**Character Defining Features Document, Jones & Laughlin Steel Company Building, March 2023**

*Excerpts from the 2020 National Register nomination prepared by Angelique Bamberg and the 2020 Individual Property Historic Nomination Form for the City of Pittsburgh Historic Landmark Nomination prepared by Angelique Bamberg for Preservation Pittsburgh.*

Significance: The Jones & Laughlin Steel Company Building is eligible A/Commerce for its association with the activities of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Company, one of the largest producers of steel in the United States during the first half of the 20th century. Jones & Laughlin Steel Company was founded in 1853 as an iron manufacturer on the South Side of Pittsburgh. Jones & Laughlin’s impact on the economy, urban geography, and identity of Pittsburgh and the western Pennsylvania steel-producing region is impossible to overestimate. The Jones & Laughlin Steel Company Building is also eligible under Criterion C as a high-quality, high-integrity, locally significant example of the Jacobean Revival Style of architecture applied to a major commercial building and is a distinguished example of the work of MacClure and Spahr.

**Character Defining Features:**

**Exterior:**

Character defining features at the exterior (shown in photographs 1 to 9 of the National Register nomination and photographs 1 to 8 of the City Landmark Nomination)

* Overall form with stepped formation at rear elevation
* Seven bays wide
* Three bays deep
* 12 stories tall from front and 13 stories tall at rear
* Details of the Jacobean Revival style
* Red brick cladding
* Dressed ashlar foundation topped with molded water table
* Symmetrical façade at Ross Street with central entrance
* Small, square vaulted exterior vestibule
* Granite entrance steps
* Revolving oak door surmounted by divided transom
* Wrought iron gates at the entrance to the vestibule
* Ornate wrought-iron sconce light fixture on either side of central opening at Ross Street.
* Stonework around above central Ross Street entrance including above the door decoration with the numerals “19” and “07” in heraldic shields
* Sandstone trim at all floors including arched and flat sandstone lintels at windows, stone sills that demarcate transition between floors and stone cornice at 8th and 12th floors
* Three broad arched window openings with stone mullions on either side of central entrance at Ross Street
* Brick parapet capped in stone at the 12th floor with rounded parapets and ornamentation at the 1st and 7th end bays

**Interior:**

Character defining features of the lobby and corridor at first floor (shown in photographs 10 to 13 of the National Register nomination)

* T-shaped and extends the full depth of the building in its central bay
* Angled walls on either side of the vestibule contain doorways to offices (on the north) and a pair of rest rooms (on the south)
* Four elevators are located in facing pairs at the lobby’s east end
* Exterior vestibule penetrates the front (west) end of the lobby
* Entrance via a wood-framed revolving door
* Marble flooring and wainscoting
* Plaster walls
* Paneled doors
* Molded wood trim around doorways
* Crown molding
* Coved ceiling

Character defining features of the boardroom (Wherrett Room), corridor and adjacent executive offices of the 13th floor (shown in photos 30 to 34 of the National Register nomination):

* Large open meeting space of conference room
* Adjacent executive office space
* Wood paneling at walls
* Molded wood trim around doorways
* Paneled wood doors and wood windows
* Crown molding
* Decorative plaster work at ceiling
* Light fixtures