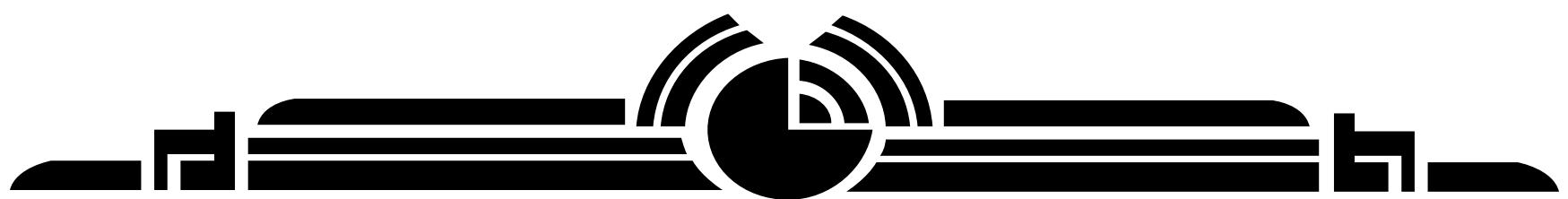


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# Squirrel Hill Historical Society



# Squirrel Hill Then and Now



Squirrel Hill has changed through the years from its beginnings in the mid-1700s until today. This display shows changes that have taken place over the course of Squirrel Hill's history.



Forward Avenue, looking east, 1909

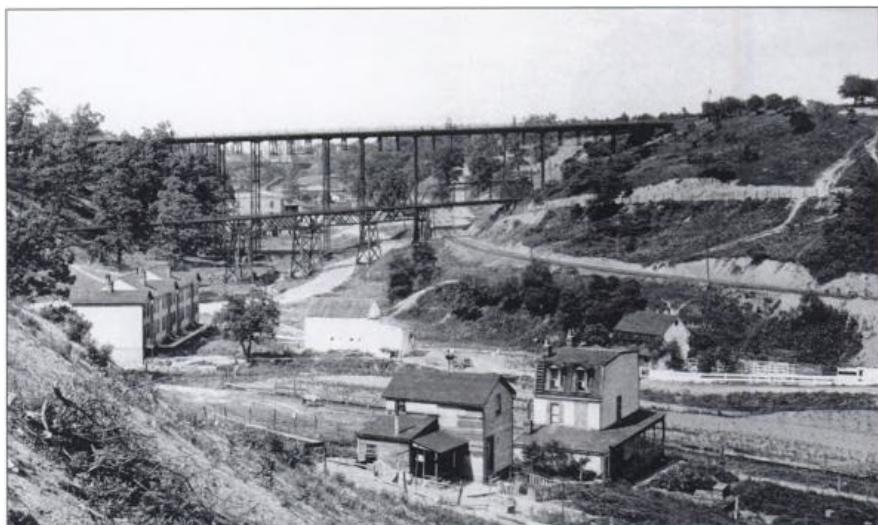


Forward Avenue, looking east, 2015

The picture on the left shows Forward Avenue School. Its retaining wall is still visible under a Parkway East bridge. The picture on the right is closer to the Murray Avenue intersection.

# The First Trolley Line Went Through CMU

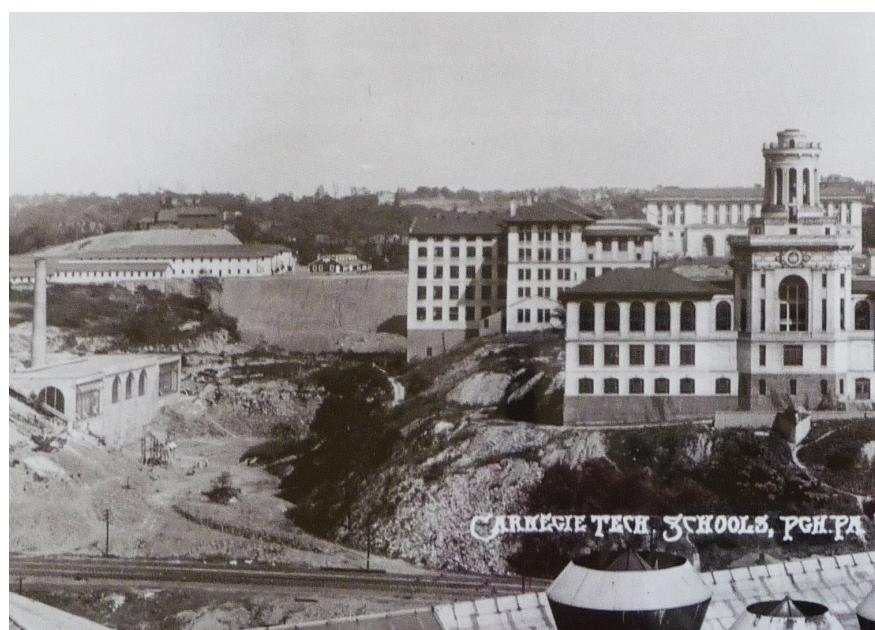
The first trolley line to Squirrel Hill, constructed around 1893, came up Junction Hollow from Second Avenue and cut through what is now the Carnegie Mellon campus where Wean Hall is located. It continued along Northumberland Street (then Homewood Avenue) to Murray Avenue.



Junction Hollow around 1893, showing the old Schenley Bridge and a trolley trestle beneath it.



A trolley in Junction Hollow around 1897. The new Schenley Bridge is in the background.



The ravine being filled in at Carnegie Mellon around 1920. Hamerschlag Hall is on the right. (Courtesy of CMU Archives)



A similar view today, showing the new Sherman and Joyce Bowie Scott Hall being constructed in the ravine.

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# Looking East at the Corner of Forbes and Murray

The intersection of Forbes and Murray became the bustling hub of Squirrel Hill when electric trolleys arrived in 1893. It is still the heart of Squirrel Hill.

1926



1967



Today



# Looking West at the Corner of Forbes and Murray

Until the current building was built at the southwest corner of Forbes and Murray, several gas stations were located there.



Gulf Station at the corner of Forbes and Murray in 1935

Squirrel Hill has changed through the years from its beginnings in the mid-1700s until today. This display shows changes that have taken place over the course of Squirrel Hill's history.

*The SHHS doesn't have a lot of old pictures of Squirrel Hill's business district. Do you have any to share with us? Send us scans or we can scan them and return the originals to you. Call 412-417-3707 or email [historysqlihill@hotmail.com](mailto:historysqlihill@hotmail.com).*



The corner of Forbes and Murray in 1968. Note Sun Drugs and the Gulf Station.



The corner of Forbes and Murray today

# From Theater to Restaurant to Friendship Circle

The Guild Theater, located at 1922 Murray Avenue, was first called the Princess Theater, then the Beacon Theater. It closed in 1979. In 1982 it became Gullifty's, "a unique eatery" famous for its luscious desserts. Now it is in the process of becoming the Friendship Circle, a Jewish organization that fosters lasting relationships between children who have special needs and teenagers. The revamped building will have a multipurpose space, teen and parents' lounges, play area, kitchen, work pods and offices.



The Guild Theater in 1965

Gullifty's restaurant



Architectural rendering of the Friendship Circle

# Killymoon Tavern and Beechwood Gardens

William (Killymoon) Stewart came to Squirrel Hill in 1819 and bought property above Nine Mile Run valley. He built an inn that serviced both travelers and people enjoying pleasant drives in the country.

The last owner of the inn was Stewart's reclusive great-grandson, William Burchfield. The inn lasted until 1949, when it was torn down to construct the Beechwood Gardens apartment complex (3245 Beechwood Boulevard).

This undated photo of Killymoon Inn was probably taken in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Over the bar was hung a sign that said, "Here nothing grows old but whiskey, men and jokes."

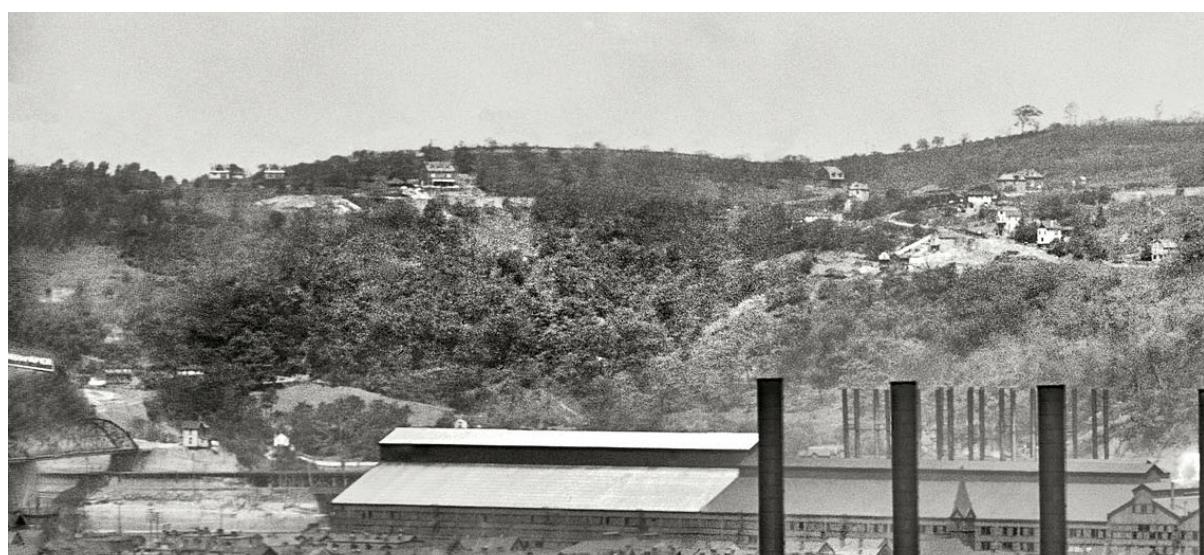


Beechwood Gardens Apartments today

# **Nine Mile Run Valley and Summerset**

Nine Mile Run valley has undergone massive changes in its history. It was once so scenic it was proposed as the location for a city park in 1905. The Duquesne Slag Company began to buy up lots in the valley in the 1920s and dumped slag there. By the time dumping ended in 1972, 238 acres of the valley were covered by 200 million tons of slag twenty stories high.

Today a beautiful new neighborhood sits on top of the slag.



Nine Mile Run valley  
seen from Homestead.  
Photo undated but  
taken prior to 1938.

Slag dumping took  
place from 1922 to  
1972.



Summerset today

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# Can You See the River from Squirrel Hill?

One of the scenes in the Post Office mural shows early settlers of Squirrel Hill clearing land for farming. A river winds in the background. Some people think the artist, Alan Thompson, made up the scene, but the Monongahela River can really be seen just at the place where the early pioneers on the hill first settled—Squirrel Hill's southernmost area.

The Post Office mural is a Squirrel Hill Treasure—a New Deal mural painted in 1942. It will be the subject of a future display.



View of the Monongahela River from the 3200 block of Beechwood Blvd.

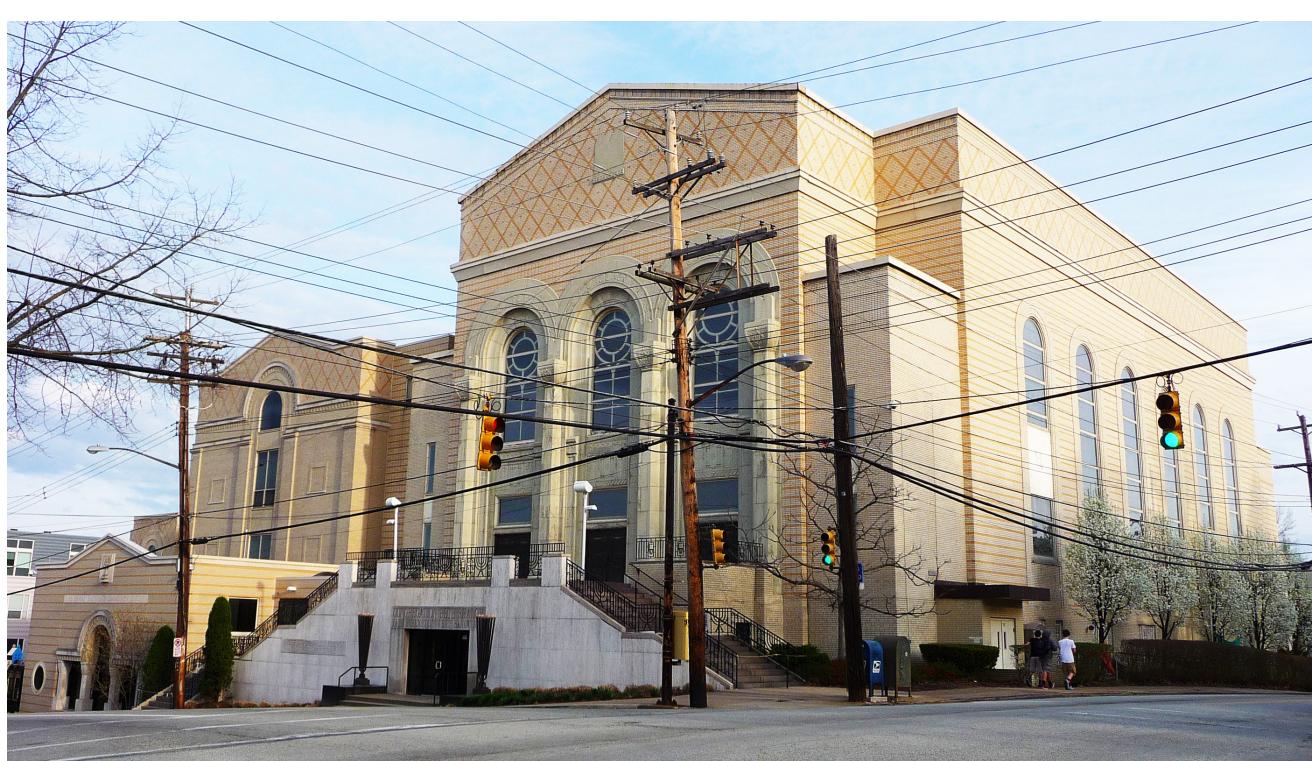
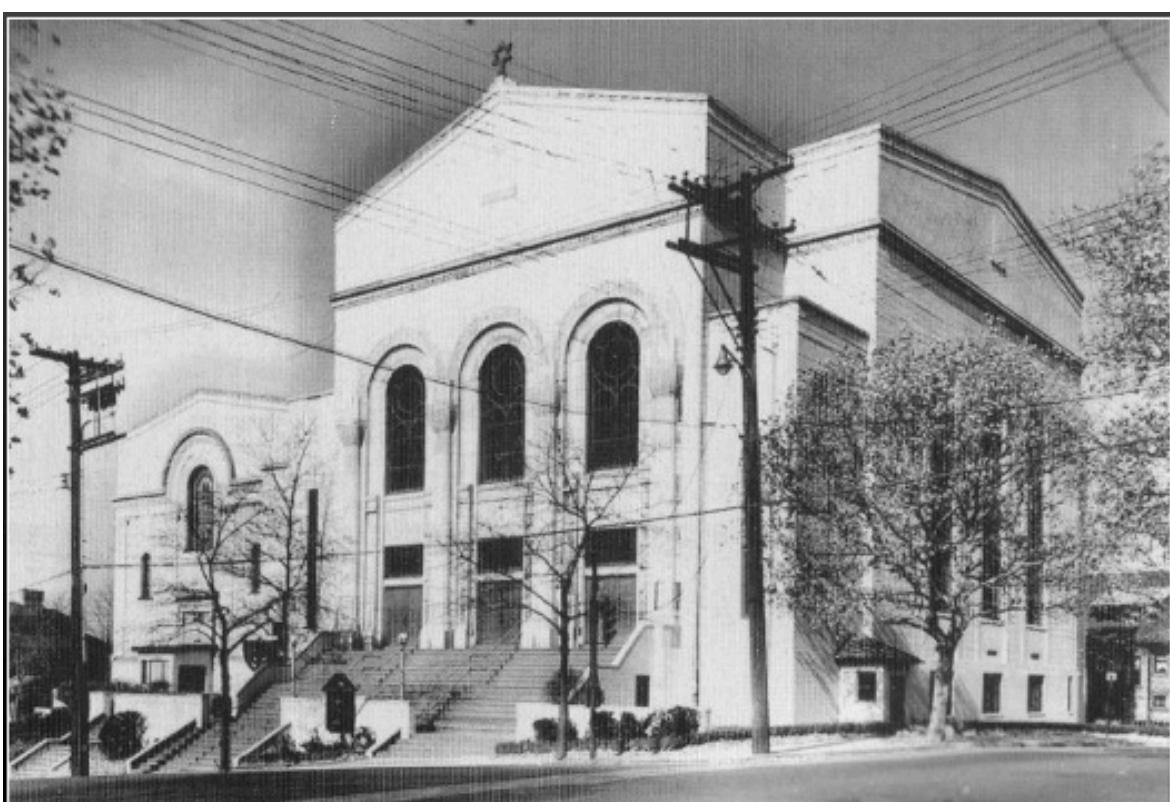
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# **Beth Shalom—A High Point of Squirrel Hill**



Beth Shalom, at 5915 Beacon Street, was the first synagogue built in Squirrel Hill near the highest point in the neighborhood. The building was completed in 1923.

Beth Shalom was expanded in 1931.



Beth Shalom was expanded again in 1970 and enlarged again after a disastrous fire in 1996.

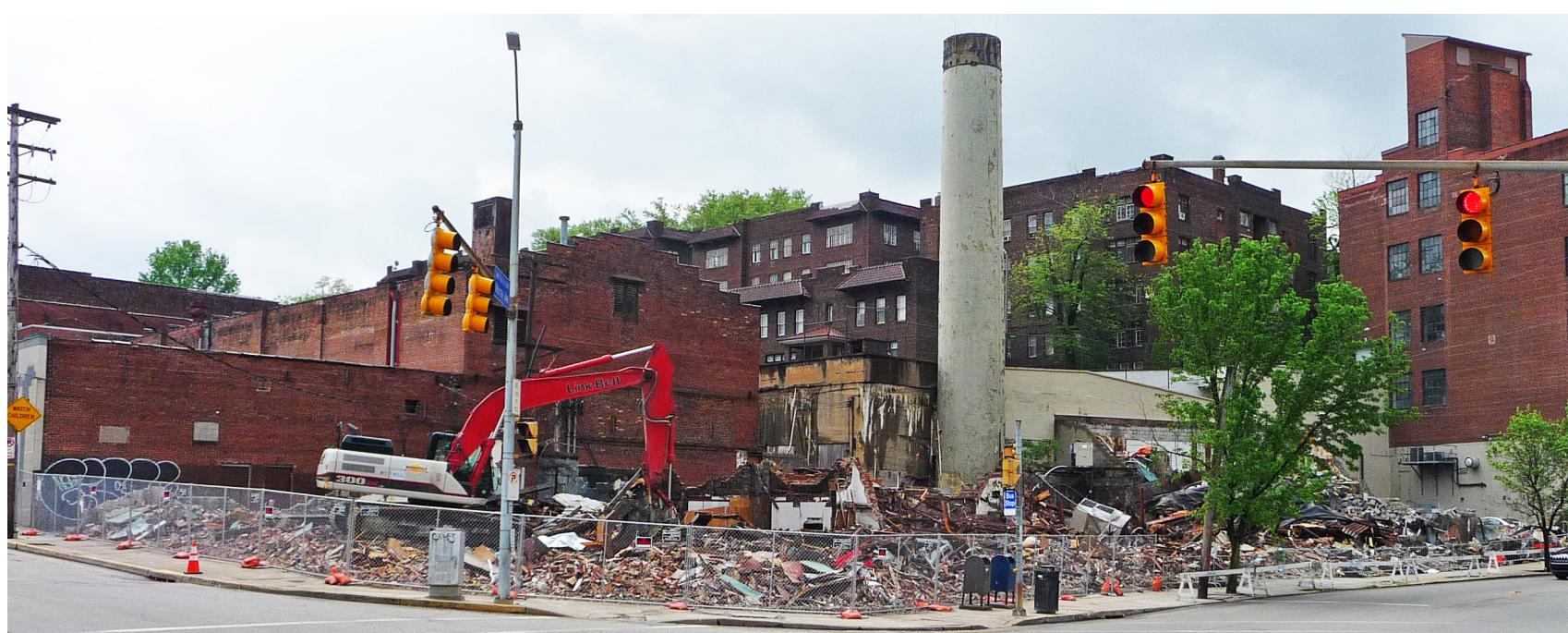
# Things Can Change in an Instant

The historic buildings at the corner of Forward and Murray were destroyed by fire on May 14, 2015. In a few short hours, not only the landmark Poli's restaurant was gone but also the corner building, which had originally been part of the Morrowfield complex, built in the 1920s.

The buildings were unoccupied and were the focus of discussions about the development of this "Gateway to Squirrel Hill." No plans are in place for the corner location, but the Poli's site is slated to become an apartment/office building for adults with special needs built by ACTION-Housing, Inc., in partnership with Jewish Residential Services.



Forward and Murray before the fire



The site as it was being demolished following the fire