

Development Activities Meeting Report (Version: 01/24/2024)

This report created by the Neighborhood Planner and included with staff reports to City Boards and/or Commissions.

Logistics	Stakeholders
Project Name/Address: Anatham House Historical Nomination, 1620 Murray Avenue	Groups Represented (e.g., specific organizations, residents, employees, etc. where this is evident): Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition Department of City Planning Preservation Pittsburgh
Parcel Number(s): 86-G-201	
ZDR Application Number: DCP-HN-2025-00088	
Meeting Location: Zoom	
Date: 4/1/2025	
Meeting Start Time: 6:00PM	
Applicant: Matthew Falcone, Preservation Pittsburgh	Approx. Number of Attendees: 9
Boards and/or Commissions Request(s): Historic Review Commission, Planning Commission	

How did the meeting inform the community about the development project?

Anatham House is located at 1620 Murray Ave. The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Pittsburgh section, has been stewards of the house for over 60 years. Anatham House has had many uses, though it's never actually been used as a house/residence. Anatham House was built by an executive of Carnegie Steel, and it first operated as a school in the 1920s. It operated as a school for several decades and was a successful school that eventually fed into Winshester Thurston, today.

Anatham House then became the Colonial School, then another school, and then a research center and synagogue. There was a brief interlude where it served as the cultural and arts association for Squirrel Hill. Eventually, it changed hands again and was gifted to the NCJW. It was renovated and first used as a senior center, with programming throughout the building. Under ownership of the NCJW, the Anatham House also provided resources and programming for immigrants in Pittsburgh, and was involved in the NCJW-led oral history study of the immigrant experience in Pittsburgh, which was recorded over two and a half decades and is the second-largest oral history archive on immigrants. The cassette tapes from the study are still stored in Anatham House today. NCJW will be remaining in the building, and will be doing some exterior restoration work on the structure. The nominators are bringing forward this historical nomination because they want to celebrate this rich history.

Input and Responses

Questions and Comments from Attendees	Responses from Applicants
The NCJW is not the only occupant of the building, correct?	Correct, while the NCJW is the owner and our offices occupy the second floor, an organization called Strong Woman, Strong Girls occupies the third floor. The first floor is communal space for both organizations to use, as well as a Sunday School that utilized the space.

Planner completing report: Austin Herzog, Neighborhood Planner