

HN-2024-00641

Donny's Place

1226 Herron Avenue

Polish Hill Neighborhood

Determination of nomination viability

City of Pittsburgh Historic Nomination Form
1226 Herron Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Narrative Addenda

Overview

The bar and nightclub most recently called Donny’s Place, operated by Donald R. Thinnes (January 27, 1947- January 20, 2024), was an anchor of gay life in Pittsburgh for almost fifty years, operating at the base of Herron Avenue in Polish Hill from 1973 to 2022. We are not aware of any designated historic landmark or state historical marker in the Western PA region related to queer history. We would like to add to efforts happening in places across the country to recognize LGBTQ+ history. These efforts are happening within the historic preservation realm such as via the National Trust for Historic Preservation, local designations and state historical markers, and National Register nominations. We believe that all who made Pittsburgh what it is today should be reflected. By trying to fill in the gaps that exist in what has received historic recognition, we hope to inspire interest in uncovering more stories and leverage other nominations. Many of Pittsburgh’s LGBTQ+ bars have closed for various reasons. Some structures have been demolished or repurposed for new use. The former Donny’s Place still stands and we feel it is important to recognize the building for its social and cultural significance – it is a landmark and part of our shared Pittsburgh history.

7. Description (Architectural)

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)

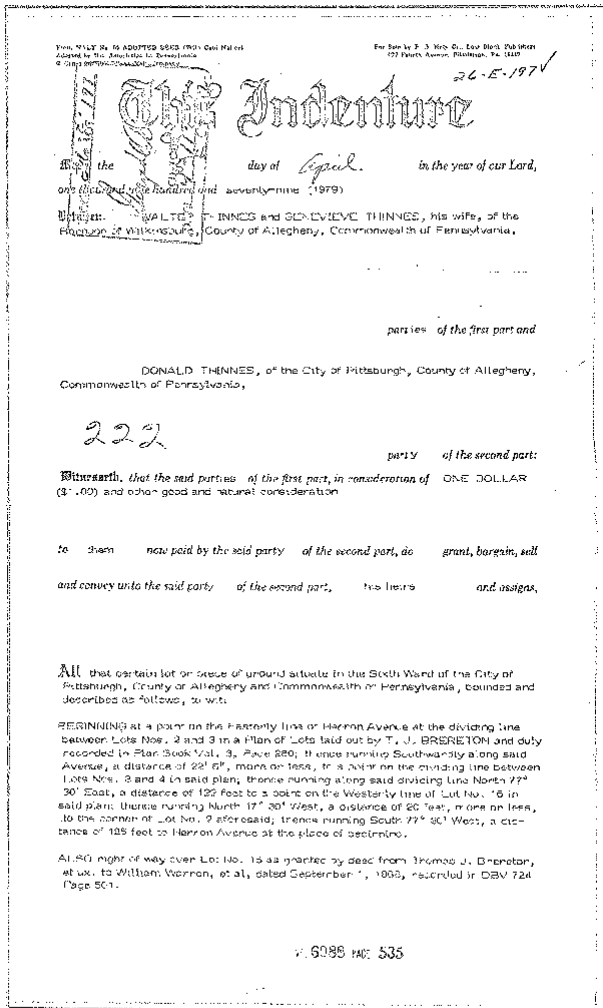


Photo 1 Primary and Western façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.

The former Donny's Place building is located at the intersection of Herron Avenue and Ruthven Street, adjacent to the Martin Luther King Jr East Busway. It is situated in a semi-wooded area on the northern edge of the steeply-hilled Polish Hill neighborhood, which is occupied predominantly by residences and scattered small businesses. The building is a flat-roofed, un-styled, rectangular commercial building two stories in height and measuring two bays wide by four bays deep. The building rests on a continuous foundation, which is not visible. The exterior walls consist of red brick laid in a Common Bond pattern. The main entrance is a wood pedestrian door, covered by a pent roof, on the right side of the building's west (front) façade. The building's fenestration consists of one-over-one light, double-hung, sash windows. The windows are wood, with the exception of two on the second story of the front façade that appear to be aluminum replacements. Two narrow, brick, internal chimneys pierce the roof along the edge of the building's north (side) façade. A one-story, two-bay, pre-fab addition with vinyl siding has been appended to the building's south (side) façade. It appears that the building exterior has had few alterations other than replacement windows.

The structure where Donald “Donny” Thinnes first established the Norreh Social Club (taking over the former Polish social club that was also called Norreh), and then Donny’s Place and Leather Central, was originally built between 1917 and 1919 as a two-story brick dwelling and store in front, and a two-story frame dwelling in the rear. It sits on a lot with room for parking at the base of Polish Hill, just before the Herron Avenue Bridge and in sight of the former Pittsburgh Brewing Company complex. A red light hangs over the door—a vestige of the discretion once necessary for Donny’s Place and its patrons to protect themselves from policing and homophobia—and an adjacent covered courtyard once hosted cookouts for all manner of Pittsburgh’s gay, leather, and fetish communities.

8. History (of structure, include bibliography, and relevant source material):



HAVING erected therein a two-story brick dwelling and stone in front and a two-story frame dwelling in the rear. Known as Block 20 E, Lot 197.

BEING the same property which Jo Ann Zachary by her deed dated January 10, 1974, and recorded in Deed Book Vol. 4569, Page 166, in the Recorder's Office of Allegheny County, granted and conveyed to Walter Thrunas, the grantor herein.

THE purpose of this Deed is to convey said property from Walter Thrunas and Genevieve Thrunas, his wife, to their son, Donald Thrunas.

222

W.6085 REG 533

https://www.newspapers.com/image/144830906/

4 Rooms. 926wb st End—Nicely furnished; convenient location. 926we	<p align="center">Wanted—Shipping Space. About 40x40 feet; must have rear entrance for trucks. Must be in downtown section. Immediate Possession. Write O 131, Press office. 923wn</p>	FOR SALE—furnace, bath 110. Phone
—Three furnished modern house; position. 925we	<p>RESTAURANT—New apartment building, fine location; no opposition; rooms if desired; reasonable. 1226 Herron ave. 926wp</p>	
Kingsburg—Two furnished. Apply only after 925we	<p>SUITABLE space for rent; shoemaker's shop or barber shop. Call Bell phone, Grant 4051-J; M. G. Moshilties. 921wb</p>	<p align="center">CITY A</p>
Light, third floor, corner to car; gentleman. 925wr	<p align="center">STABLES, GARAGES, ETC.</p>	FIVE ROOM of ground. Pine Creek, on line.
1100—Two light second floor; all 925wn	<p>CLYDE st. fireproof garages; offices Gabel Apartment, corner Ellsworth ave. and Clyde st. Phone 4704 or 4433 Schenley. 921wb</p>	MENTION ANSWERING A
No. 130, near Penn— with electric light ad. 925xn		<p align="center">NORTI</p>
Oakland—Furnished 921b		THE tenant of house with

1226 Herron "RESTAURANT - New apartment building"

Until 1972, the building at 1226 Herron Avenue functioned as primarily as a gambling and drinking society with a mostly Polish membership, which operated discreetly and by a membership system, like many other immigrant and ethnic societies of the era. A September 26, 1919 classified ad in *The Pittsburgh Press* advertises a restaurant and new apartment building at the location. The date that it became a social club is not known.

The social club would have been important to the Polish immigrants who began to arrive and settle in Polish Hill in the late 1800s (following German and Irish immigrants). By 1905, with the construction of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, an increasing percentage of residents were Polish. Most residents were working class and contributed to the steel mill and railroad economies. During the following decades, residents often referred to Herron Hill as simply "the Hill." The location became known as the Polish neighborhood in Pittsburgh (although the population included a variety of races and ethnicities). The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and the Polish social club at 1226 Herron Avenue served the needs of residents. Around 1969 or 1970, residents petitioned the City to be recognized as a separate neighborhood known as Polish Hill.

In 1972 Donald "Donny" Thinner, a gay man born and raised in Bloomfield who had recently returned from a tour of Vietnam (1966-1968), obtained the former Polish social club's liquor license and reopened it as a gay after-hours club. The Norreh Social Club (the name derived from Herron Avenue spelled backwards and was a nod to the former Polish social club that used Norreh in its name) joined The House of Tilden and the Travelers' Club, both operated by

Robert “Lucky” Johns, whose mafia connections made possible the operation of gay social venues in an era when homosexuality was illegal. Johns also served as Thinnes’ mentor, having taught him how to operate an after-hours club when Thinnes worked for Johns in the late ‘60s at the Tilden, one of Pittsburgh’s first gay bars, and at his gay bar The Holiday. Donald Thinnes had such a strong relationship with his parents, Walter and Genevieve Thinnes, that they provided the money to purchase 1226 Herron Avenue. By 1979, the club was profitable enough that Thinnes was able to buy the bar from his parents.

Under Donny Thinnes management and ownership, the gathering place at 1226 Herron Avenue had various names. In addition to the Norreh Social Club and Donny’s Place, other names included: DB’s Place (after Thinnes partner at the time), Leather Central (the name of the basement-level bar that catered to members of the leather community, and which was a gathering place for the Three Rivers Leather Club, founded in 1991), and others.

From 1973 until October 2022, 1226 Herron Avenue was an anchor of Pittsburgh gay life: hosting fundraisers, performances, life-saving HIV/AIDS testing and information, and an opportunity for queer people from Pittsburgh and across Northern Appalachia to meet each other and be themselves, away from the controlling eyes of a society that didn’t welcome them.

At its inception, the Norreh was an after-hours venue, open late into the night and operating on a membership system inherited from Pittsburgh’s ethnic social clubs of the early twentieth century and refined by Robert “Lucky” Johns, the father of Pittsburgh’s gay after-hours clubs and the gay nightlife scene in general. The club might have had 25,000 members over the years. Very few of them realized that their membership cards were coded, so the club owner or doorman could verify identities by physical characteristics, such as race, gender, or eye and hair coloration. It was a precaution that was necessary, since forged membership cards or those that had been stolen or 'borrowed' were the easiest way for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to gain entry and issue citations. Donald Thinnes claimed that it took seven years for the Liquor Control Board to get through the door.

Women were welcome though the bar downstairs would become a men's only space, catering to a rapidly growing interest in leather. Eventually, the upstairs would become a dance floor or a performance space, with a lit dance floor “worthy of Saturday Night Fever.”

As time went on, the after-hours club became a bar. The Liquor Control Board became less tolerant of places that served late, and after two raids, Donny changed the club's hours (this was in line with other clubs curtailing their hours in response to enforcement).

In the 2000s, one floor of Donny’s was for a time the city’s major lesbian bar. The lesbian dance party Sappho, hosted regularly around the city by DJ Mary Mack through 2013 and occasionally as a pop-up event since 2020, got its start at Donny’s. At least once Donny’s hosted the after-party for the Pittsburgh Dyke March.

Donny's Place closed briefly due to COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020. When it reopened in 2021 the liquor license for the bar had lapsed. Friend of the bar and fellow Pittsburgh Tavern Guild member Scott Noxon (formerly the proprietor of Pegasus, The Pittsburgh Eagle, and There Video Lounge) used There Video's liquor license to allow the venue to reopen. Due to development pressures and Donald Thinnes' declining health, the bar closed permanently in the fall of 2022. Scott Noxon joined Donald Thinnes' caretaking team, and Donny died on January 20, 2024. In response to Donny's death, community members expressed their appreciation of Donny and what his life and his bar had meant to them. Here is a brief selection of remembrances that accompanied Thinnes' obituary:

Donny was amazing in his endless contributions to the community in which he believed in helping people in need. He gave more than most. During the Aids crisis, he lost his brother and his partner and still Donny helped those who were in need . He stands out as one of the greatest in the history of gay Pittsburgh. I will always remember Donny fondly
Stephen Dario - February 29 at 03:04 PM

My condolences to Donnie's family. We will always be great for his generosity to the LGBTQ+ community. May he rest in peace.
Michael Tevis - January 29 at 11:16 AM

9. Significance

(1) *Its location as a site of a significant historic or prehistoric event or activity;*

This resource does not meet this Criterion.

(2) Identification with a person who significantly contributed to the cultural, historic, architectural, archeological, or related aspects to the City of Pittsburgh, State of Pennsylvania, Mid-Atlantic Region, or the United States.



Donald Thinnes on left. QBurgh. Date unknown.

The bar and nightclub most recently called Donny's Place was an anchor of gay life in Pittsburgh for almost fifty years, operating at the base of Herron Avenue in Polish Hill from 1973 to 2022. Donald Thinnes was born and raised in Bloomfield. Supported by fellow bar owners throughout his life, Donny was a founding member of the Pittsburgh Tavern Guild, an organization of Pittsburgh gay bar and nightclub owners founded in the late 1970s in order to protect one another and their venues from pressures exerted by homophobic legal restrictions; the local mafia, which exerted great influence in the nightlife scene at the time; and the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. (The first Tavern Guild in the country formed in San Francisco in the 1960s). In the early 1980s, the Tavern Guild was responsible for disseminating information about HIV/AIDS, then known as GRID, within the Pittsburgh gay community long before such information was widespread, and as a result Pittsburgh's rate of death from AIDS was far below that of comparably sized cities. The Tavern Guild also used Donny's Place to recruit participants for the Pitt Men's Study. Founded in 1984 and continuing today at the University of Pittsburgh with funding from the National Institute of Health, the study "has followed a cohort of approximately 3,000 men to gather information on the epidemiology, virology, immunology, and pathology" of HIV/AIDS, according to the study's website. Data from the Pitt Men's Study has been a major factor in the development of the treatment for HIV/AIDS for the last forty years.

In addition to disseminating information about HIV/AIDS, Donny's Place served as a major center of harm reduction and community organizing for queer people in Pittsburgh for the entirety of its operation. In the 1980s and 1990s the bar held fundraisers for community members living with AIDS and memorials for those who died. In the 1990s and 2000s, the bar offered free sodas and coffees for designated drivers during an epidemic of drunk driving, and continued to offer incentives such as free admission or free drinks for patrons to join the Pitt

Men's Study or to prove that they had been tested for HIV/AIDS. As recently as 2022, bartender David grilled free hot dogs for patrons every Sunday night.

The Tavern Guild was even presented with a Certificate of Merit in Public Health in 2000 for "outstanding service to the citizens of Allegheny County in the recent outbreak of Hepatitis A."



Certificate of Public Merit awarded to the Tavern Guild by the Allegheny County Health Department, 2000. Donald Thinnies papers, Heinz History Center. Image by Dade Lemanski

In 1999, Mike Zuhl, a key figure in the Pittsburgh leather community, as well as leather communities nationally and internationally, bought out the Mr. Drummer Contest, a national leather community pageant that had been hosted by *Drummer Magazine*, a gay men's leather periodical based in San Francisco that was published from 1975-1999, and featured work from such major writers and artists as Patrick Califia and Robert Mapplethorpe. When *Drummer Magazine* folded, the contest needed a new sponsor, and the strong Pittsburgh leather scene, anchored at Leather Central, became the host. Zuhl also went on to found the contests International Mr. Leather Sir/boy and International Mister Bootblack.

The capacity of Donny's Place to host these major leather community events was made possible by its decades of hosting more local community events and pageants, and building infrastructure through the Tavern Guild with other gay bars and clubs across Pittsburgh, such as an annual Labor Day gay cruise on the Gateway Clipper and a Memorial Day picnic held by the Golden Triangle Society in North Park. The Miss Norreh Pageant ran annually at Donny's Place from some time in the mid-1980s to the early 1990s, the Horse of a Different Color gay western and two-stepping club met and hosted dances at the bar (in the upstairs space which the club called "Stetson's") throughout the 1990s.

Thinnes was also a founding member of the Lambda Foundation, a nonprofit that supported all kinds of queer and trans projects in Pittsburgh—from an Asian American lesbian society at the University of Pittsburgh to Shepherd Wellness Community, an organization that has been providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS in the Pittsburgh region since 1987, along with many other projects and organizations. Donald Thinnes along with Robert "Lucky" Johns (who died in 2014) were anchors of the Tavern Guild and in the development of the infrastructures of gay life in Pittsburgh. The Tavern Guild even promoted the City of Pittsburgh via an advertising campaign in the 1980s as "Gay America's Best Kept Secret." Pittsburgh was promoted in gay newspapers within a 6 hour drive of Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh has no designated historic structures to commemorate gay history, including its nightlife. Pittsburgh was at one time so well-known that the groundbreaking Showtime series *Queer as Folk* (2000-2005) was set here. *Queer as Folk* was the first mainstream television series to introduce stories featuring gay life. Those who remember the heyday of gay bars and after-hours clubs are dwindling in number, and sites of gay life are threatened and disappearing due to encroaching development.

In this moment, we have the opportunity and necessity to act in preserving Donny's Place, a building that signifies almost fifty years of Pittsburgh gay history—not only since its founding in 1973, but the pre-Stonewall Uprising organizing and infrastructure in which Robert "Lucky" Johns built up the after-hours gay scene in Pittsburgh, and from which Donny's Place emerged. Donny's was an early anchor of the scene continuing into the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, offering the only place for leather community members to gather between Philadelphia and Cleveland. No other place like it existed in Pittsburgh, or will. The many lives that changed due to Donny's Place are worth remembering. The building at 1226 Herron Avenue embodies the contributions of Donald Thinnes and Pittsburgh LGBTQ+ history.

(3) Its exemplification of an architectural type, style, or design distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship;

This resource does not meet this Criterion.

(4) Its identification as the work of an architect, designer, engineer, or builder whose individual work is significant in the history of development of the City of Pittsburgh, the State of Pennsylvania, the Mid- Atlantic region, or the United States;

This resource does not meet this Criterion.

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

This resource does not meet this Criterion.

(6) Its location as a site of an important archaeological resource;

This resource does not meet this Criterion.

(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;

Donny's Place was the site of much of the first recruitment for the still ongoing Pitt Men's Study at the University of Pittsburgh for HIV/AIDS (as described in Criterion #2). Founded in 1984 and continuing today at the University of Pittsburgh with funding from the National Institute of Health, the study "has followed a cohort of approximately 3,000 men to gather information on the epidemiology, virology, immunology, and pathology" of HIV/AIDS, according to the study website. Data from the Pitt Men's Study has been a major factor in the development of the treatment for HIV/AIDS for the last forty years.

Donny Thinnes was also a founding member of the Pittsburgh Tavern Guild, an early gay business association (following that which formed in San Francisco in the 1960s). It was through Donny Thinnes and Donny's Place where the infrastructures of gay life in Pittsburgh developed – a support system and infrastructure that we might simply take for granted today without knowing what came before. Donny's Place and the Tavern Guild provided critical health and wellness information and served as a meeting place and refuge for the LGBTQ+ community. It even took steps to promote Pittsburgh to gay tourists in the 1980s.

(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

This resource does not meet this Criterion.

(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

Donny's Place was one of the early gay after-hours clubs and bars in the Pittsburgh area during a critical time beginning in the early 1970s, following the Stonewall Uprising. These times included more freedom and possibilities, but also the trauma of the AIDS epidemic. Donny's Place had a long and lasting presence continuing into the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those who remember the heyday of gay bars and after-hours clubs are dwindling in number. The buildings that housed these bars and clubs have been demolished. Those still standing are threatened and are disappearing due to various factors including encroaching development.

The Donny's Place building signifies five decades of Pittsburgh gay history—not only since its founding in 1973, but the pre-Stonewall organizing and infrastructure in which Robert “Lucky” Johns built up via the after-hours gay scene in Pittsburgh, and from which Donny's Place emerged.

(10) Its unique location and distinct physical appearance represents a familiar visual feature.

The building at 1226 Herron Avenue has anchored the base of Herron Avenue since approximately 1919 -- and since 1973 as a gay bar. The property is located across the Herron Avenue Bridge from Liberty Avenue and right across the street from a stop on the Martin Luther King Jr East Busway. Despite the injustices of policing and homophobia, the building is not hidden, but rather it sits in a prominent central location near the borders of Lawrenceville and the Strip District, as well as near the former Iron City Brewing, also a historic landmark.

10. Integrity

The building retains moderate integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and feeling. Most of the original design, materials, and workmanship are intact.

11. Notification of Property owners (see enclosed letter)

Contact has been made with the estate of Donald Thinnes to discuss plans for the property as well as the property's potential to honor Donald Thinnes and Pittsburgh's LGBTQ+ history.

12. Photographs (numbered, dated, and labeled)



Photo 1 Donny's Place, Primary and Western façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.



Photo 2 Donny's Place, North façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.



Photo 3 Donny's Place, South façade and parking lot, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.



Photo 4 Donny's Place, South façade and parking lot, 1226 Herron Avenue. QBurgh. c. 1980s.



Photo 5 Donny's Place, Primary and western façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. bulldogchicago. Date unknown.

Archival Materials: Related to Donny's Place, 1226 Herron Avenue, and Donald Thinnes

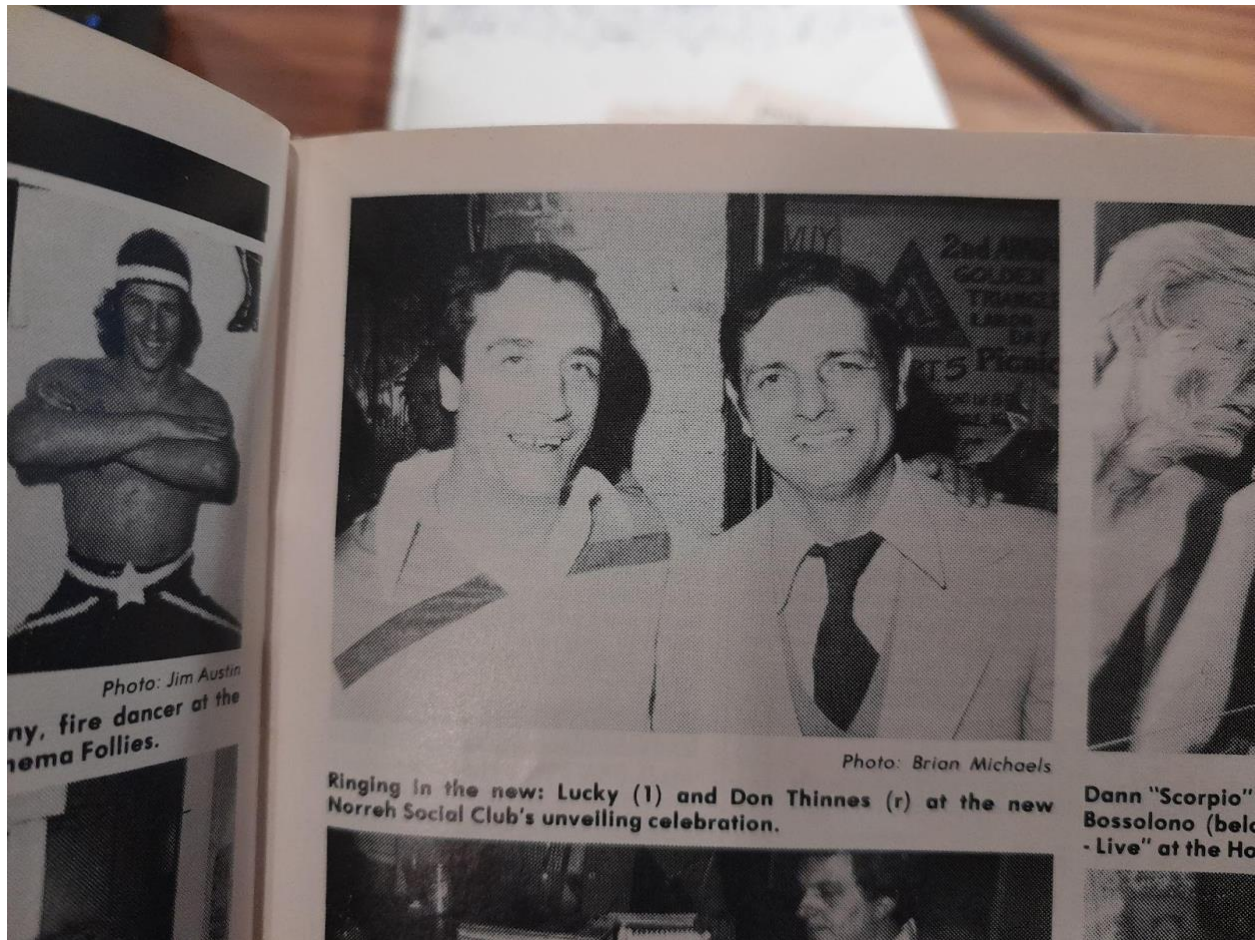


Photo of Robert "Lucky" Johns and Donald Thinnes taken by Brian Michaels at the Norreh Social Club, *Gay Life*, September 1977. Donald Thinnes papers, Heinz History Center. Image by Dade Lemanski.

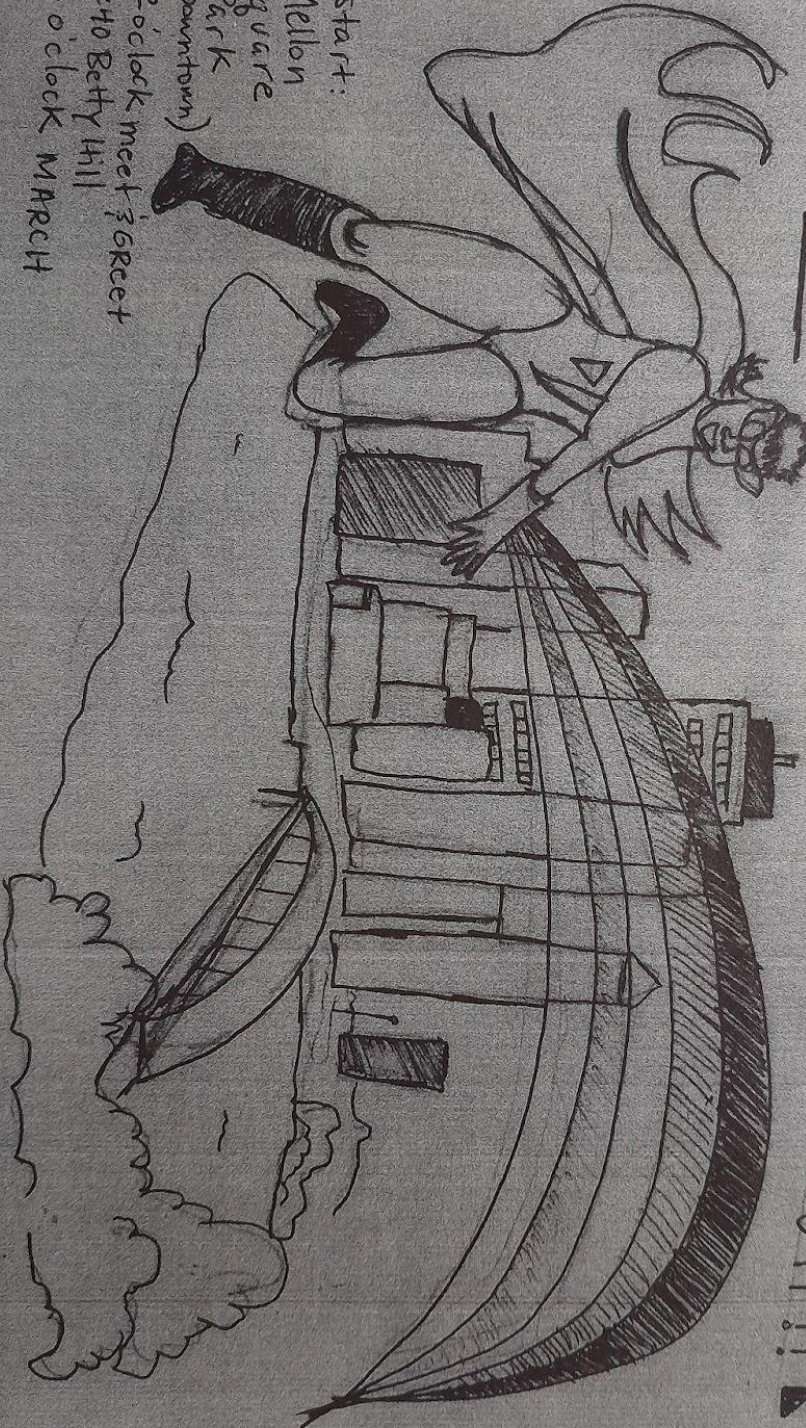
▶ PITTSBURGH'S 3rd Annual

SATURDAY JUNE 21ST @ 3

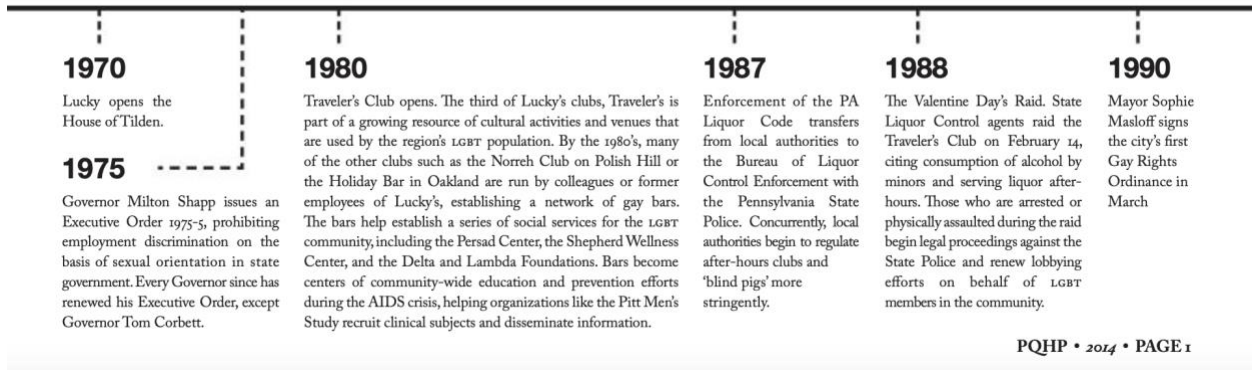
DYKE MARCH !! ▶

Start:
Melon
Square
Park
(Downtown)
2 o'clock meet @ greet
2:40 Betty Hill
3 o'clock MARCH

After Party: Hosted by Pink Party Productions @ Donny's 7-? WEEZIES



Flyer for the 3rd Annual Pittsburgh Dyke March. Donald Thinnes papers, Heinz History Center. Image by Dade Lemanski.



Pittsburgh Queer History Project: Lucky After Dark timeline, 2014.

DO YOU KNOW?

QUESTIONS:

1. Will only gay men with many different sex partners get AIDS?
2. How much free medical testing is available from the Pitt Men's Study?
3. Can Hepatitis-B be prevented?
4. Are only men who are anal receptive able to get AIDS?

ANSWERS:

1. No, AIDS can be acquired from just one sexual partner.
2. Study I — \$150.00 Study II — \$500.00 per visit
3. Yes, a safe, effective vaccine is available from your doctor, county health service and some university student health centers.
4. No, AIDS can probably be transmitted to either partner who engages in oral or anal sex.

Join the Pitt Men's Study
Call 624-2008
DO IT FOR A FRIEND

Cocktail napkin advertisement for the Pitt Men's Study, 1980s. Donald Thinnes papers, Heinz History Center. Image by Dade Lemanski.



SAVE IT FOR THE NEXT TIME

When you really don't want another drink - but you don't want to insult someone who wants to buy you one **SAVE IT FOR THE NEXT TIME** with your Norreh Drink Disk. Instead of a drink - you receive a disk, which is redeemable anytime you visit Norreh.



We want you to have a good time at the club — and a safe ride home!

SO

SAVE IT FOR THE NEXT TIME

Remember Coffee and Food are Always Available

Leaflet from Norreh Social Club newsletter c. 1990. Donald Thinnes papers, Heinz History Center. Image by Dade Lemanski.



A BENEFIT FOR THE MARCH ON
WASHINGTON FOR LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

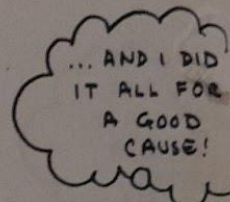
at the

NORREH SOCIAL CLUB

Saturday, Sept. 5th

8:00 to 10:00 PM

\$3.50



For more information about the March and related events call 255-0296

SPACE AND BAR PROCEEDS GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE NORREH
SPACE AND BAR PROCEEDS GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE NORREH

Flyer announcing benefit spaghetti dinner for the March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights at the Norreh, 1979. Donald Thinnes papers, Heinz History Center. Image by Dade Lemanski.

13. List of Supporting Documents for 1226 Herron Avenue

- Photo Log
- Bibliography

Photo Log for 1226 Herron Avenue

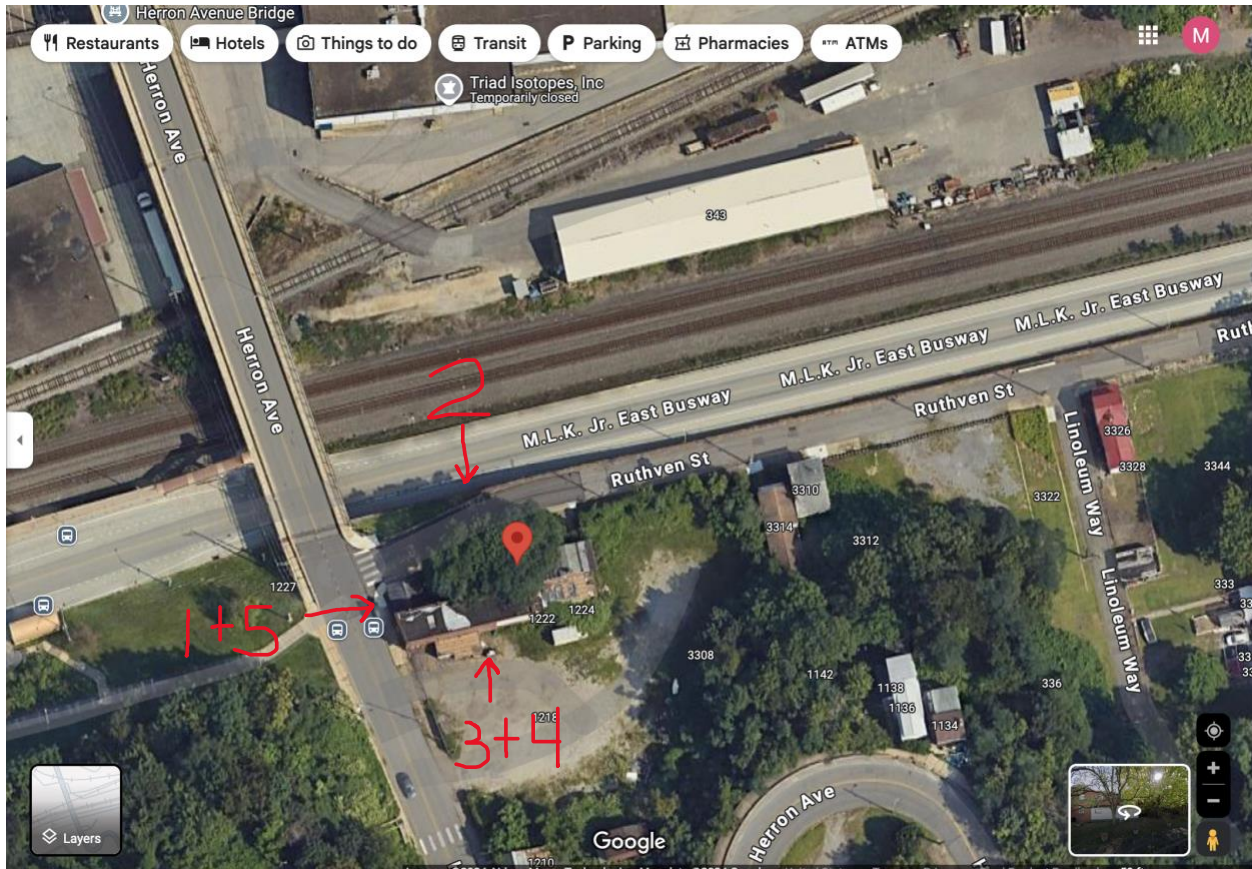
Photo 1 Donny's Place, Primary and Western façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.

Photo 2 Donny's Place, North façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.

Photo 3 Donny's Place, South façade and parking lot, 1226 Herron Avenue. Wen Miller. September 2024.

Photo 4 Donny's Place, South façade and parking lot, 1226 Herron Avenue. QBurgh. c. 1980s.

Photo 5 Donny's Place, Primary and western façade, 1226 Herron Avenue. bulldogchicago. Date unknown.



Bibliography for 1226 Herron Avenue

Newspapers & Online Media

Classifieds. *The Pittsburgh Press*. September 26, 1919

Chatman, Angela D. Gay Holiday: New Pittsburgh Image Coming Out of Closet? *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. c. 1985.

Pittsburgh Queer History Project: Lucky After Dark. 2014.

<https://studioforcreativeinquiry.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/lucky-after-dark-gallery-guide.pdf>

Lemanski, Dade. Sinkhole/Gloryhold We care about YOU. harm reduction history at the leather bar. July 12, 2022.

<https://sinkhole-gloryhole.ghost.io/we-care-about-you-harm-reduction-and-the-pittsburgh-tavern-guild/>

Switzer, Silas Maxwell. A History of Pittsburgh's Queer Spaces: 1965-1989. April 27, 2023.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/94f3865430e049f99e1220f4ea477ab7>

Sheppard, Jim. Donald Thinnes, Long time Bar Owner & Community Stalwart, Has Died. *QBurgh*. January 21, 2024.

<https://qburgh.com/donald-thinnes-long-time-bar-owner-community-stalwart-has-died/>

Obituary for Donald Thinnes. *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. January 28, 2024.

<https://obituaries.post-gazette.com/obituary/donald-r-thinnes-1089322058>

Switzer, Silas Maxwell. In Memoriam: Donny Thinnes. *QBurgh*. May 16, 2024.

<https://qburgh.com/in-memoriam-donny-thinnes/>

Other Sources & Media

Donald Thinnes papers, Senator John Heinz History Center:

-Photo taken by Brian Michaels of four patrons upstairs at the Norreh (upstairs on the lesbian floor), *Gay Life* magazine, late 1970s

-Photo of DJ Michael playing New Wave at the "Ratskelter" at the Norreh, taken by Brian Michaels, *Gay Life* magazine, late 1970s

-Portrait of Donald Thinnes from "Pittsburgh's Gay Community is Growing and Flourishing," *Pittsburgh Press*, September 27, 1979

-Invitation to Norreh Social Club Ten-Year Anniversary, 1983

-Photo of bartender John (far right) downstairs at the Norreh, *METRA* magazine 156, September 25, 1985

-Leaflet from Norreh Social Club newsletter, c. 1990

-Photo of Ever Lovely and LaDonna, the reigning Miss Norreh, at the Norreh Social Club, *METRA* magazine issue 246

- Leaflet from Norreh Social Club newsletter, announcing Leather Night at the Norreh hosted by Pittsburgh MC, c. 1990

Polish Hill Civic Association

<https://www.polishhillcivicassociation.org/>

Wikipedia – Polish Hill

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_Hill

Donnelly, Lu. The Strip, Polish Hill, Lawrenceville and Bloomfield. Society of Architectural Historians.

<https://sah-archipedia.org/essays/PA-01-0001-0006-0001>

GayCities (photos)

<https://pittsburgh.gaycities.com/bars/780-donnys-place>

Pitt Men's Study

<https://pittmensstudy.com/>

Library of Congress, 1969: The Stonewall Uprising

<https://guides.loc.gov/lgbtq-studies/stonewall-era>