

TABLE 1.—Physical magnitude of the North Philadelphia problem

Item	Total, city of Philadelphia	Total, North Philadelphia	North Philadelphia as a percent of city total
Population.....	2, 002, 512	341, 042	17
Total dwelling units.....	648, 942	108, 699	15
Sound w. a. f.....	550, 831	71, 331	12
Owner occupied.....	381, 171	40, 934	10
Overcrowded.....	45, 206	16, 013	35
Derelict houses.....	14, 399	6, 827	47
Derelict lots.....	5, 302	2, 151	40

North Philadelphia as a percent of total of city of Philadelphia

Percent of city population.....	16.5
Percent of city births.....	18.6
Percent of illegitimate births.....	39.2
Percent of dependent children.....	52.1
Percent of juvenile contact with police.....	26.4
Percent of old-age assistance.....	36.0

*B. Arresting blight and decay**Present programs*

1. Vacant housing: A proposed joint effort by the city of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and the Philadelphia Housing Development Corporation to execute a concerted attack on the 20,000 derelict structures and lots cited in table 1 is awaiting Public Housing Administration approval. Five thousand of these units located in the North Philadelphia area will be the major target of the first year's effort. The program calls for an additional 5,000 to be treated each year for the succeeding 3 years in other sections of the city. The first year's expenditure is expected to amount to \$80 million.

2. Code enforcement: Philadelphia has developed one of the strongest code enforcement programs of any city in this country. To bolster this effort a new program is now being drafted for approval by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for funds amounting to \$7.5 million to be spent over a 3-year period to bring 127,000 structures to code standard. Unfortunately, the administrative restrictions of the program specified under the 1965 Housing Act prevents the application of any part of this accelerated effort to the heart of North Philadelphia, where it is most urgently needed.

3. Public housing leasing program: As part of a citywide program the Philadelphia Housing Authority is now developing a plan for rehabilitation of 1,000 dwelling units which will be tailored to the public housing leasing program provided for in the Housing Act of 1965. Rehabilitation costs under this program were to be borne by the landlord. The difference between the prospective occupant's ability to pay rent and the competitive market level will be defrayed by the housing authority. This program calls for an annual budget of \$1 million.

4. Neighborhood amenities: The city has presently budgeted approximately \$2,374,000 for neighborhood improvements which include two major recreation centers, street and curb improvements, tree planting, improved street lighting, traffic signals, and police and fire boxes.

5. The city has recently completed plans for a Housing Information Service Center. This office is to be financed by a section 207 demonstration grant under the Housing Act of 1949 as amended. It will provide guidance for moderate and low-income families in their search for the best shelter available in all parts of the city at prices which they can afford.

Proposed programs

The three-pronged attack on blight and decay outlined below is designed to reach every structure in the demonstration project area. Obviously the magnitude of the action will create employment for hundreds of residents in the area as well as involve the participation of the total community. Succeeding sections will spell out how this marshaling of labor will be achieved.