

Public Record is a multimedia documentary poetry project that offers a unique glimpse into the lives of our city's forebears.

It began as poetry composed using text sampled from 19th-century Pittsburgh crime reports—stories discovered by trolling miles of microfilm for the perfect combination of theme, characters, and location. These poems were then performed and illuminated in the studio by a cast of Pittsburgh artists. And now you can experience these poems in the locations where the acts portrayed actually occurred.

All you need is this map plus either an iPhone, a mobile phone with standard text-messaging capabilities (SMS), or any MP3 player.

iPhone

Visit www.publicrecordpgh.com on your iPhone's browser to access the web-based application. Once in the app, you'll see the Public Record poem locations on your circa-1855 map of Downtown Pittsburgh—when you approach a location, its marker will become active and you can tap that marker to begin the audio performance.*

Text Message (SMS)

Follow this map to each poem location, and then text the corresponding code word to the number **25252**. Public Record will call you back immediately; the audio performance will begin when you answer the call.**

MP3

Download the MP3s available for free at www.publicrecordpgh.com, follow the map to the appropriate locations, and play the audio performance on your MP3 player.

Public Record imagines Pittsburgh haunted by the people, places, and language that came before us. Embark on a poetic audio walking tour of the 19th-century city, from 11th Street, where Hall and Reed bilked George Dimey, to the Point, where Andrew Tierney met his sticky end.

www.publicrecordpgh.com

Public Record

Part I: Downtown

A stolen overcoat, a murdered thief...people in 19th-century Pittsburgh made mistakes.

Sometimes those bad decisions are all we know of them.

Public Record was created by **Justin Hopper** as Old and New Media Artist-in-Residence with Deeplocal and Encyclopedia Destructica.

Deeplocal builds projects that link the digital and physical worlds. www.deeplocal.com



Encyclopedia Destructica is an art zine inspired by the need to explore and export contemporary arts/culture in a way that's accessible and easy to engage with. www.encyclopediadestructica.com



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Concept, poems, and art direction by Justin Hopper.

Audio produced by Herman "Soy Sos" Pearl and Justin Hopper at Tuff Sound Recording.

Readings by Justin Hopper, Christiane Leach, Alexi Morrissey, Herman "Soy Sos" Pearl, and Adrienne Wehr. Original music and soundscapes by Herman "Soy Sos" Pearl. Music on "Dawn in a Big City" by David Bernabo and Nathan Hall. Music on "Done By Instruments" by David Bernabo.

Maps courtesy of Darlington Digital Maps, Darlington Collection, Special Collections Department, University of Pittsburgh. Special thanks to Miriam Meislik.

Mobile phone technology developed by Deeplocal.

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Graphic design by Brett Yasko.

* Best experienced with earbuds or headphones.

** Any standard text-message costs your service provider charges will apply.

Dawn in a Big City, Parts 1-4

Prologue, interstitial, and epilogue poems.
codes: dawn1, dawn2, dawn3, dawn4.



1 A Cloak Room Sacrifice

Smithfield Street & Oliver Avenue
A stolen overcoat trips up John Brown. **code: cloak**

2 A Fearful Death

Grant Street & 4th Avenue
Andrew Kurtzbaner dies a most fearful death
at the St. Nicholas Hotel. **code: fearful**

3 Confidence Operation

Penn Avenue & 11th Street
Dimey is bilked out of his fortune. **code: confidence**

4 Devil a Knife I Had

Point State Park
Andrew Tierney comes to a sticky end at the Point.
code: devil

5 Done By Instruments

Fort Duquesne Boulevard & 8th Street
Mary Kavanaugh perishes in "a double murder."
code: instruments

6 Fakirs of All Kinds

Smithfield Street & 7th Avenue
Museum men Anton Levitzky and M. McNeil held.
code: fakirs

7 Kelly Caged

5th Avenue & 6th Avenue
William Kelly murders William Penn Herriott. **code: kelly**

8 Knights of the Green Cloth

Forbes Avenue between Smithfield & Wood Streets
Gambling house betrayed by Pollard the poker player.
code: knights

9 ...Sabbath Day

Point State Park
Speakeasies busted at Rice's Castle. **code: sabbath**

10 Spirits of Nitre

Penn Avenue between 8th & 9th Streets
Outrage against Mrs. Adelia Hays. **code: nitre**

11 The Anarchist's Bible

7th Avenue & William Penn Place
A German anarchist's "suicide..." **code: anarchist**