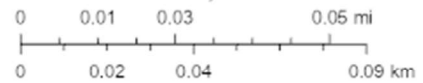
Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Historic Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh



1923

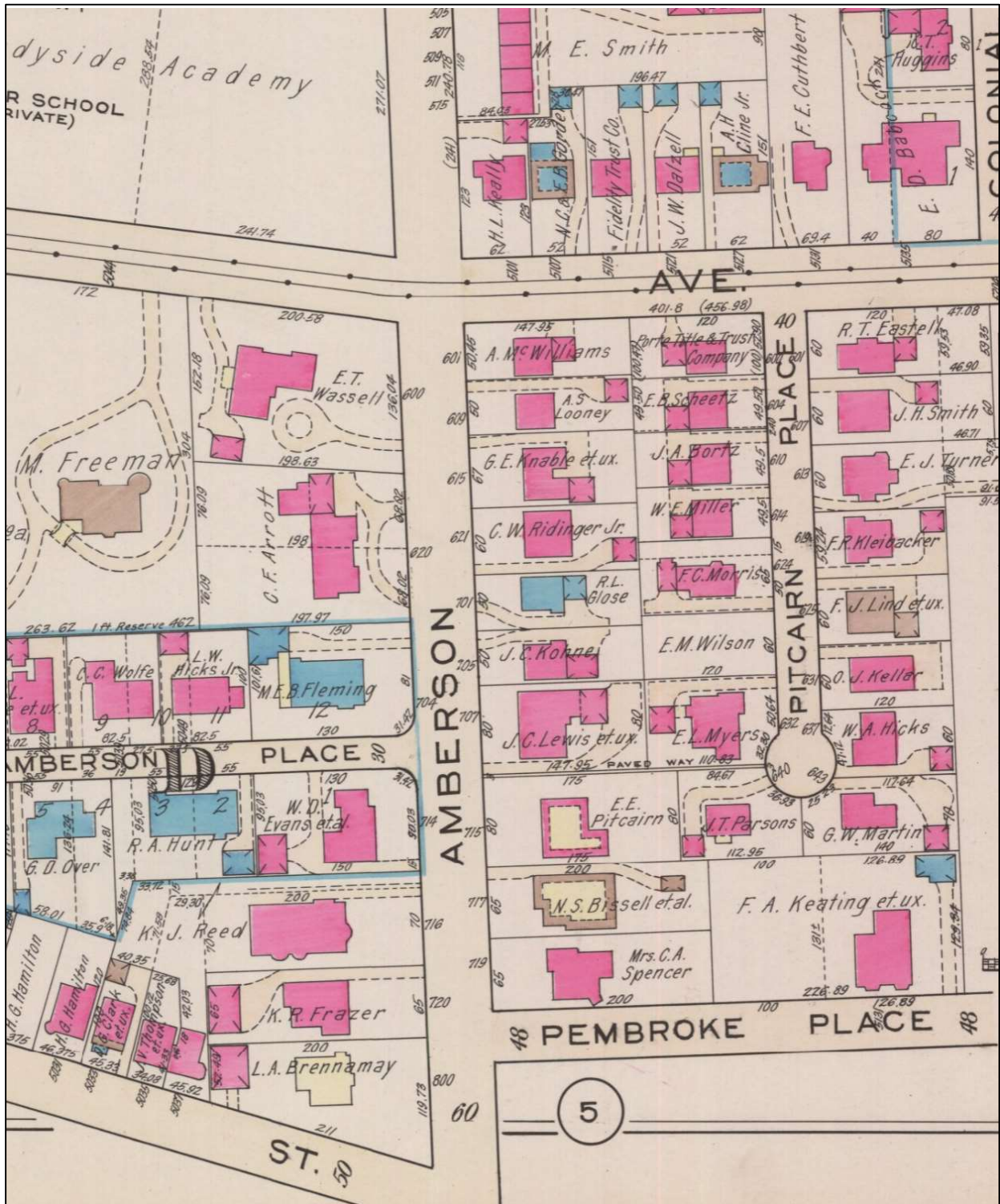


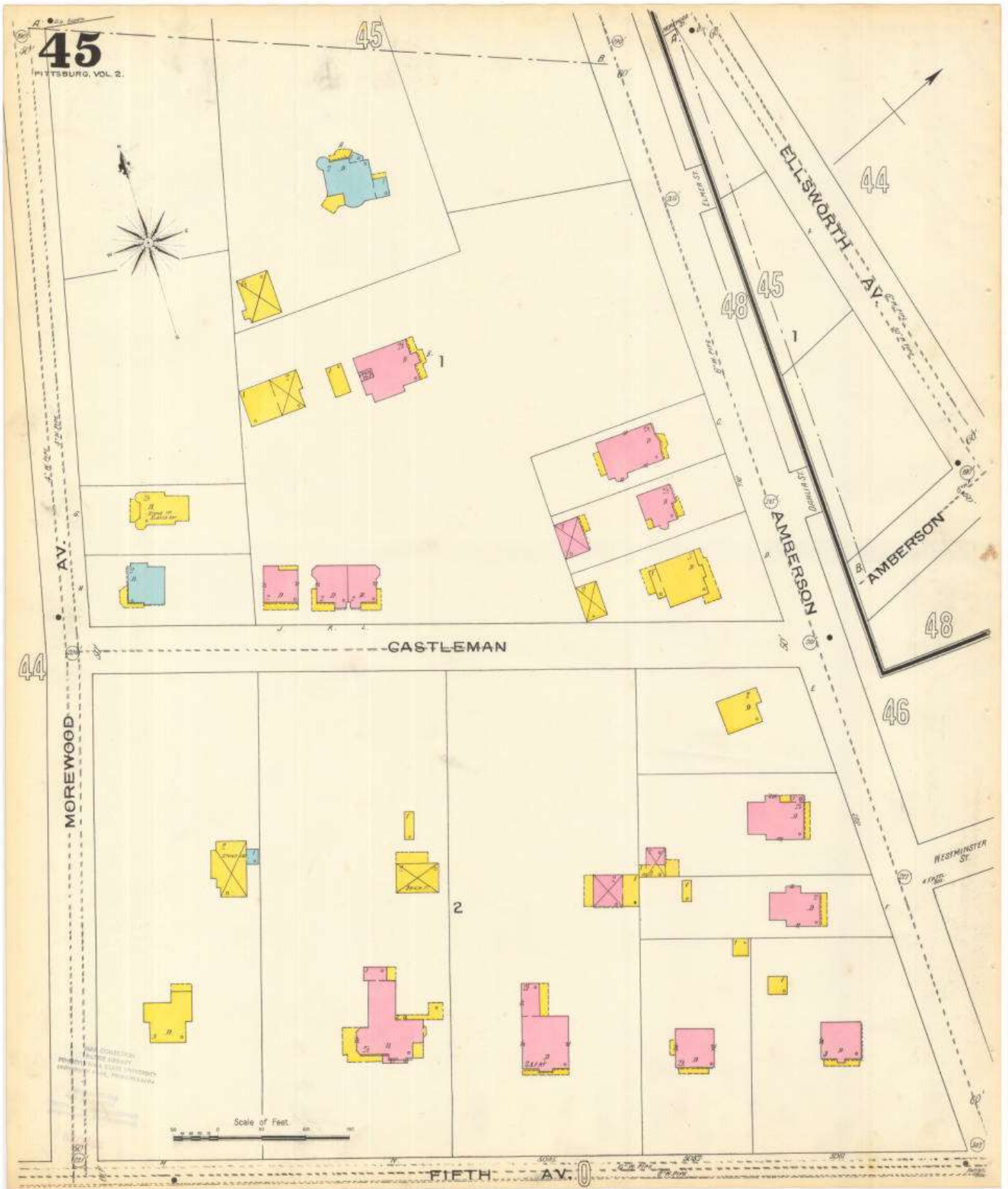
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Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community, Historic Pittsburgh <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/maps>

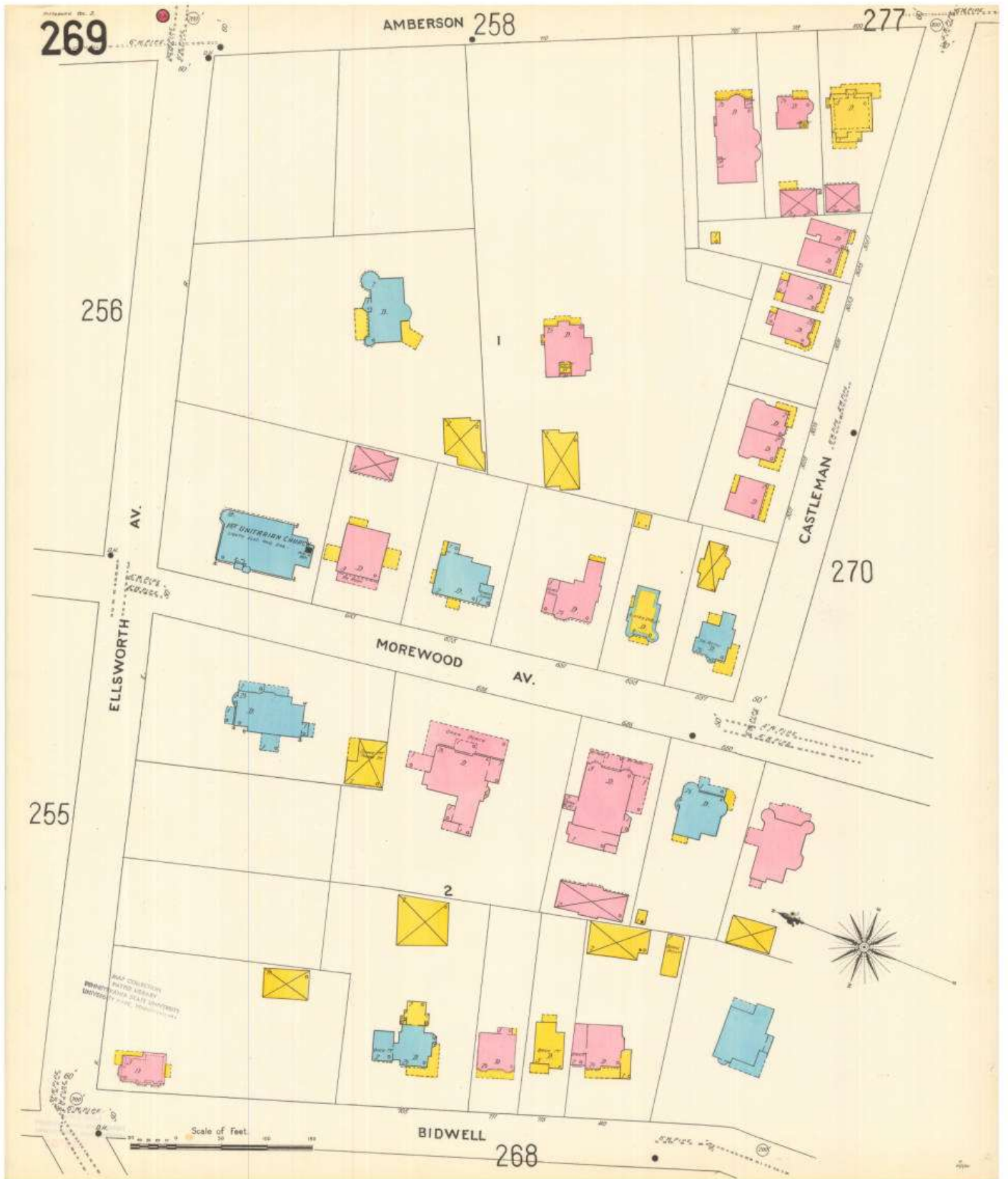






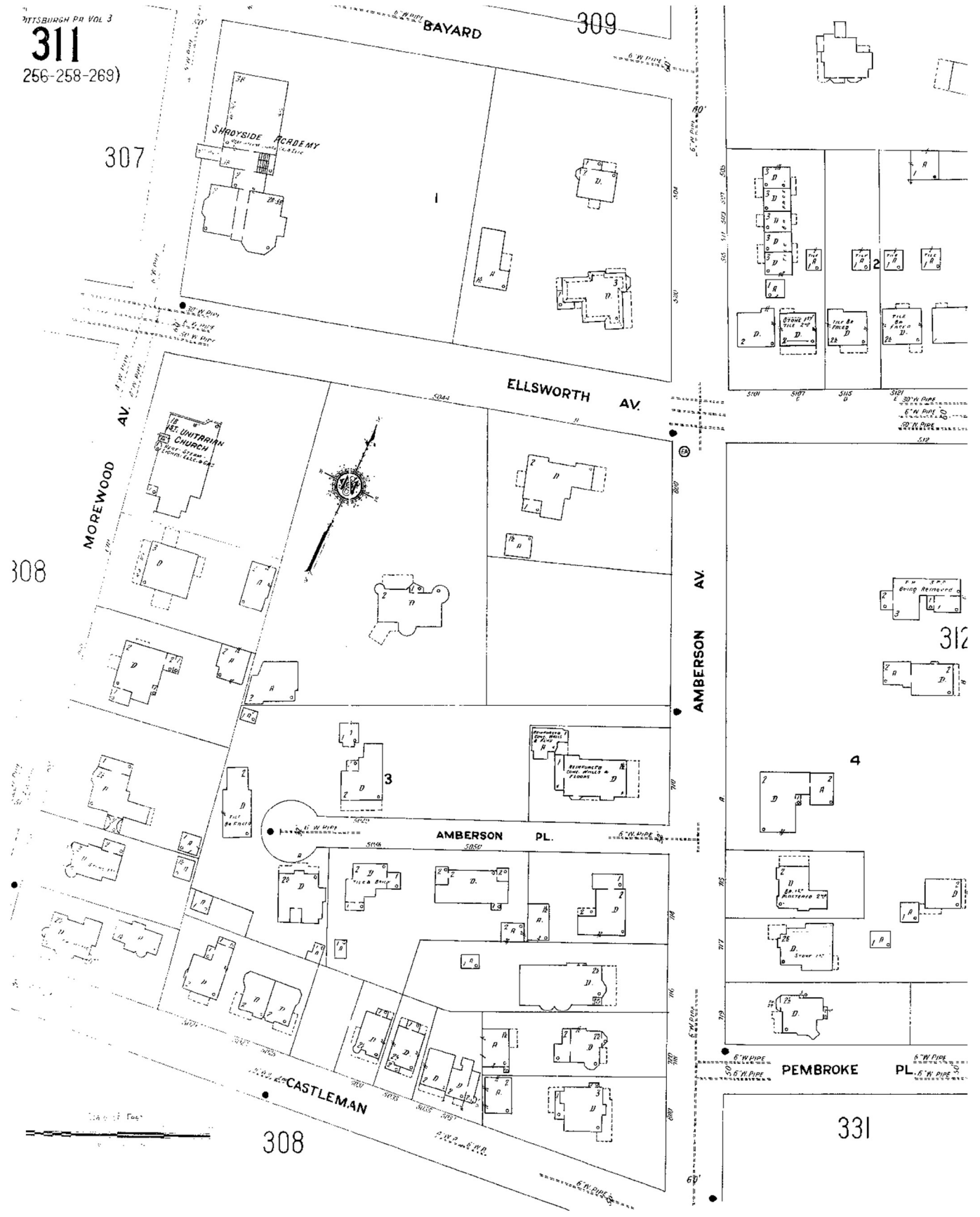


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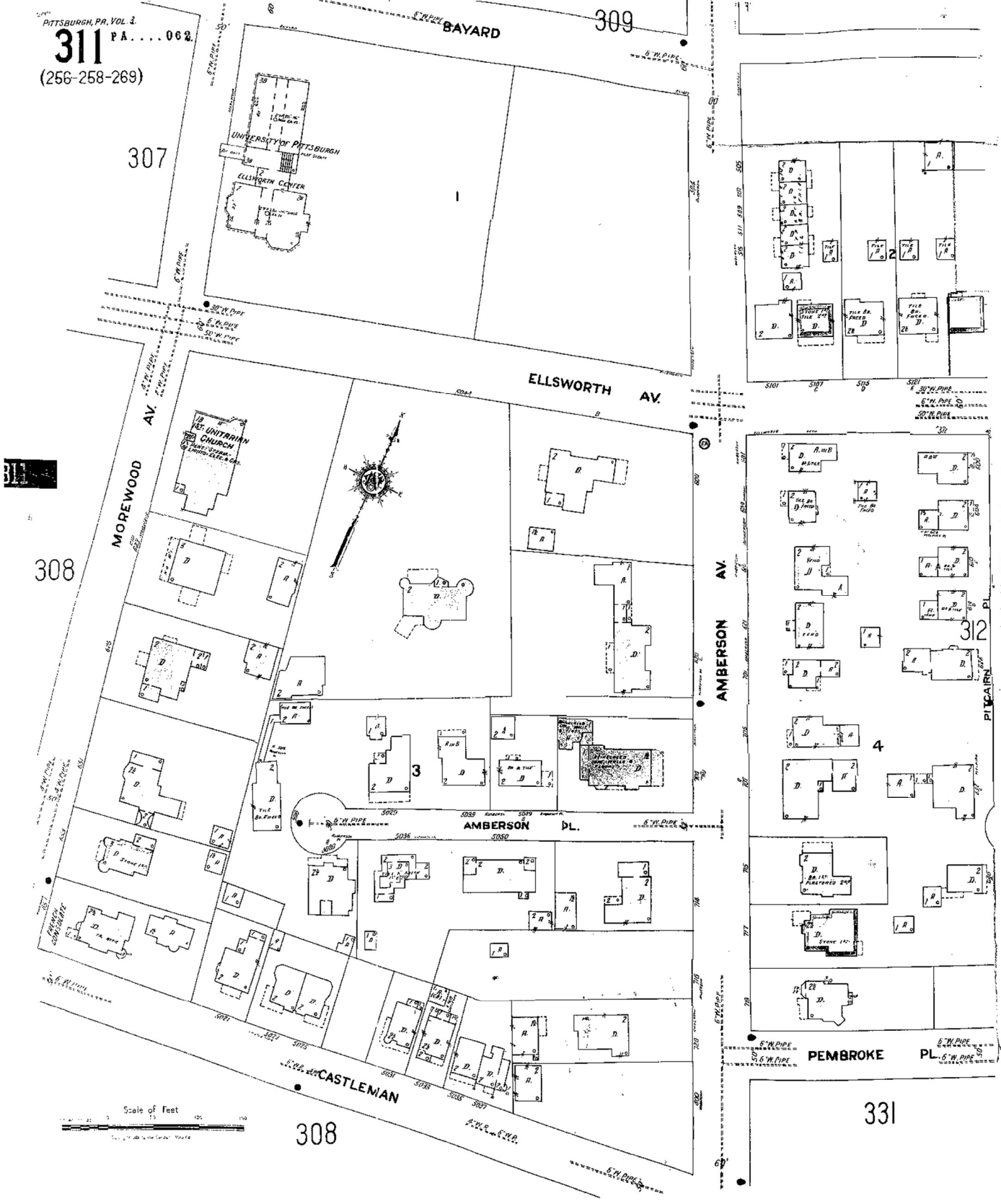




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PITTSBURGH, PA. VOL. 3  
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# JAMES H. REED DIES, AGED 73

Ex-Federal Judge, Father of  
Senator D. A. Reed,  
Passes Away.



JAMES H. REED.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 3:30 p. m. at the Shadyside Presbyterian church, Amberson ave., for Judge James Hay Reed, a leader in Pittsburgh legal circles, a pioneer in financial and industrial development, and a prominent figure in the history of his city during its most conspicuous epoch of growth.

Judge Reed died late yesterday at his home, 716 Amberson ave., aged 73. Death was due to the after-effect of an attack of influenza suffered about seven weeks ago. For the past several days it had been known that Judge Reed was near death.

Interment in Allegheny cemetery will be private, with attendance limited to the immediate relatives, members of the family, made known today. Rev. Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr, pastor of Shadyside Presbyterian church, will conduct the services.

No honorary pallbearers will be named, it was stated, because of the delicacy of making such a choice among the host of friends who mourn the death of Judge Reed.

With Judge Reed at the time of his death were his widow, his sons, Senator David Aiken Reed and James H. Reed, Jr., and his daughter, Mrs. John G. Frazer.

After studying law in the offices of his uncle, David Reed, James Reed soon became one of the foremost corporation lawyers in the nation, first being associated with Philander C. Knox, who later was attorney general and secretary of state of the United States and United States senator. The firm of Knox & Reed was successful from the start, but soon afterward Reed was appointed to succeed Marcus W. Acheson as judge of the United States district court here. Having little inclination for judicial work, Judge Reed resigned within a year and the partnership of Knox & Reed resumed its activities.

When Knox became attorney general under President McKinley the association was dissolved and the firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw & Beal was formed by the remaining partners. The firm later became, as it is known today, Reed, Smith, Shaw & McClay.

### BORN IN ALLEGHENY.

He was born in old Allegheny Sept. 10, 1853, son of Dr. Joseph Allison Reed and Eliza Hay Reed, and received his elementary education in the public schools of the city. Later he studied in the Western University of Pennsylvania, which is now the University of Pittsburgh, and was graduated in 1872.

Judge Reed was for many years general counsel and vice president of the Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad Co. Later he became general counsel for the Carnegie Steel Co., having been counsel for many of the constituents of this corporation for years before their general merging. He outlined the basis for the organization of the Pittsburgh, Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Co., and had been its president from its formation.

In 1899 he prepared the charter and other preliminaries to the organiza-

tion of the Consolidated Gas Co. of Pittsburgh, and after this and other companies had been acquired by the Philadelphia Co., he became president of the consolidated interests. He retired as president in 1919, but continued his connection with these enterprises as senior vice president and director.

### ASSOCIATE OF CARNEGIE.

When Andrew Carnegie was approached concerning the sale of his steel company and allied possessions to the United States Steel Corporation Judge Reed was delegated to attend the various legal and other technicalities incident to this vast transaction. When the sale was eventually consummated Judge Reed became a member of the directorate of this organization.

He was senior member of the law firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw & McClay; president and director of Pittsburgh, Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Co., president and director of Union Railroad Co., chairman of the board of Farmers Deposit National bank, director of Farmers Deposit Savings bank, director of Farmers Deposit Trust Co., director of Fidelity Title and Trust Co., director of Gulf Oil corporation; vice president and director of Philadelphia Co. and its associated companies, president and director of Reliance Life Insurance Co. of Pittsburgh.

He also was keenly interested in and identified with a number of benevolent and educational institutions in the Pittsburgh district. He was the founder and president of the Pittsburgh Skin and Cancer foundation and a director of the Western Pennsylvania hospital. He was treasurer and a member of the board of trustees of the Carnegie Institute, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Carnegie library and the Carnegie Hero Fund commission, and vice president and director of the United States Steel and Carnegie Pension funds.

### TAX COMMISSION MEMBER.

Judge Reed was a member of the commission on constitutional amendment and revision, appointed by the governor in 1919, and also served as a member of the Pennsylvania tax commission during the years 1923 to 1927, inclusive.

He was a member of the Oakmont Country club, Allegheny Country club, Fox Chapel Golf club, Longue Vue club, Duquesne club of Pittsburgh, Union League club of Philadelphia, University and Lawyers' clubs of New York, Pittsburgh Art society and the Academy of Science of Pittsburgh. Judge Reed received the degree of LL.D. from Princeton university in 1902, and in 1919 was similarly honored by the University of Pittsburgh. He was a member of the Shadyside Presbyterian church for many years and chairman of the board of trustees of that church.

He married Kate J. Aiken, daughter of the late David Aiken. Their children, are: Senator Reed, a member of the firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw & McClay, James Hay Reed, Jr., and Katherine, wife of John G. Frazer, son of Justice Robert S. Frazer of the Supreme court of Pennsylvania. He also is survived by one sister, Mrs. David A. Hengst, and one brother, J. A. Reed, both of whom reside in Pittsburgh.

# Mrs. J. H. Reed, Civic Leader, Dies at Home

Widow of Judge  
Helped Poor, Sick

Mrs. Kate J. Reed, Pittsburgh civic leader and widow of Judge James H. Reed, died last night at her home, 716 Amberson Ave.



Mrs. Reed was born in Pittsburgh in 1857, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Aiken Jr., and her home stands on the land where her ancestors settled in 1793.

She was a member of the Shady Side

**Mrs. Reed** Presbyterian Church from the time of its organization and helped to manage the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She also served as an officer of the Pittsburgh Society for the Improvement of the Poor.

Surviving are a son, David A. Reed, former U. S. Senator; a daughter, Mrs. John G. Frazer; three sisters, the Misses Rachel C., Clara B. and Grace C. Aiken, all of Pittsburgh; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Mrs. Reed's late home at 3 p. m. tomorrow. Burial will be in Allegheny Cemetery.

**Mrs. Dewitt C. Clapp.**

Mrs. Della Hubbard Clapp, aged 78 years, wife of Dewitt C. Clapp, died last midnight at her home, No. 718 Amberson street, East End, after several weeks' illness. She was born in Elyria, O., and came to Pittsburg after her marriage, and had lived here ever since. She was a member of Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church. Surviving her are her husband and two sons, George H. Clapp and Charles E. Clapp, of Pittsburg.



## DE WITT C. CLAPP, 94, PIONEER STEEL MAN, DIES IN EASTEND HOME



DE WITT CLINTON CLAPP.

### DE WITT CLINTON CLAPP.

DeWitt Clinton Clapp, aged 94, pioneer steel man of this city, died early today in his home, 718 Emerson st., after an illness of five months. He had been a resident of this city more than 60 years.

Born in Martinsburg, N. Y., July 13, 1827, a son of Arnold and Lovisa (Adams) Clapp, who in 1834 moved to Columbus, O., he was educated in the country schools of the Ohio city and grew up on a farm. In May, 1847, he entered the President Furnace Co. in Venango county, this state. Six years later he came to this city as accountant and cashier for Hampton, Wilson & Co. He resigned in 1859 to become managing partner for Kennedy, Childs & Co. of the Pennsylvania Cotton Mill. When the company was reorganized in 1877 he was elected secretary, treasurer and director of the new corporation. The firm was dissolved in 1892.

Meanwhile Mr. Clapp had formed connections with Park Bros. & Co., owners and controllers of the Black Diamond Steel works. This company was changed to the Park Steel Co. and he became secretary, treasurer and director Feb. 25, 1884. When the company was sold to the Crucible Steel Co., July 16, 1900, Mr. Clapp resigned. He continued to maintain offices in the Park building and worked regularly until May 28, this year, when he was taken ill.

Mr. Clapp was married to Delia Deming in Staten Island, N. Y., Jan. 30, 1856. She died some years ago. He is survived by two sons, George Hubbard Clap, Edgeworth, and Charles E. Clapp, New York city. Mr. Clapp was a member of the Calvary Protestant Episcopal church and the Duquesne club. Funeral services will be held Friday.

# SOCIETY

THE home of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Reed in Amberson avenue was the scene of a handsomely arranged wedding last evening, when their daughter, Miss Katherine Reed, became the bride of John G. Frazer, son of Judge Robert S. Frazer of Shady avenue. The aisle for the bridal party was marked with broad white satin ribbons held by standard of Annunciation lilies and white lilacs, taller standards being placed at the doorways leading from the music room to the dining room, where the ceremony was performed. The aisle led from the stairway through the large hall, music room and living room to the dining room, where an immense background for the bridal party was formed with pink hydrangeas surrounded by tall Japanese maple, cocas palms and cibodium ferns. At each side of the white satin prie dieu stood a seven-cluster brass candlestick. The windows and sideboard were banked with small farleyense ferns and other foliage plants with pink hydrangeas at intervals. The bride entered on the arm of her father, who gave her away. The ceremony took place at 8:30 o'clock, with the Rev. Dr. William J. Holland officiating. A large number of relatives and intimate friends were present. The bride was gowned in white satin fashioned with a court train, the bodice of rose pointe and duchesse lace. Her veil was of tulle and fastened with orange blossoms, and was held in place with a diamond pin, a wedding gift. She also wore a diamond corsage pin, the gift of the bridegroom. Her bouquet was a shower of lilies of the valley and white lilacs. The bride's only attendant was a little niece, Rosamond Reed, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Aiken Reed. She wore a white lingerie frock with Irish lace and carried a colonial bouquet of pink rosebuds. David Aiken Reed was Mr. Frazer's best man. Following the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Reed, the latter in a gown of white satin draped with bluet marquisette and trimmed with Italian lace, and Mr. Frazer received with the bridal couple, after which a buffet supper was served. The decorations through the house were simple but artistically arranged. Vases of pink Killarney roses were used in the drawing room and American beauty roses stood in a tall vase on the table in the library, where the mantel and bookcases were banked with small foliage plants. The inclosed porch was made into a smoking room and was decorated with palms, ferns and pink roses. Following a wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Frazer will live in the St. Regis apartments. Among the out-of-town guests who came on for the wedding were Miss Natalie Smith of New York, Miss Emma Hertzler of Lancaster, Pa.; Miss Anna McNulty of Scranton, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Grammis of Chicago, Ill.



ANOTHER PITTSBURGH MANSION, the home of the late Judge and Mrs. James Hay Reed, will be torn down. It was built about 55 years ago on land settled in the 18th century by Mrs. Reed's ancestors.

## 55-Year-Old Reed Mansion In Shady Side Will Be Razed

By RACHEL KIRK

The industries that the late Judge James Hay Reed helped to build for Pittsburgh still stand to his memory.

But the home he built while he was a young man soon will vanish, and the plot on Amberson Ave. where it stood for 55 years will be as it was when the Aikens settled there in 1793.

Since Judge Reed's widow, the former Kate J. Aiken, died in May, their children, ex-Sen. David A. Reed and Mrs. John G. Frazer, have decided to demolish the 28-room-house at 716 Amberson Ave. On Wednesday, the Austin Givens Co. will start tearing down the red-brick house with its curving windows and thick walls.

### Not a Show Place

The Reed home is not a show place. The high-ceilinged, wide-silled rooms are slightly formal, but unpretentious and comfortable. In them, the Mellons, Carnegies, Westinghouses and other leaders of Pittsburgh industry and civic affairs once were entertained.

Some of the men may have gathered in Judge Reed's small library, lined with glass-doored bookcases, to discuss matters that shaped the city's destiny. It was Judge Reed, one of the foremost attorneys of his day, who arranged the legal technicalities when the U. S. Steel Corp. bought Andrew Carnegie's steel holdings.

### Headed Utility Merger

He also prepared the charter for the organization of the Consolidated Gas Co., and after its merger with the Philadelphia Co., was president of the utilities group. He helped to organize the Pittsburgh, Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad and was president and director of that company. And he was on the board

of four banks, the Reliance Life Insurance Co. and the Gulf Oil Corp.

Now all the books are gone from their shelves in the plain little room, and some of them are piled on the front porch to be taken to storage. On the mantel, carved with blackberries, is Judge Reed's appointment as U. S. District Judge, signed by President Benjamin Harrison on Feb. 20, 1891.

### Judge's Diplomas Still Up

Beside it is a pile of scrapbooks containing clippings of the Reeds' many charitable and industrial interests. And in a rather scuffed room on the third floor hang Judge Reed's diplomas from Princeton and the University of Pittsburgh.

That is all that is left. The dark rooms echo as the movers walk through them, for the precious Oriental rugs that the Reeds collected have been removed. But the wall-coverings have not been touched.

They are rather gorgeous—burnt orange and gold painted canvas in the halls; green, red and gold tooled leather in the living room, and black leather above mahogany wainscoting in the dining room. Graceful iron grilling covers most of the windows.

### Plot Will Be Lawn

When the demolition experts have finished with the house, the plot will be seeded over and the lawn added to Mrs. Frazer's house next door. It was her home, now considerably remodeled, in which Judge and Mrs. Reed began housekeeping before they built the house now being removed. The house had belonged to Mrs. Reed's father, David Aiken Jr.

David Aiken built "Aiken's Grove" in 1864, and his holding included the section now covered by Amberson Ave., St. James, Von Lent and Pembroke Place. It was his wife, Mrs. Reed's mother, who planted many of the trees in that district and suggested the name of "Shady Side" for the local station of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

### Bought In 1840

Their property was part of the 160 acres which had been bought by Thomas Aiken in 1840, fronting the Seventh St. Plank Rd., now Center Ave. In 1854, that property was broken up for the heirs. The surveyor was Col. William Amberson, who gave his name to the street where the Aikens lived.

Elmer and Ellsworth Sts. got their names from an anti-secessionist hero much admired at the time, and Castleman St. was named for Mrs. David Aiken's mother. The Aiken descendants, many of them, have continued to live on the streets which were carved from the holdings of their pioneer ancestors.

But soon one of the family homes will be gone, and part of Aiken's Grove will return to its quiet, green shade.



# J. G. Frazer, Lawyer, Civic Leader, Dies

## Served as Director Of Many Companies And Hospitals

John G. Frazer, a member of the law firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay, one of Pittsburgh's leading attorneys and business men, died yesterday afternoon at 2:30 in his home at 720 Amberson avenue, East End. He was 61.

Mr. Frazer had been ill since last October.

Born in old Mansfield, July 19, 1880, Mr. Frazer was a son of the late Chief Justice Robert S. Frazer of the Pennsylvania supreme court, and Loretta Gilfillan Frazer. His ancestors followed the practice of law for several generations.

## Served on Many Boards

As a young man, Mr. Frazer attended Princeton University, graduating in 1901. He received his law training at the University of Pittsburgh and was admitted into the firm of Reed, Smith, Shaw and McClay as a student in 1901. Four years later he was admitted to the Allegheny County Bar.

He served on the board of directors of the American Fruit Growers Association; Farmers Deposit National Bank; Reliance Life Insurance Company; Duquesne Light Company; Pennsylvania Water Company; Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Company; Union Railroad Company; Consolidated Ice Company; Western Pennsylvania Hospital and Dixmont Hospital.

## Trustee of Institute

He was a trustee of Carnegie Institute; Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh. He was a member of the American, Pennsylvania State and Allegheny County Bar Associations; Duquesne Club; Princeton Club of New York and the Fox Chapel Golf Club.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Katherine Reed Frazer, one daughter, Mrs. George D. Lockhart; one son, John G. Frazer, Jr.; a sister, Miss Sarah Frazer and one brother, Robert Frazer. Funeral services have not been arranged.

## **Frazer**

On Wednesday, April 19, 1967, Katherine Reed Frazer, wife of the late John G. Frazer; survived also by Katherine F. Lockhart, and John G. Frazer Jr.; and five grandchildren. Friends received at her residence, 720 Amberson Ave. on Thursday from 4-6 and 7-9 p. m. Friday 10 until 12 noon. Services in the Chapel of Shadyside Presbyterian Church on Friday at 3 p. m. Please omit flowers.