

PITTSBURGH STRIP DISTRICT

“Northern Liberties of Pittsburgh,” the area was commonly known as Bayardstown

early 19th centry

early 20th century

1920s

mid-to-late 20th century

present

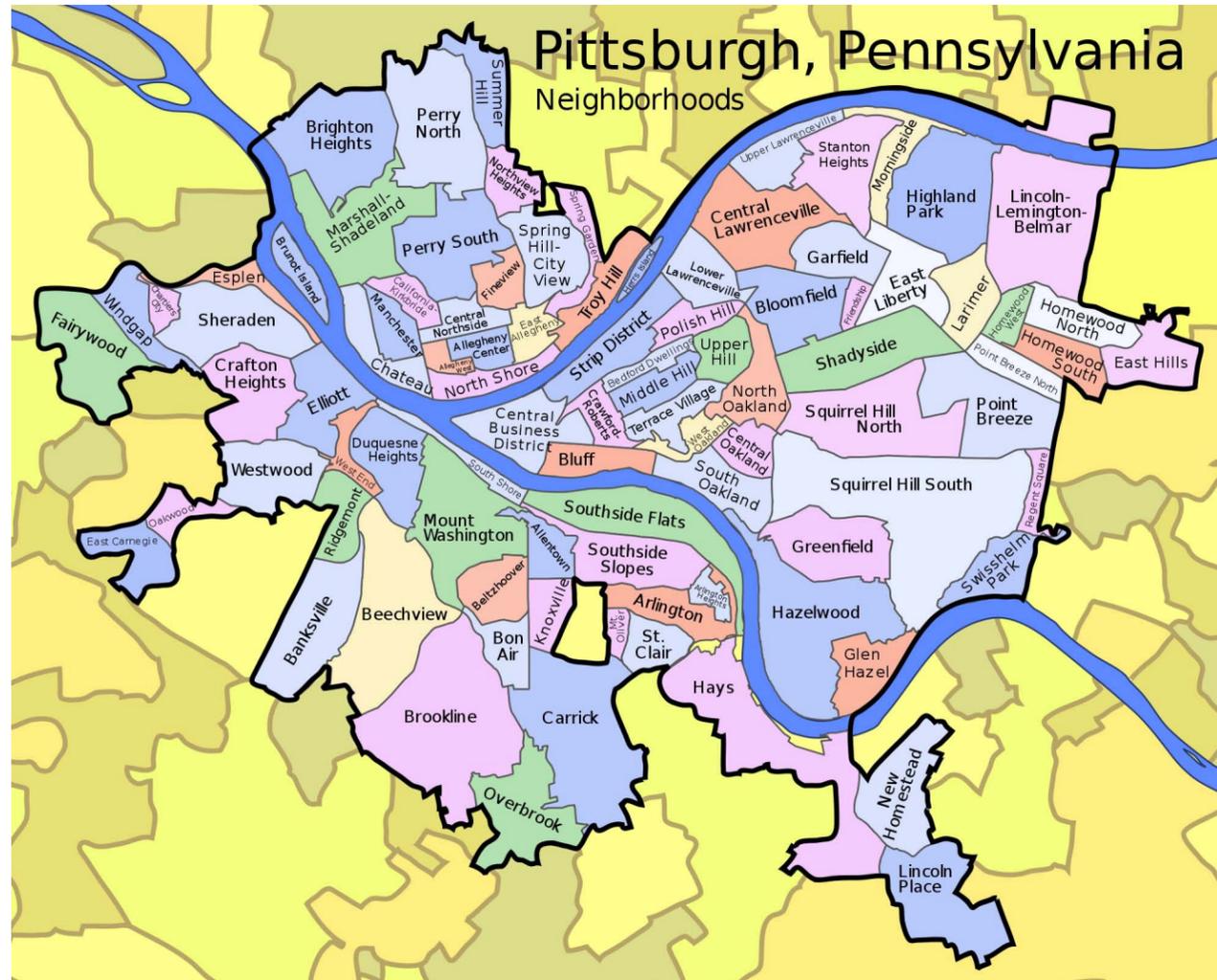
home to many mills and factories as its location along the Allegheny River made for easy transportation of goods and shipping of raw materials. Tenants include : Ford Pitt Foundry, U.S. Steel, Westinghouse, The Pittsburgh Reduction Company (ALCOA), and later The H.J. Heinz Company

the Strip District became a vibrant network of wholesalers—mostly fresh produce, meat, and poultry dealers.

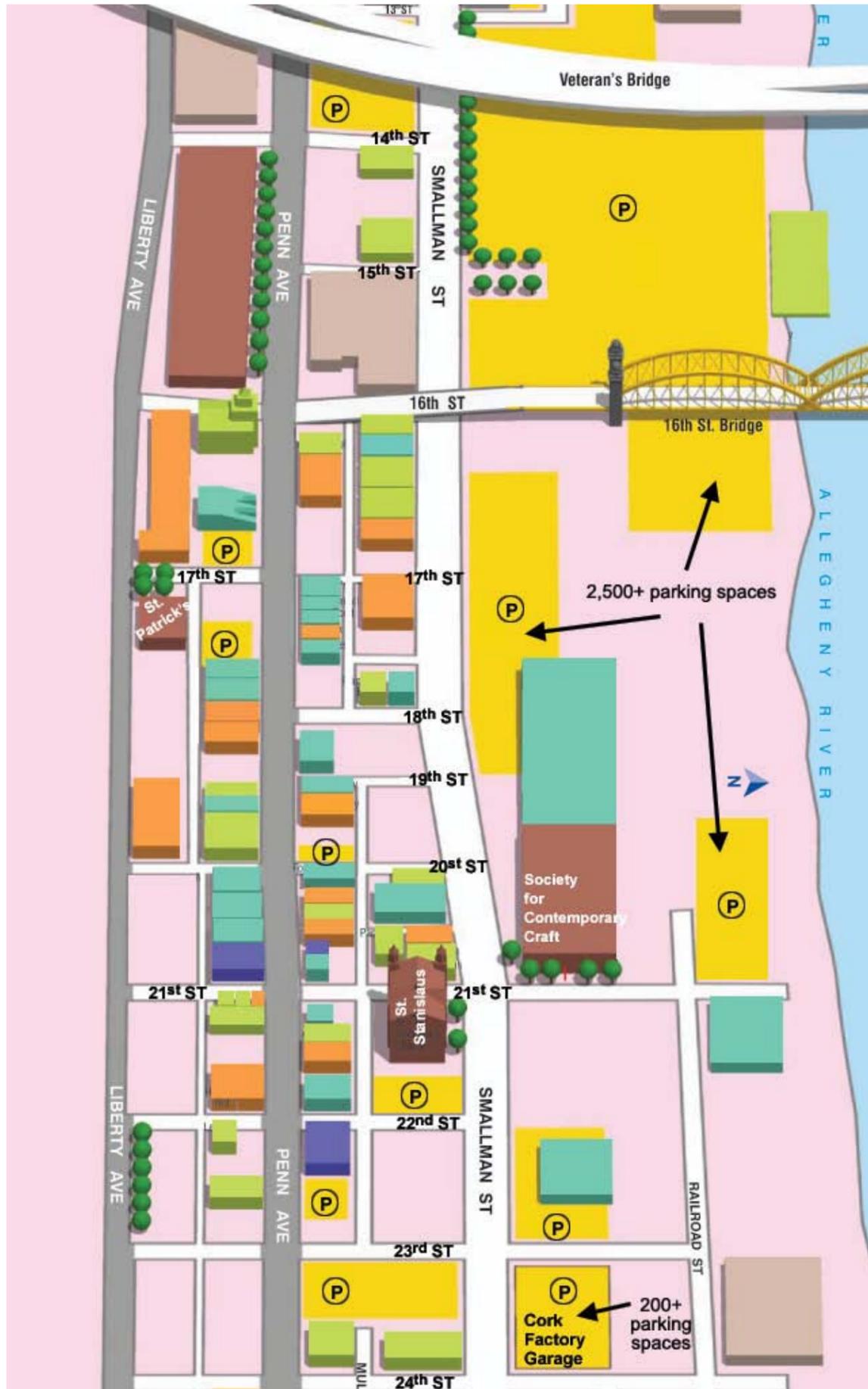
The Strip District was the economic center of Pittsburgh.

fewer of the Strip’s products were being shipped by rail and boat, causing many produce sellers and wholesalers to leave the area for other space with easier access to highways or where there was more land available for expansion.

today many of the abandoned warehouses have been renovated into small specialty shops, restaurants, nightclubs, and bars. The area has developed into a historic market district with many ethnic food purveyors, some art studios, antique dealers, unique boutiques and other such businesses setting up shop where trains once delivered produce by the ton. The Strip District comes alive primarily on weekends during the summer months when street vendors are selling their wares, the open-air farmer’s markets are in full swing, and party-goers sit outside and enjoy a drink



The Strip District is a one-half square mile area of land northeast of the central business district bordered to the north by the Allegheny River and to the south by portions of the Hill District. The Strip District runs between 11th and 33rd Streets and includes three main thoroughfares — Smallman St., Penn Ave., and Liberty Ave.



"Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success." Stephen A. Brennan

In 1999, Neighbors in the Strip (NITS) began to evolve from the inactive Strip Business Merchants Association. Recognizing a need for more than just business promotions, a group of Strip District stakeholders united their efforts to form an organization that would "promote economic development opportunities, while preserving the personality, integrity and character of the Strip."

The Strip had operated autonomously for years without City intervention. Over the past five years, NITS has been instrumental in working with the City to bring about basic services, including improved lighting, pedestrian crossings, an emergency response team and street cleaning.

The Strip's potential as an economic engine for the neighborhood, city and region is currently unrecognized by many. For example, in the year 2000, pre-development taxes on a property located at 45 26th Street were \$1,334.82. Now in 2003, post-development taxes are \$31,280.82.

Daily counts indicate that 22,406 cars enter the Strip and 24,800 individuals use Port Authority's services to get to the Strip. Currently, the Strip provides over 16,000 jobs and supports the grocery needs of approximately 37,929 households or 241,522 individuals in Lawrenceville, the Hill, Downtown and Northside.

Based on this along with the key findings of our various studies, research and the Strip District Vision, Neighbors in the Strip is now in an "action phase." As a result of the pro-active work of NITS's four mainstreet committees - Organization, Economic Restructuring/Design (combined) and Promotions, the key goals upon which NITS will focus its efforts will be strengthening the economic base of the Strip; creating an innovative program to market the unique characteristics of the Strip to shoppers, investors, new businesses, tourists and residents; and implementing a viable short- and long-term organizational funding plan that provides economic sustainability.

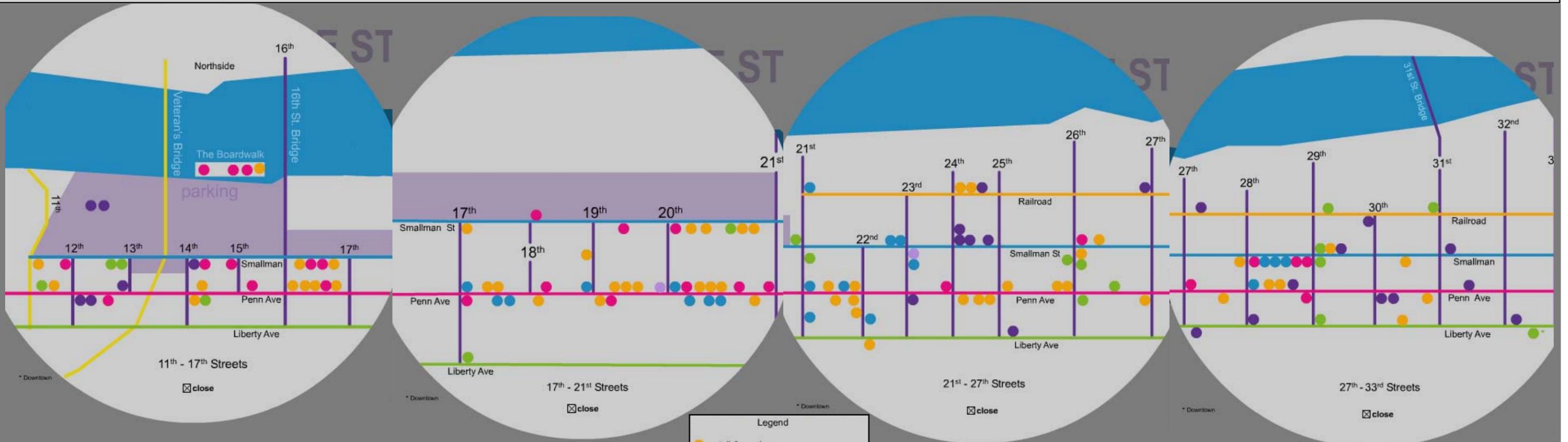
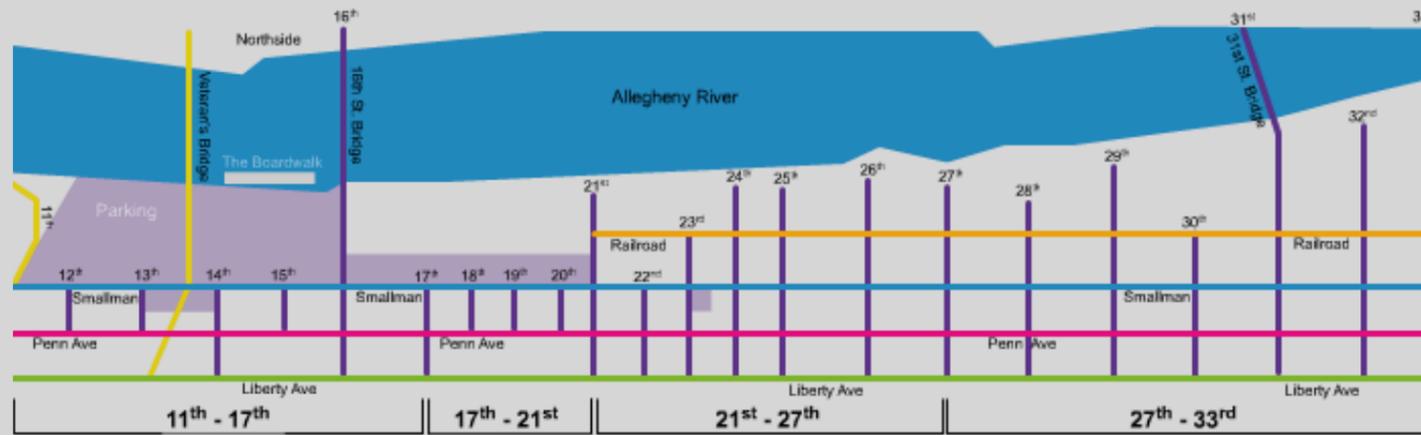
Perhaps Neighbors in the Strip's biggest contribution to the Pittsburgh Community is their ability to make connections and see the inter-weavings necessary to build a tapestry of neighborhoods. NITS supports and encourages area neighborhoods and their activities by including these activities in all nits-e-grams and website advertising/notices as well as actively seeking collaborative projects where all neighborhoods can benefit. One example of this collaboration is NITS's staff working with Tinsy Lipchek, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Cultural Tourism, to develop a weekend tour of the Strip and Northside that will be marketed to the Tri-state area - The Discover the Strip / Priory-Northside Getaway Weekend.

From fundraising and development of a Neighborhood Improvement Plan to a reduction in crime of 14%, 10% and 9.2% in, 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively, to assistance in bringing nearly 50 new businesses and approximately 700 jobs to the area over the past four years, Neighbors in the Strip has been intricately involved effecting positive changes for Strip District residents, businesses, property owners, visitors and the Pittsburgh region.

It couldn't be easier to get the Strip District. Port Authority's bus service to the Strip District is frequent and convenient - particularly between Downtown and the Strip - but also to and from many neighborhoods throughout the Pittsburgh area.

Now you can access the Strip anytime of day or night with Port Authority's new 24-hour service on the 54C and 86B bus routes.

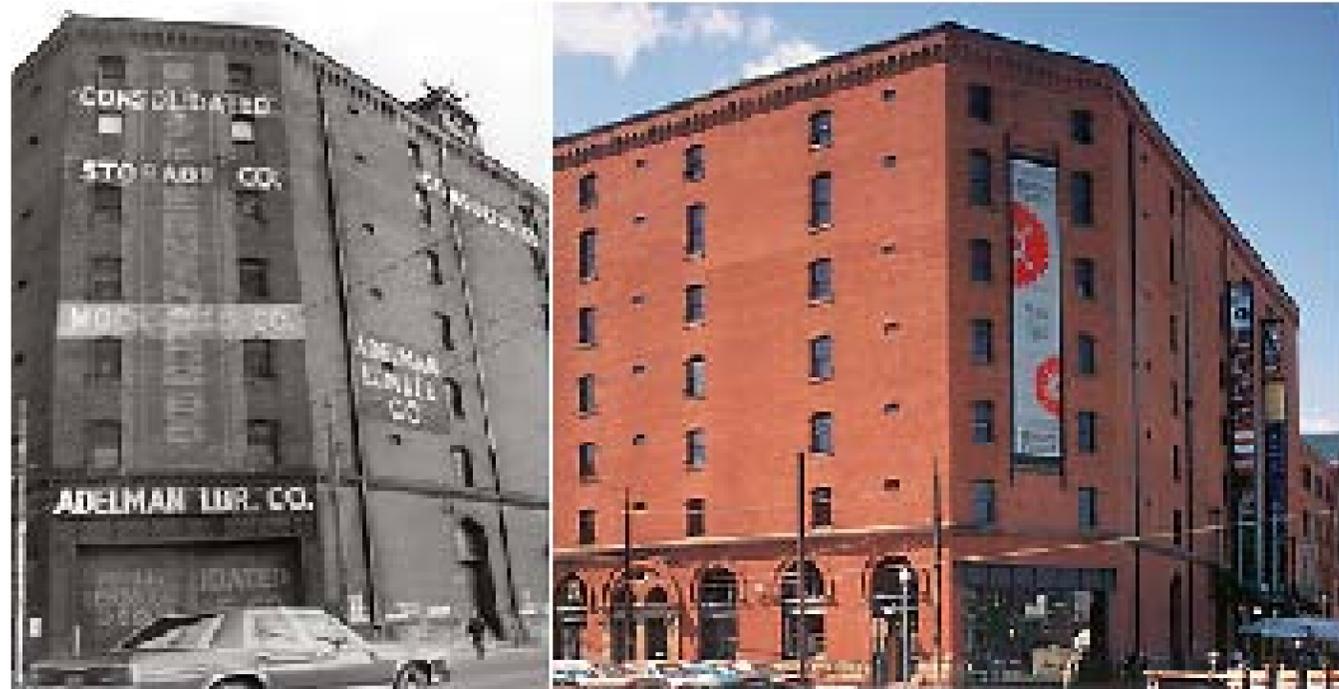
THIS IS THE STRIP



Legend

- retail & services
- commercial / industrial
- culture / worship / miscellaneous
- foods
- restaurants / bars / entertainment
- parking lots (metered street parking is available along Penn Ave and Smallman Street)

Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center
1212 Smallman Street



Built in 1898 as the headquarters and main warehouse of the Chautauqua Lake Ice Company, this seven-story structure was designed by Frederick Osterling. The company served the residential population of Pittsburgh and also iced railroad cars leaving the Strip District filled with produce. In 1996 the warehouse was renovated by the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania for the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center. The facility offers exhibits and interactive programs for the public to learn and enjoy the history of Western Pennsylvania.





This was shot from the 16th Street Bridge looking down on Smallman Street. The Strip District on Saturday mornings is a happening place to be.

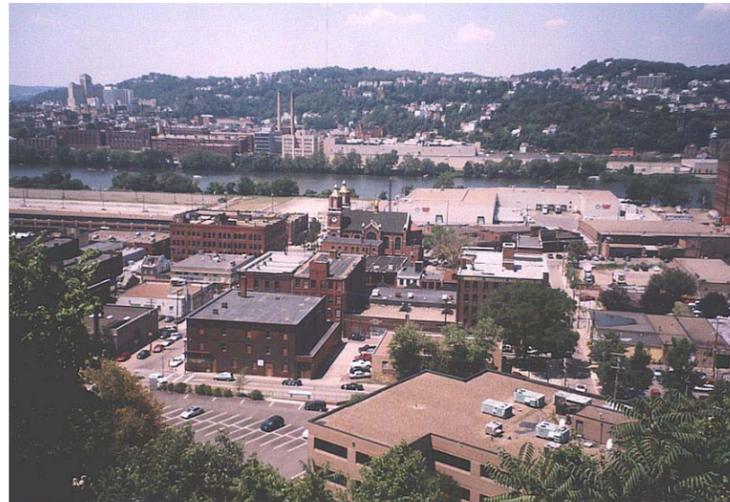


The Strip District has been Pittsburgh's meat and produce district since the mid-1800s and though a few trendy restaurants and clubs have moved in, the markets are still open and as raw as ever.



A few of the smaller produce markets are open to the public on Sundays. Here, I love that the sidewalk constitutes the majority of this store's real estate.

View of the Strip District & North Side



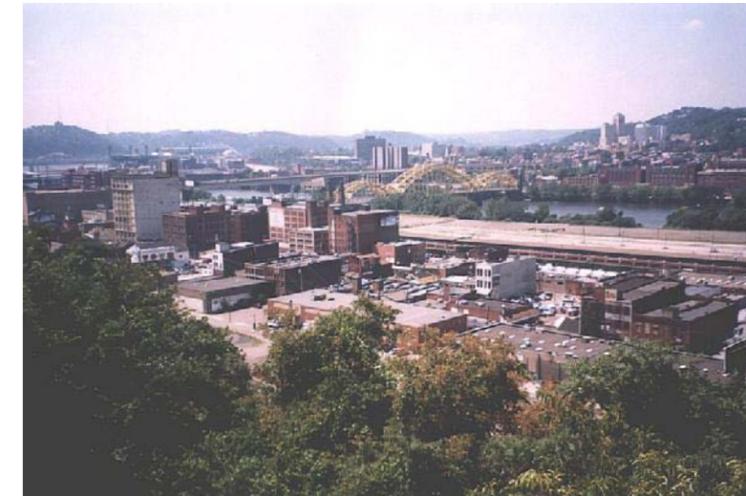
This neighborhood is bustling with businesses where one can find fresh produce, meat, poultry, fish, spices, and knick-knacks of all kinds at very affordable prices. People from all ethnic

Strip District & the 16th Street Bridge



backgrounds and social classes can be found on the crowded sidewalks, squeezing between sidewalk sellers displaying their wares, and food vendors making made-to-order hot dogs or Chinese food. Sometimes you can see

Overlooking the Strip & the North Side



a game of bocce while joining in the ritual of Saturday afternoon shoppers searching for all your household needs along Penn Avenue. A Saturday morning "Strip Trip" is always an adventure.