

**NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)

Street address: **1722-1740 N. Hancock Street**

Postal code: **19122**

Councilmanic District: **7**

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **The Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory**

Common Name: **The Quaker Jobbing Co.**

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building

Structure

Site

Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: excellent good fair poor ruins

Occupancy: occupied vacant under construction unknown

Current use: **Textile Manufacture/Jobbing**

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a plot plan and written description of the boundary. **SEE ATTACHED SHEET.**

6. DESCRIPTION

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

Please attach a description of the historic resource and supplement with current photographs.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach the Statement of Significance.

[See Attached Sheet]

Period of Significance (from year to year): from

1889 to 1933

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration:

1889-1890 (initial construction).

Architect, engineer, and/or designer:

Rowe and Dagit/H.B. Weldon

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan:

Joseph Quinn

Original owner:

Francis Kelly

Other significant persons:

Mary Kelly

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- X **(a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,**
(b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation;
or
- X **(c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,**
(d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
(e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
(f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
(g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
(h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
(i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- X **(j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.**

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

9. NOMINATOR

Name with Title	Dana Fedeli	Email	dana.fedeli@korheritage.org
Organization	Kensington Olde Richmond Heritage	Date	10 May 2016.
Street Address	P.O. Box 31927	Telephone	NA
City, State, and Postal Code:	Philadelphia, PA 19122	Nominators are not the property owners.	

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 5/12/2016

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 7/19/2016

Date of Notice Issuance: 7/19/2016

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: Leona Tucci

Address: 122 Springfield Ave

City: Bala Cynwyd State: PA Postal Code: 19004

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: _____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____

Date of Final Action: _____

Designated Rejected

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The tax parcel known as 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street (BRT # 884343455) contains seven deeded parcels, as described below. For the purposes of this nomination, deeded parcels 013N23–120 and 013N23–101 (described below as parcels six and seven), are considered non-contributing to the historical significance of the property.

One, SITUATE on the West side of N. Hancock Street at the distance of 254 feet Northward from the North side of Columbia Avenue; thence extending Westward on a line parallel with said Columbia Avenue 108 feet to the side of said Palethorp Street 5 feet and 5/8 inch; thence extending North 44°18'46"East 35 feet 3.5 inches; thence extending Eastward on a line at right angles to the said Hancock Street 88 feet 8.25 inches to the West side of the said Hancock Street; then extending Southward along the West side of the said Hancock Street 35 feet to the place of beginning.

Parcel No. 013N23–0080

Two, SITUATE on the West side of Hancock Street, BEGINNING at the distance of 289 feet Northward from the North side of Columbia Avenue in the Nineteenth Ward of the City of Philadelphia; thence extending Westward on a line at right angles to said Hancock Street 88 feet 8.25 inches to a point; thence extending North 44°18'46"East 35 feet 10&1/8 inches to a point; thence extending Eastward on a line at right angles to said Hancock Street 69 feet and 7/8 of an inch to the West side of said Hancock Street 30 feet to the place of beginning.

Parcel No. 013N23–0122

Three, SITUATE on the West side of Hancock Street at the distance of 319 feet Northward from the North side of Columbia Avenue; thence extending Westward on a line at right angles to said Hancock Street 69 feet and 7/8 inch to a point; thence extending North 44°18'46"East 126 feet 2.5 inches to a point in the West side of said Hancock Street 105 feet 7&5/8 inches to the place of beginning.

Parcel No. 013N23–0141

Four, SITUATE on the West side of Hancock Street at the distance of 235 feet 8 inches Northward from the North side of Columbia Avenue. CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said Hancock Street 18 feet and extending Westward of that width in length or depth between parallel lines at right angles with the said Hancock Street 54 feet.

Parcel No. 013N23–165

Five, SITUATE on the East side of Palethorp Street, commencing at the distance of 236 feet Northward from the North side of Columbia Avenue. CONTAINING in front or breadth on said Palethorp Street 18 feet and extending Eastward between lines parallel at right angles with said Palethorp Street in length or depth 54 feet.

Parcel No. 013N23–0164

Six, SITUATE on the East side of Palethorp Street at the distance of 200 feet North from the North side of Columbia Avenue in the Nineteenth Ward of the City of Philadelphia CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said Palethorp Street 18 feet and extending of that width Eastward between lines parallel therewith in the length or depth of 50 feet.
Parcel No. 013N23-120

Seven, SITUATE on the East side of Palethorp, Commencing at the distance of 218 feet North from the North side of Columbia Avenue. CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said Palethorp Street 18 feet and of that width extending Eastward between lines parallel at right angles to said Palethorp Street in length or depth of 50 feet.
Parcel No. 013N23-101

BEING known as 1722-1740 N. Hancock Street, as to the above premises.

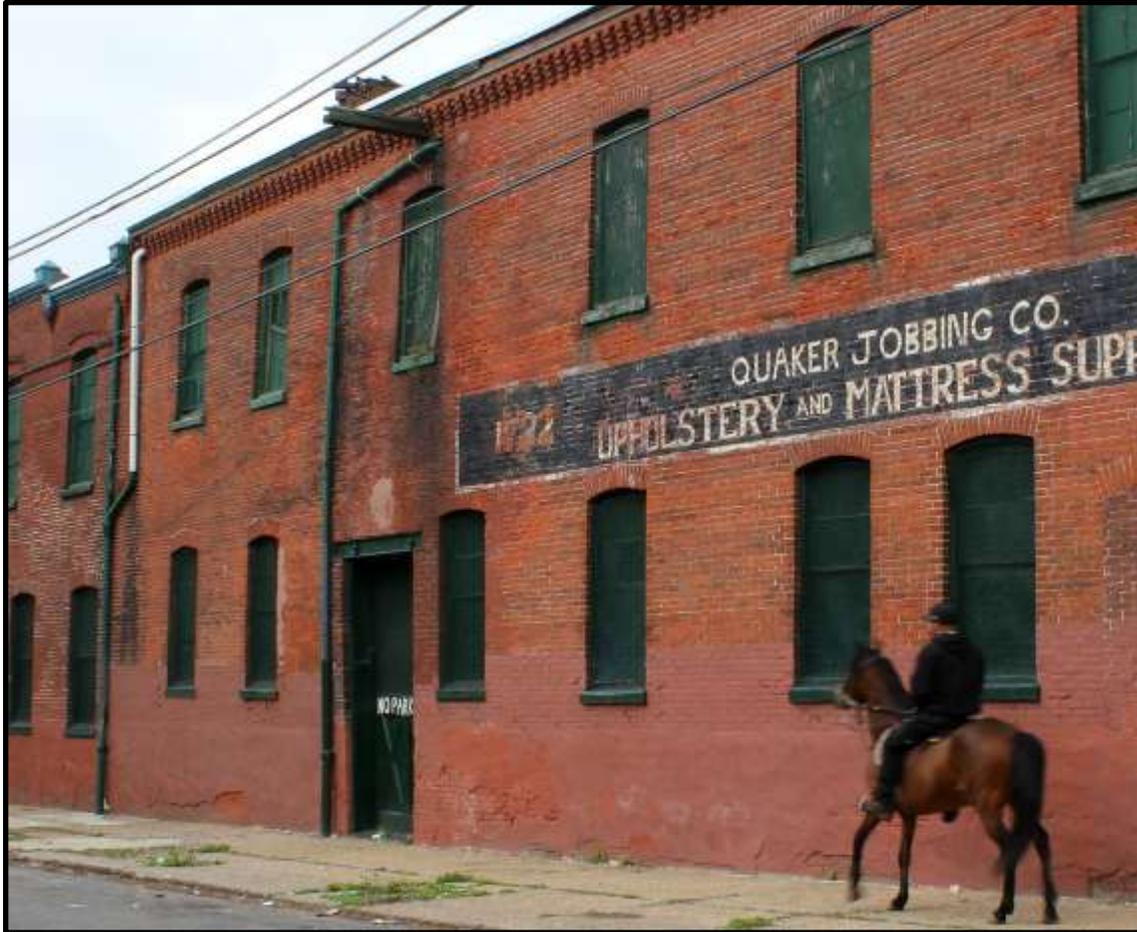
Tax Account No. BRT_ID 884343455



The boundary for the subject property is outlined in red. The colors differentiate building segments and corresponding parcel numbers. The bottom two parcels, 013N23-120 and -101, are considered non-historic for the purposes of this nomination.

Courtesy Philadelphia Parcel Explorer.

*Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory: 1722-1740 Hancock Street, Kensington
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Looking south. Courtesy Andrew Fearon.

6. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The buildings of the former Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory at 1722–1740 Hancock Street are articulated in three distinct sections: the 1722 N. Hancock Street portion of Building No.1; the 1724 N. Hancock Street portion of Building No. 1, Building No. 2, and Building No. 3; and Building No. 4. Each of the three sections above have its own particular independence.

Building No. 1

Building No. 1 is composed of several construction campaigns, which are partly articulated by the building lines of 1720 N. Hancock Street at the south and 1726 N. Hancock Street at the north. At the southerly section of the façade, 1722 N. Hancock Street is represented by a two-bay red brick façade that is architecturally complimentary to the 1724 N. Hancock Street portion of Building No. 1. At the ground floor is a single vehicle entrance with a wooden garage door. Above this doorway is an I-beam. At center between the two floors is a number that is painted in white upon a black pallet—"1," indicating Building No. 1. Rising above in the second floor are two apertures with original six-over-six wooden sash windows. The windows are delineated by arched brick lintels and stone sills. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick appearing that almost appear as pellet moldings. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick

*Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory: 1722-1740 Hancock Street, Kensington
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appearing as pellet moldings. The lintels rest on horizontal bands of spring coursing, which is created by a string of headers at the top and bottom of vertical brick billet molding. The cornice is formed by a corbel pier or bracket at the southerly of the building line, which is the base of a cornice of pressed-tin metal., which terminates at the building line of 1724 N. Hancock.

The roofline of the 1724 N. Hancock Street portion of the façade steps down by about one foot (1'). This is articulated by another corbel pier or bracket, which is also at the opening of another cornice of pressed-tin metal upon which is a box of the same material. This section of the building is four bays wide. An office fenestration of five apertures comprises the ground floor. From left to right, the ground floor consists of a mullion window, a pedestrian door, two single windows and another mullion window. The mullion windows may constitute the infill of vehicle bays. These windows have been replaced. Rising above in the second floor are four apertures with original six-over-six wooden sash windows. The windows are delineated by arched brick lintels and stone sills. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick appearing that almost appear as pellet moldings. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick appearing as pellet moldings. The lintels rest on horizontal bands of spring coursing, which is created by a string of headers at the top and bottom of vertical brick billet molding.

Recessed from the façade is a low, one-story addition, which is clad in sheet metal siding. This was the drying room. A large addition spans the width of the entire building, hugging the edge of the radial lot line, and projecting about twenty-four inches in width in three stories onto Palethorp Street. This single west elevation features a brick façade which is two-bays in width. The façade is dominated by a large, impressive hoist which is above three tiers of loading, double door entrances. These doorways feature original blind and multi-light wooden doors that are paneled and painted green. The apertures are delineated by stone thresholds, I-beams and brick corbeling. On the second and third floors single apertures of a multi-light metal window is just northwest of the double doorways. The south elevation of this addition feature multi-light hopper-awning metal windows.

Building No. 2

Building No. 2 is composed of a single construction campaign with additions and alterations, which are partly articulated by an obvious building line, which delineates the buildings to the north and south. The primary elevation is a three-bay red brick façade that is architecturally complimentary to the adjacent buildings at the north and south. At the ground floor is a single pedestrian door and a window. The door is accessed by concrete steps that appear to be recently constructed and/or refaced. This fenestration contains another six-over-six wooden sash window.

The second floor features three apertures at the center of which is a doorway that was used for second floor storage. The doorway starts at the floor line, being lower than the windows that flank it on each side. The extant windows are six-over-six wooden sash. The windows are delineated by arched brick lintels and stone sills. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick appearing as pellet moldings. The lintels rest on horizontal bands of spring coursing, which is created by a string of headers at the

top and bottom of vertical brick billet molding. The cornice is formed by four corbel piers or brackets that create a parapet at center.

Building No. 3

Building No. 3 is composed of a several construction campaigns with additions and alterations. There is an obvious building line to the north and south. The primary elevation is a three-bay red brick façade that is architecturally complimentary to the adjacent building to the south. At the ground floor are three apertures—a loading dock doorway with an I-beam header and a stone or concrete threshold; and two windows that are similar to those previously described.

The second floor features three six-over-six wooden sash windows. These apertures are delineated by arched brick lintels and stone sills. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick header, which emulates pellet moldings. The brick lintels are further delineated by a string of arched brick corbeling, employing a darker brick appearing as pellet moldings. The lintels rest on horizontal bands of spring coursing, which is created by a string of headers at the top and bottom of vertical brick billet molding. The cornice is formed by four corbel piers or brackets that create a parapet at center.

Building No. 4

Building No. 4 is a triangular shaped, load bearing masonry manufactory structure that occupies the site once associated with 1740 N. Hancock Street. The primary elevation of Building No. 4 features a six-bay, red brick façade that shields a building that has evolved over time. The fenestration is symmetrical in origin, but has changed over time, as function is often over form in industrial buildings. At the ground floor are seven apertures, which include, left to right, two windows, a cartway entrance or loading egress, and four additional windows. The door is an original or early wood panel version set beneath an I-beam with rosette ties. The second floor features six windows, which are symmetrically placed with some of the windows below. The windows that remain are six-over-one wooden sash that are in poor condition. The windows are delineated by arched brick lintels and stone sills. Projecting from the second floor near the center of the facade and above the third window from the south is a wooden beam used as a hoist.

Perhaps the most prominent feature of the building is its cornice, which is formed by a projecting stringcourse supported by corbels to form a corbel table. The cornice emulates a miniature battlement. At the northern most section of the façade is painted signage that delineates the first and second floors, which reads:

QUAKER JOBBING CO.
1722 UPHOLSTERY ^{AND} MATTRESS SUPPLIES 1740

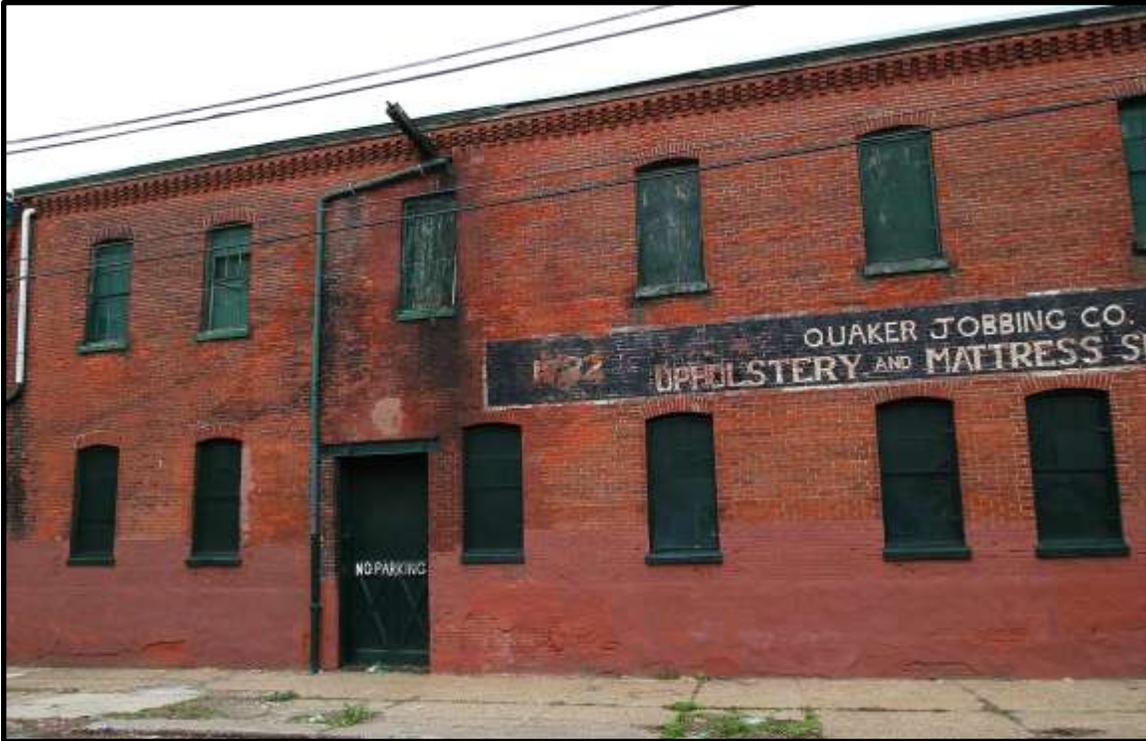
The white lettering is painted on a black pallet with a white border. This is the only elevation of the building visible from the public right-of-way.



Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking west. Courtesy Andrew Fearon.



Looking west. Courtesy Andrew Fearon.



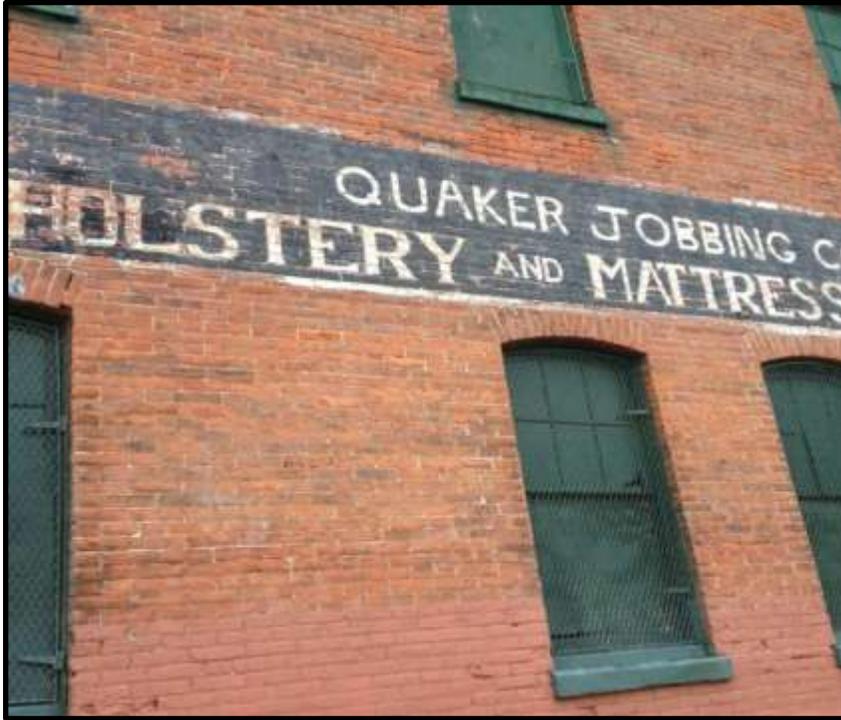
Looking northwest. Courtesy Andrew Fearon.



Looking northwest. Courtesy Andrew Fearon.



Looking south. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking west. Courtesy Foursquare.



Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



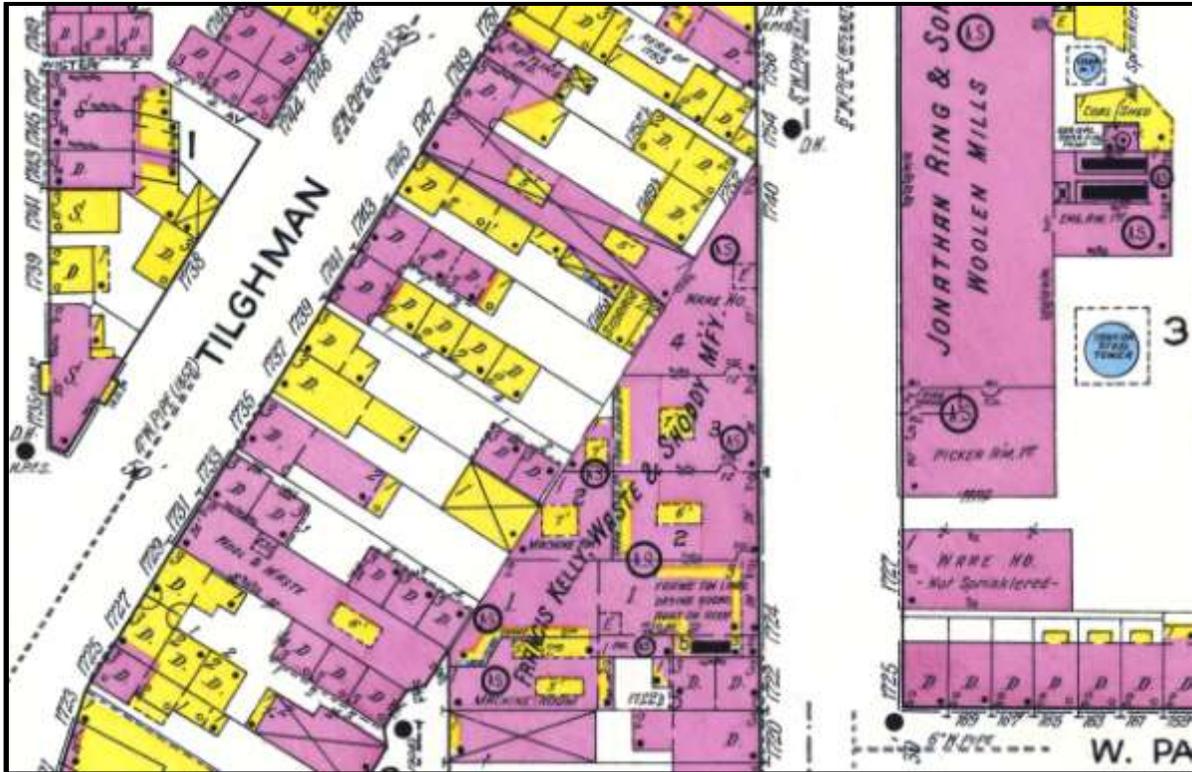
Looking south. Courtesy.

*Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory: 1722-1740 Hancock Street, Kensington
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Looking northeast. Courtesy Dana Fedeli

*Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory: 1722-1740 Hancock Street, Kensington
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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Volume 8, 1917. Courtesy Pennsylvania State University.

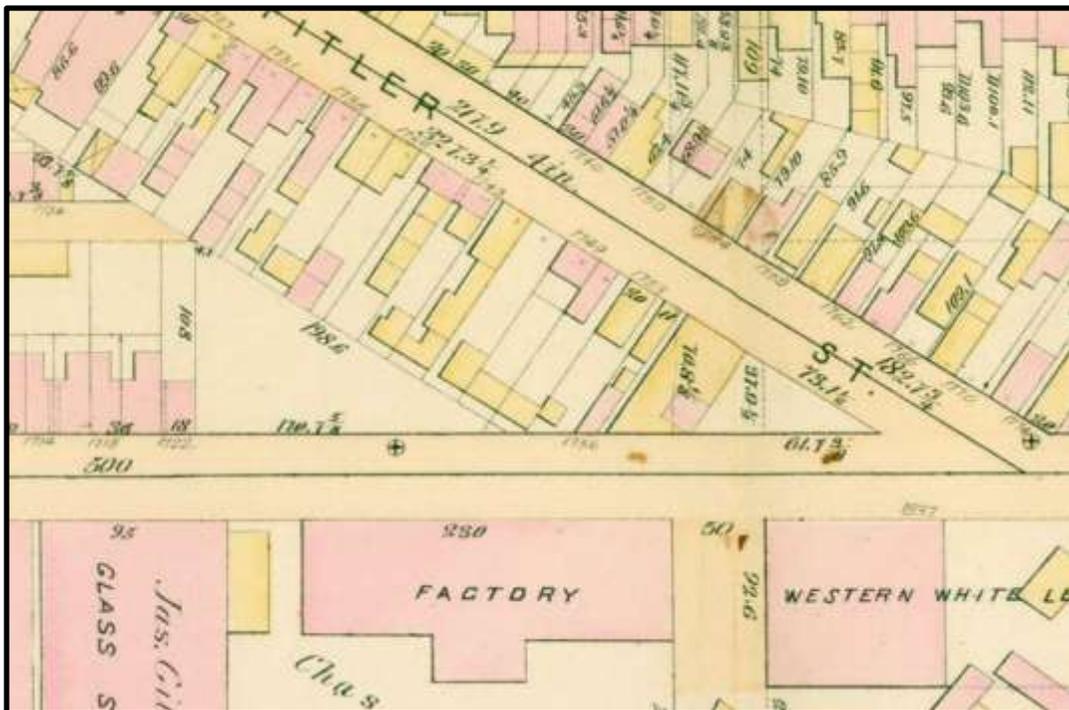
7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The buildings of the former Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory at 1722–1740 Hancock Street comprise a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Located on the west side of Hancock Street in Kensington, the former Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory satisfies the following Criteria for Designation:

- (a) *Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation*
- (c) *Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style;*
- (j) *Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.*



1875 Hopkins Philadelphia Atlas. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



1887 Bromley Philadelphia Atlas. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

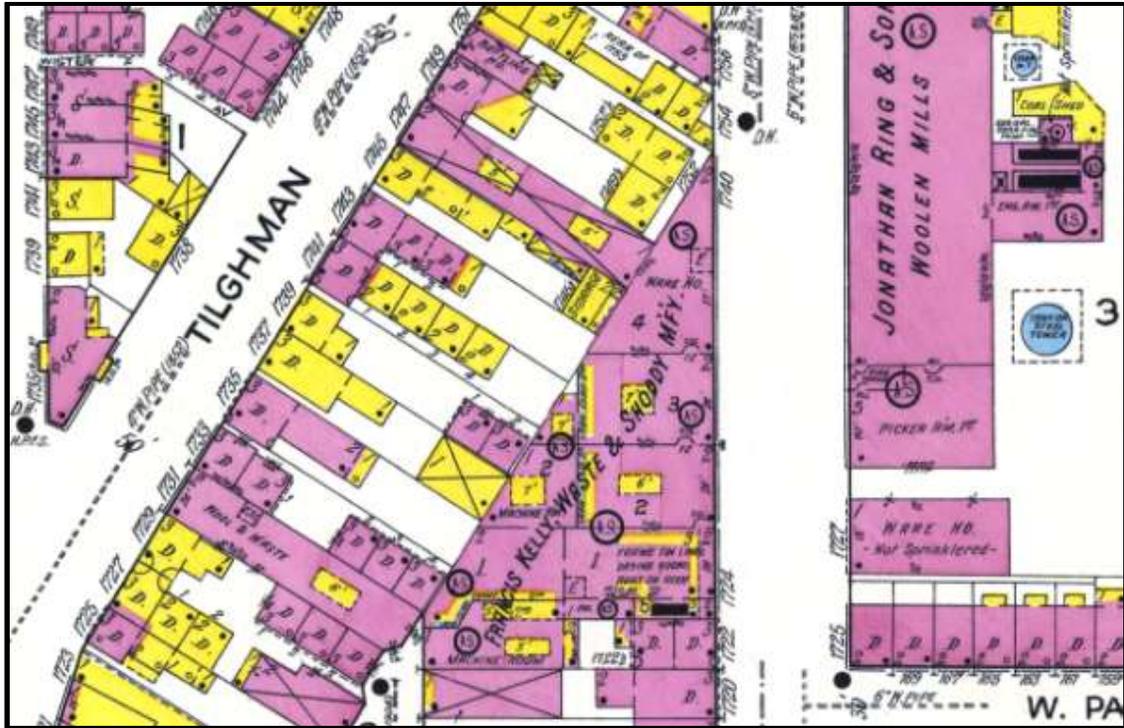
*Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory: 1722-1740 Hancock Street, Kensington
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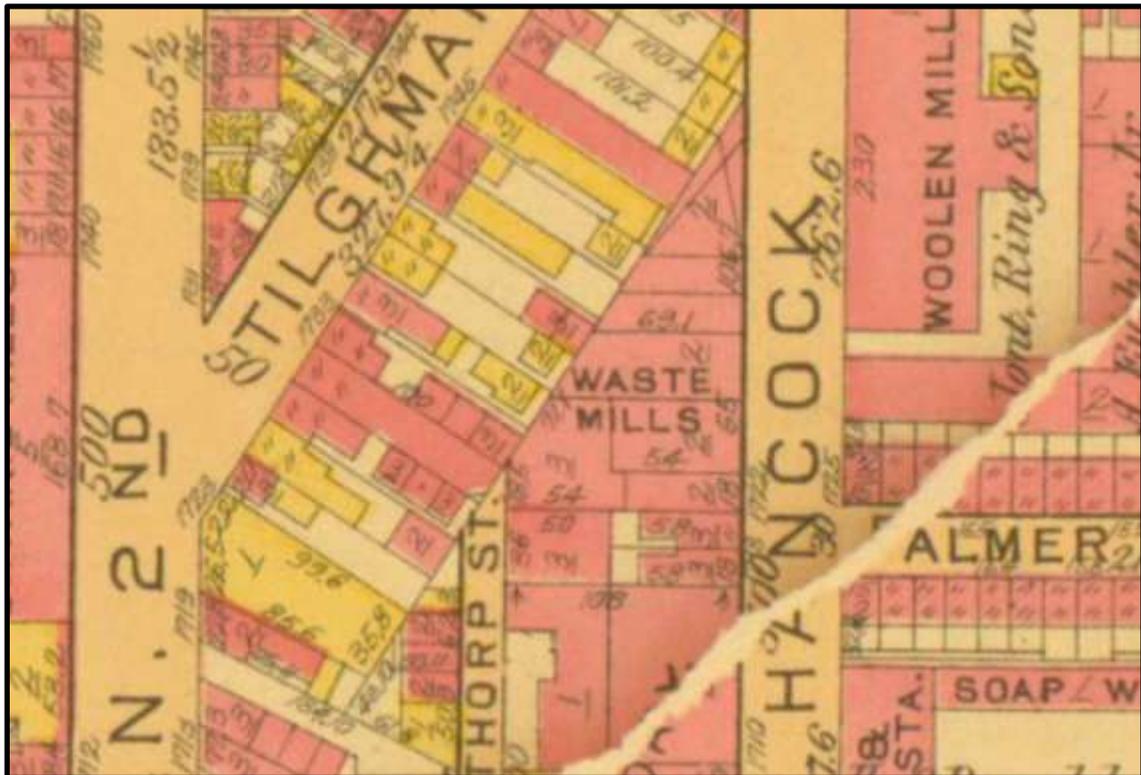
1895 Bromley Philadelphia Atlas. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



1910 Bromley Philadelphia Atlas. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

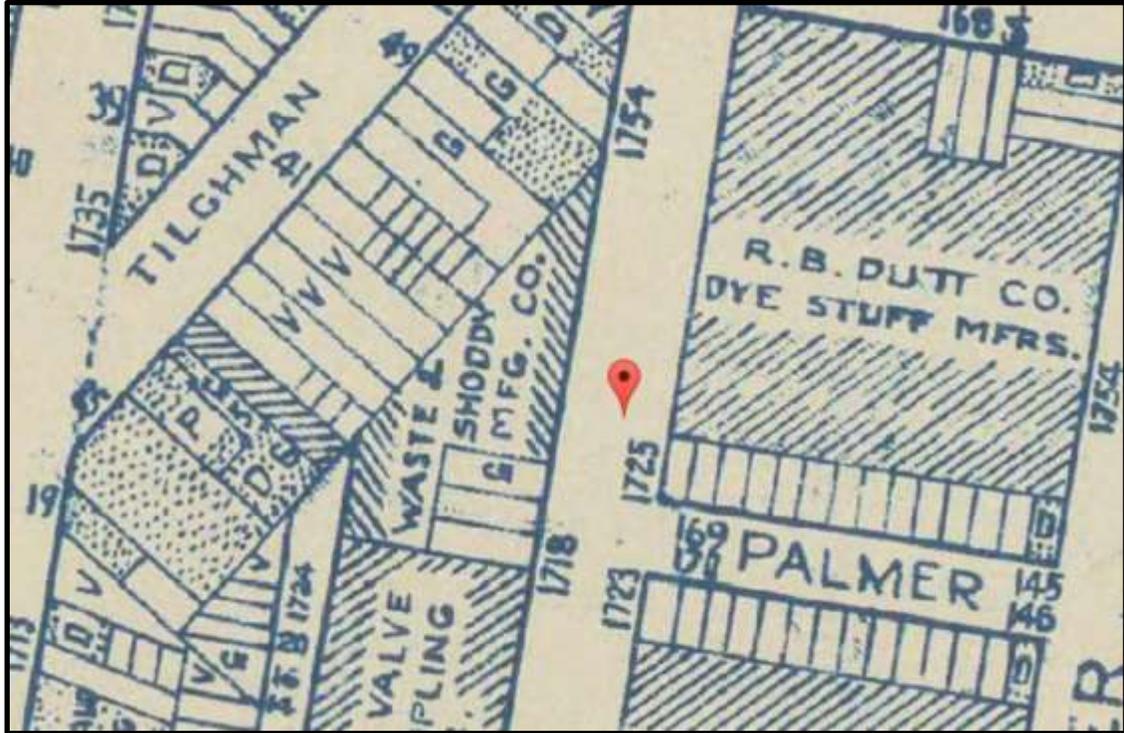


Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Vol. 8, 1917. Courtesy Pennsylvania State University.



1922 Bromley Philadelphia Atlas. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

*Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory: 1722-1740 Hancock Street, Kensington
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1942 Philadelphia Land Use Map. Courtesy Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Historic Context:

Construction History of the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street



Building Nos. 1–4 of the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory. Courtesy Bing Maps.

Building No. 1

Building No. 1 is situated upon what was previously known as two lots, 1722 N. Hancock Street and 1724 N. Hancock Street. 1724 N. Hancock Street is the site of the original portion of Building No. 1. The lots that comprise 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street were vacant in 1887.¹ Francis Kelly purchased 1724 N. Hancock Street (the northernmost 30 feet of this building) in December 1889 from William J. McMullen for \$2,525.² The following year Kelly built what was described as a large warehouse on the site designed by the architectural firm of Rowe and Dagit.³ Kelly acquired the N. Palethorp Street frontage of this site (18 feet) in 1893.⁴ By 1910, a large one-story addition was added at the rear, southwest corner of Building No. 1, extending onto Palethorp Street.⁵ In 1912, Kelly acquired 1722 N. Hancock Street (the southern 18 feet of

¹ George W. Bromley and Walter S. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, vol. 4, *18th, 19th, and 31st Wards* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1887), plate M.

² Deed: William J. McMullin and wife to Francis Kelly, 28 December 1889, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 577, p. 516, City Archives of Philadelphia (hereafter CAP).

³ *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, vol. 5, p. 99 (26 Feb 1890).

⁴ Deed: Patrick McKarney and Ann, his wife, to Francis Kelly, for \$500, 24 January 1893, Philadelphia Deed Book T.G., No. 272, p. 310, CAP.

⁵ George W. Bromley and Walter S. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Complete in One Volume from Actual Surveys and Official Plans* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1910), plate 15.

this property).⁶ Between 1912 and 1917, an addition to Building No. 1 had been constructed to the south, filling in the unimproved portion of the lot just north of 1722 N. Hancock Street.⁷ In 1918, Building No. 1 was being used as a sorting room; however, that year, Permit No. 2298 was for the extension and renovation of the building for storage and shredding.⁸

Prior to being owned by the Kellys, 1722 N. Hancock Street was the site of two small dwellings. By 1918, the site was being used as a “waste shop” and was the subject of Permit No. 801 for the reconfiguration of the building.

In September 1919, plans for the erection of a three story, brick addition, measuring twenty-four feet by fifty-six feet were announced in *Textile World News*. H. B. Weldon, with offices in the Fuller Building, was the architect.⁹ This appears to be for the construction of the three-story portion of the building that fronts onto Palethorp Street.

By 1922, Building No. 1 appears to have been entirely completed as to its current appearance. Building No. 1 was constructed between 1895 and 1910 with additions between 1910 and 1922.



Building No. 1 of the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory. The portion highlighted in blue represents the original portion of Building No. 1, which was completed between 1895 and 1910. The portion highlighted in red was the last portion of the property acquired—1722 N. Hancock, which contained two twins. This portion of Building No. 1 was completed by 1918. The portion of Building No. 1 highlighted in green is the drying room, which was built between 1894 and 1917. The portion of Building No. 1 highlighted in yellow is the three-story 1918 Addition. Courtesy Bing Maps.

⁶ Deed: John F. Quinn to Francis Kelly, 10 June 1912, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 96, p. 69; Deed: Irene Edne Werner, and others, to Francis Kelly, 29 November 1912, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 199, p. 12, CAP.

⁷ Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*, vol.8 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1917), plate 738 (original or uncorrected edition).

⁸ In June 1918, John Humphries, a bricklayer, was contacted to complete a sorting room. A second story was to be added, measuring twenty foot twenty feet by six foot with a thirteen-inch thick brick wall. However, the precise location of this addition is not known. Permit No. 2298 of 1918, Philadelphia Building Permits, CAP.

⁹ *Textile World News*, 6 Sept 1919, 1339.

Building No. 2

Building No. 2 is situated upon what was previously known as 1726 N. Hancock Street. The lots that comprise 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street were vacant in 1887.¹⁰ When Francis Kelly acquired this property in April 1899 it was still a vacant lot.¹¹ In May 1899 he was issued a permit to build a one-story brick storage warehouse, thirty by seventy-feet.¹² In 1911, Building Permit No. 6253 was issued to construct a “stone and brick party wall” in the rear of 1726 N. Hancock Street. The contractor Joseph Quinn was commissioned to complete this work for \$500.¹³

Building No. 3

Building No. 3 is situated upon what was previously known as 1728 N. Hancock Street. The lots that comprise 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street were vacant in 1887.¹⁴ The property was part of a larger lot (which included the site of Buildings No. 1 to 4) acquired by William J. McMullin in 1886.¹⁵ Building No. 3 was not present in 1895.¹⁶ However, by 1910, the lot contained a single, narrow brick structure at its northeast corner with a wooden addition behind it at the northwest corner. To the south was a wooden structure that spanned same depth of the brick and wooden structures combined.¹⁷ In October 1910, the one-story brick building was enlarged with a second-story, measuring thirty feet front by fifty feet in depth. At a cost of roughly \$1,000, the addition was completed by Joseph Quinn, a contractor, and was to be used for “Cotton & Wool Waste.”¹⁸ Building No. 3 was constructed in part between 1895 and 1910 and was largely completed in the fall of 1910.

Alterations and minor additions appear to have occurred over time. An addition or two at the rear, filled in the triangular lot, between the rectangular building were completed in the fall of 1910 and lot line. The current façade may have been constructed as a result of Permit No. 4913 in June 1913, which described plans to “put up a new brick front,” among other improvements.¹⁹ This was likely an attempt to unify the facades aesthetically after Francis Kelly acquired the building along with Building No. 3 in 1912.²⁰

¹⁰ Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, vol. 4 (1887), plate M.

¹¹ Deed: William J. McMullin, of the City of Philadelphia, grain dealer, and Frances, his wife, to Francis Kelly, of the City of Philadelphia, dealer in cotton and woolen waste, for \$2,300, 18 April 1899, Philadelphia Deed Book J.V., No. 14, p. 370.

¹² “Real Estate News,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 4 May 1899, 9. The permit describes the building as 1728 and 1730 Hancock Street.

¹³ Permit No. 6253 of 1911, Philadelphia Building Permits, CAP.

¹⁴ Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, vol. 4 (1887), plate M.

¹⁵ Deed: John Martin, of the City of Philadelphia, Assistant Commissioner of Highways, to William J. McMullin, of the City of Philadelphia, grain dealer, for \$4,800, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 201, p. 389, CAP.

¹⁶ George W. Bromley and Walter S. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Complete in One Volume from Actual Surveys and Official Plans* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1895), plate 15.

¹⁷ Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia* (1910), plate 15.

¹⁸ Permit No. 6872 of 1910, Philadelphia Building Permits, CAP.

¹⁹ Permit No. 4913 of 1913, Philadelphia Building Permits, CAP.

²⁰ Deed: William J. McMullin, of the City of Philadelphia, grain dealer, to Francis Kelly, of the City of Philadelphia, for \$3,750, 4 November 1912, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 172, p. 207, CAP.

Building No. 4

Building No. 4 is situated upon what was previously known as 1740 N. Hancock Street. The lots that comprise 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street were vacant in 1887.²¹ Building No. 4 was constructed between 1887 and 1895 during William J. McMullin’s ownership.²² Alterations and minor additions appear to have occurred over time. Francis Kelly acquired this building along with Building No. 3 in 1912.²³

Criteria A and J

The buildings that comprise the former Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory at 1722–1740 Hancock Street have significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the textile industry in the City of Philadelphia. The waste and shoddy manufacturing process is one that exemplifies the types of small businesses that existed in Kensington and served the larger textile industry, exemplifying the economic, social and historical heritage of the community of Kensington, as a textile center.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Philadelphia was a leader in the textile industry. Many related enterprises were established here by manufacturers, and Kensington was a major textile center. These factories spanned the gamut of specialized fields within the textile industry and were established alongside other manufacturing entities of the era. This is an important point made by Logan Ferguson in the *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* (2012).

Beginning in the early 19th century, the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia was dominated by the textile and textile-related industries. Kensington, known as a “giant mill town set in the midst of a metropolis,” contained anywhere from 39% to 56% of all textile factories in all of Philadelphia. For over one hundred years, it was known as ‘one of the greatest industrial centers in the world, and through its influence Philadelphia [became] the leading manufacturing city in the United States....’ Not solely limited to textile products such as carpets, clothing, hosiery and curtains, Kensington was an interdependent community which also contained waste mills, dye works, foundries, machine shops, bolt shops, and box factories to facilitate a comprehensive manufacturing process.²⁴

The Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory is an unusually intact standing structure illustrating this time period in Philadelphia’s industrial history.

Historic Context

²¹ Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia* (1887), plate M.

²² Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: 1895), plate 15.

²³ Deed: William J. McMullin, of the City of Philadelphia, grain dealer, to Francis Kelly, of the City of Philadelphia, for \$3,750, 4 November 1912, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 172, p. 207, CAP.

²⁴ Logan Ferguson, *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia*, NPS document, 2012.

Prior to 1899, the land was originally owned by prominent Philadelphia lawyer, J. Ledyard Hodge, an employee of the Paymaster General's Office of the Union Army during the Civil War who was later imprisoned for embezzlement.²⁵ Hodge eventually sold his land to prominent feed and grain entrepreneur, William J. McMullin, who turned it over in parcels to entrepreneur, Francis Kelly.

Hodge eventually sold his land to well known feed and grain entrepreneur, William J. McMullin who then sold the land in parcels over the years to entrepreneur, Francis Kelly. The 1724 N. Hancock Street and the 1740 N. Hancock portions of the waste mill complex were erected sometime between 1888 and 1889. Gopsill's Directory for the City of Philadelphia in 1889 shows William J. McMullin, the feed dealer, who eventually sells the Hancock Street properties to Francis Kelly, as being listed at 1740 Hancock in 1889 and then listed at 1724 Hancock in 1890. The very next year in 1891, Francis Kelly, the waste dealer, first shows up listed at 1724 Hancock, thus 1724 N. Hancock, which does not appear in the Bromley Atlas of 1887, but shows up in the city directories in 1890, was likely built about 1888–1889, with 1740 N. Hancock building, which also does not show up in the Bromley Atlas of 1887, but shows up in the Philadelphia city directories by 1889, likely being built about 1888. Prior to 1889, McMullin had previously been listed in the Philadelphia City Directory for 1888 as working out of 2005 N. 2d Street.²⁶

Kelly's parents, James Kelly and Susan McNamara were Irish born, but Kelly himself was born at Blackford, Perth, in Scotland, on 19 Feb 1861, his parents apparently immigrating to Scotland sometime before Kelly's birth. The family shows up on the 1861 Scotland Census at Blackford.²⁷

While many textile companies incorporated waste and shoddy manufacturing as a small component of their business, this research yielded few companies who relied solely on this practice as their main source of income. Throughout the Francis Kelly company history, they employed a steady staff of 15–20 people. Francis Kelly operated for a number of years – from 1887 through 1929, both as a sole proprietorship concern, then after Kelly's death, the family ran the company as a corporation starting in 1918.

Most literature credits the development of shoddy to a manufacturer from Yorkshire, England named Benjamin Law in 1813. Although the reuse of rags was a known practice in the furniture

²⁵ Deed of Correction: Leona Tucci to Leona Tucci, 8 September 2015, Philadelphia Document No. 52964970; "J. Ledyard Hodge," *COLA 1500: Discovering Mr. Jefferson's Academical Village: The Early History of the University*, accessed 8 May 2016, https://pages.shanti.virginia.edu/Early_Life_at_UVA/j-ledyard-hodge-2/

²⁶ *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1889* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill's Sons, 1889), 183; *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1890* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill's Sons, 1890), 1222; *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1891* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill's Sons, 1891), 983; *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1888* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill's Sons, 1888), 1154. The Francis Kelly Company was founded in 1887 by Francis Kelly, an immigrant from Scotland who came to America in 1880. Year: 1910; Census Place: Philadelphia Ward 17, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: T624 1392; Enumeration District: 0266; FHL microfilm: 1375405, Household of Francis Kelly, Sheet 2A, lines 15–18, dated 15 April 1910, as viewed on Ancestry.com May 8th 2016.

²⁷ Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564–1950 database on-line. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. FHL Film Number: 6035516. As seen on Ancestry.com, 16 April 2016; 1861 Scotland Census: Registration District: Blackford. Civil Parish: Blackford. County: Perthshire. Address: Houston's House. ED: 6. Household Schedule Number 33. Line 21. Roll: CSSCT1861 47, as viewed on Ancestry.com, 8 May 20016.

industry (stuffing, bedding, etc.), Benjamin Law is credited as inventing the use of shoddy as a suitable fabric to the clothing industry; shoddy increased in popularity worldwide and soon after, many mills began specializing in shoddy and waste manufacturing.²⁸ The basic process starts with a classification of rags based on their fiber source and weight which are then grouped accordingly and fed through a machine to compress the shreds even further which then becomes a new material that is then conditioned and mixed with virgin wool, cotton or jute and then processed through another machine to create an entirely new product – whether it was matting and stuffing for mattresses or spools of yarn for carpets, clothing, blankets, etc.²⁹ Shoddy was a labor-intensive process yet it was far more efficient than traditional cotton and wool production as it churned out yarn at a faster rate than a spinner could perform themselves.³⁰ Shoddy was also desirable as it employed reuse which diminished waste and could keep up with the demands of supplying raw materials to an ever growing population. It was also a more affordable product, which appealed to working classes. Charles Dickens, Jr. was so impressed by the industry he wrote an article about it in the April 8, 1871 edition of the publication his father founded, *All Year Round*, titled “The City of Honest Imposture.”

Textile warehouses were typically built in phases over several years as their needs evolved and profits increased.³¹ 1722–1740 N. Hancock is no exception. Established in 1887, Francis Kelly’s business first occupied 1408 American Street.³² By 1891 Francis Kelly moves his business to 1724 N. Hancock Street and through the next several years, purchases three properties on the 1700 block of North Hancock Street & one on Tilghman Street, which came to form the waste mill complex known later known as Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc. Kelly purchased the Hancock Street properties (1724–1740 N. Hancock) from William J. & Annie McMullin between 1899 and 1912.³³ He purchased the 1747 Tilghman Street property from Thomas S. Welsh in 1904.³⁴

According to fire insurance records, by 1906, Francis Kelly has expanded his business to include 1724–1726 N. Hancock Street.³⁵ The company, called simply Francis Kelly, was stated to be located at 1724 Hancock Street. The company had 5 picker machines, 1 willow machine, 1 burr picker machine, 2 drying machines, and 2 shredder machines. They were all powered by steam. The company sold direct and Francis Kelly acted as the buyer.³⁶

²⁸ *Great Industries of Great Britain* (London: Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., 1887), 314–18.

²⁹ Charles Dickens, Jr., “The City of Honest Imposture,” *All Year Round*, 8 Apr 1871, 441.

³⁰ Maggie Land Blanck, “Benjamin Law and the Development of Shoddy” in *Shoddy: New Fabric From Recycled Wool*, accessed May 8, 2016, <http://www.maggielblank.com/Land/Shoddy.html>.

³¹ Ferguson, *National Register*.

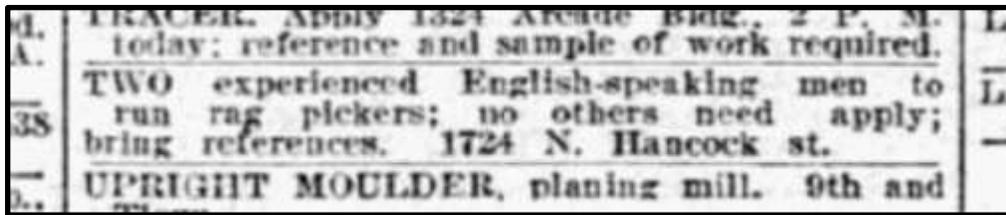
³² *Gopsill’s Philadelphia City Directory for 1887* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill’s Sons, Publishers, 1887), 904.

³³ For the details of the location and acquisition dates of each of these properties see section above: “Construction History of the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory 1722–1740 N. Hancock Street.”

³⁴ *Gopsill’s Philadelphia City Directory for 1891* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill’s Sons, 1891), 983.

³⁵ *Thirty-seventh Annual Report of the Fire Insurance Patrol of the City of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Review Publishing and Printing Co., 1907), 86.

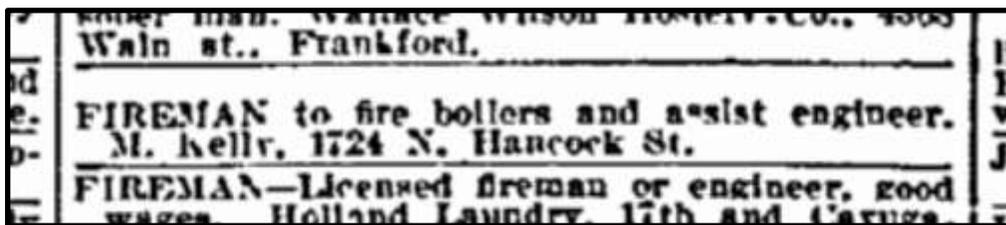
³⁶ *Official American Textile Directory, 1906* (Boston: 1906), 276.



Advertisement for workers in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 10 Apr 1909. Courtesy Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Several years later, in 1913, the Official American Textile Directory again listed Francis Kelly, with the same equipment and still specializing in shoddy and waste. It is unclear how well the business was thriving, but it does not appear to have expanded according to the trade directories.³⁷

On October 24, 1916, Francis Kelly dies after spending several days at the Ferncraft Sanatorium trying to recover from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. He was 56 years old.³⁸ His death was announced in the trade journal *Textile World*. The notice stated he was “for many years operating a plant at 1724 N. Hancock Street, Philadelphia, for the manufacture of shoddies and waste.”³⁹ After Francis Kelly’s death and upon incorporation of the company, Kelly’s wife Mary Kelly is named president while his 24 year old daughter, Marie C. Kelly is acknowledged as treasurer and his 22 year old son, Francis L. Kelly, becomes the buyer.⁴⁰



Advertisement for workers in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 4, 1917. Courtesy Proquest Historical Newspapers.

It’s critical to note from this point on the company is run by the women in the family. According to Prof. Philip Scranton, a historian of textile manufacturing in Philadelphia at Rutgers University, such a succession is unusual but not rare, particularly if a son or nephew was drafted into war.⁴¹ However, Francis L. Kelly, Jr. while registered, never served in World War I and was active in the business alongside his mother (Mary Kelly) and sister (Marie C. Kelly) for the remainder of its existence.⁴²

As early as 29 Dec 1917, the *Textile World News* was reporting that Mary Kelly, Marie C. Kelly, Francis L. Kelly, and Joseph F. Hughes, were making an application for a charter of

³⁷ *Official American Textile Directory, 1913* (Boston: 1913), 282.

³⁸ Francis Kelly Death Certificate, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Health, No 108424 for 1916.

³⁹ *Textile World Journal*, 28 Oct 1916, 18 (4622).

⁴⁰ *Philadelphia City Register for 1922* (Philadelphia: C.E. Howe Addressing and Printing Company, 1922), 685.

⁴¹ Philip Scranton, e-mail message to author, April 2016.

⁴² 1930 United States Federal Census, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll: 2133; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 1038; Image: 895.0; FHL microfilm: 2341867, as viewed on Ancestry.com 8 May 2016. Census record shows that Francis L. Kelly was not a veteran of WWI.

incorporation for the purpose of manufacturing and sale of cotton, wool, waste and shoddy.⁴³ The new corporation was reported to have received their charter in the *Textile World Journal* of 19 Jan 1918. The journal reported that “Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc., which was incorporated about a month ago, succeeds M. Kelly, cotton and jute shoddies and cotton and wool waste. There have been no changes in the product or equipment, with the exception of the addition of 1 new shredder.”⁴⁴

Their business begins to expand from this point forward. The family members maintain their positions with the exception of Francis L. Kelly who is then listed as Secretary and Joseph Hughes listed as Buyer. An announcement in a leading textile trade magazine, *Textile World Journal*, reports the company will maintain its property, equipment, and services in “manufacturing, buying, selling and dealing in cotton, wool, waste, cotton waste, woolen waste and shoddy;” they list a yearly capital gross of \$100,000.⁴⁵ On Joseph F. Hughes’ WWI registration card, he is listed as the manager of Francis Kelly and his employer is listed as Mary Kelly. He serves in WWI from Aug 1918 to Nov 1918 and returns as a war veteran.⁴⁶

Growth for the Kelly-Hughes Company continues, which is illustrated in their use of more sophisticated technology. Prior to 1918, the company utilizes steam power for their machinery. After 1918, the company begins to utilize a combination of steam and electric power for their operations.⁴⁷ The 1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map illustrates the expanded footprint of the multi-story building with its implementation of iron clad doors and frames, elevators, horizontal boiler, several hydrants and sprinklers. It shows “Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy” and lays out the mill complex as four different buildings (explained above).⁴⁸

After incorporating their waste company, the Kelly family sold the “factory and warehouse” complex to the newly formed corporation in 1918. The sale was reported on 14 Sept 1918 in the *Textile World Journal*.⁴⁹

On 27 August 1918, The Industrial Trust, Title & Savings Co. acting as the executors of the will of Francis Kelly, as well as the heirs of Francis Kelly (his wife Mary and children Marie Catherine, Blanche A., and Francis Lawrence) sold the waste company to the newly formed corporation Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc., for \$27,700. The complex consisted of four different properties (1724, 1726, 1728, and 1740 N. Hancock). Industrial Trust, Title & Savings Company

⁴³ *Textile World News*, 29 Dec 1917, 2721.

⁴⁴ *Textile World Journal*, 19 Jan 1918, 45.

⁴⁵ *Alphabetical List of Charters of Corporations Enrolled in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, June 1, 1917 to May 31, 1919* (Harrisburg, PA: Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1919).

⁴⁶ World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918 for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Roll 1907614, Draft Board 12, as viewed on Ancestry.com May 8th, 2016.

⁴⁷ *Dockham’s American Report and Directory of the Textile Manufacture and Dry Goods Trade* (Boston: Dockham Publishing Co., 1919), 299.

⁴⁸ Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*, vol.8 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1917), plate 738 (original or uncorrected edition).

⁴⁹ *Textile World Journal*, 14 Sept 1918, 49.

was a local Kensington bank founded by textile mill owners so they would have easy access to cash when markets necessitated buying quickly.⁵⁰

The *Dockham's American Report of 1918* stated that Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc., was capitalized at \$100,000. Mary Kelly was president, Francis L. Kelly, secretary, Joseph F. Hughes was buyer & superintendent. At this point the company was stated to have had 5 pickers and 10 rag shredders and employed 50 people. They used electric energy, did not dye, and sold direct.⁵¹ This same year a list of charters showed Kelly-Hughes Co. Inc., as having Marie C. Kelly as treasurer and that the company was in the business of manufacturing, buying, selling and dealing in cotton, wool, waste, cotton wasted, woolen waste, and shoddy.

By 22 March 1918, the Kelly-Hughes Co. appears to have now acquired 1722 N. Hancock, which was not mentioned previously as being part of the complex. It had been two trinity dwellings with the rear of the lot having the waste mill being wrapped around it. Now, in March of 1918, Kelly-Hughes had contractor James Kelly applying for a permit to alter the two story brick buildings 18' x 50' into a waste shop.⁵²

After the end of World War I, Kelly-Hughes & Co. is found purchasing from the U.S. Government's War Department's surplus "Salvage Division," brown denim clips, or textile clippings. This took place on 25 April 1919 and they purchased over \$200 dollars of the material.⁵³

Announcing in the *Textile World News* on 6 Sept 1919, Kelly-Hughes Co. was said to be having plans prepared for the erection of a three story, brick addition, 24 x 56 feet. H. B. Weldon, Fuller Building, is to be the architect. This was the previous mention permit that was taken out for Building No. 4.⁵⁴

The expansion of the footprint of the property is supported by a 1919 Kelly-Hughes, Co., Inc. advertisement in Davison's Mattress, Quilting and Upholstered Furniture trade journal with their address listed as 1724-40 Hancock Street, claiming they handle "Cotton and Jute Shoddies for the Mattress and Upholstery Trade."⁵⁵

⁵⁰ Deed: The Industrial Trust, Title and Savings Company, executor of the will of Francis Kelly, Mary Kelly, widow, Marie Catherine Kelly, Blanche A. Kelly, Francis Lawrence Kelly and Alice G., his wife, to Kelly Hughes Company, Inc., 27 August 1918, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 401, p. 499; Deed: The Industrial Trust, Title and Savings Company, executor of the will of Francis Kelly, Mary Kelly, widow, Marie Catherine Kelly, Blanche A. Kelly, Francis Lawrence Kelly and Alice G., his wife, to Kelly Hughes Company, Inc., 14 October 1918, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 456, p. 1, CAP.

⁵¹ *Dockham's American Report* (1919), 299.

⁵² Permit No. 801 of 1918, Philadelphia Building Permits, CAP.

⁵³ *Congressional Serial Set*, 1919, 488.

⁵⁴ *Textile World News*, 6 Sept 1919, 1339.

⁵⁵ *Davison's Mattress, Quilting and Upholstered Furniture Register*, 7th ed. (New York: Davison Publishing Company, 1919), 120.

Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc. 1724 Hancock St.
Production and Equipment: Cotton and jute shoddies; also cotton and wool waste; 5 pickers, 1 willow, 2 dryers, 7 shredders; steam and electric. Sell direct. Jos F. Hughes, manager and buyer (formerly M. Kelly).

Announcement from the *American Textile Reporter*. Published in 1920. Courtesy Hathi Trust.

After the death of his father, Francis L. Kelly took a more active role with the new company that was founded, Kelly-Hughes & Co. In 1919, he was named an elected associate of the Cotton Exchange's newly formed panel for the World Cotton Conference. The panel consisted of 20 experts to present on the increase in export demands for raw materials and cotton shoddies.⁵⁶ Also in 1919, *The Textile World* announced "A small one-story addition is to be erected for Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc., 1724 Hancock Street, cotton and jute shoddies." They said the plans were "private."⁵⁷

In December 1921, New York State ruled in favor of Kelly-Hughes, Co. vs. Samuel A. Jaffe in consideration of Section 230, which deals with substitutions in commissioned work. New York State awarded a judgment to the company in the amount of \$1901.⁵⁸ In 1922, the city directory lists the Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc. personnel with Mary Kelly as President, Joseph Hughes as Vice President, Francis L. Kelly as Secretary and Marie Kelly as Treasurer.⁵⁹

The subsequent years of 1922–1928 seem largely silent. The last trace of the company we see is a listing in a textile directory in 1928. Mary Kelly, the President of Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc. passes away in 1929. Whether it is Mary Kelly's death or the Great Depression as the cause for the company to fold, we cannot say for certain but there is no mention of Kelly-Hughes, Co. thereafter. In 1930, Hughes is listed as an employer in textile manufacturing and Francis Kelly is listed as working for wages in raw cotton waste. It's unclear if they are both still affiliated with Kelly-Hughes Co. in some fashion before it ultimately dissolves. Eventually, Hughes owns an unidentified textile business on Delaware Avenue and passes away in 1959 at the age of 70. Francis L. Kelly works odd jobs until his death in 1946 at the age of 51. Marie Kelly continues to work as a bookkeeper for several businesses up until her death in 1953 at the age of 60.⁶⁰

⁵⁶ *Textile World Journal*, 9 Jul 1919, 101.

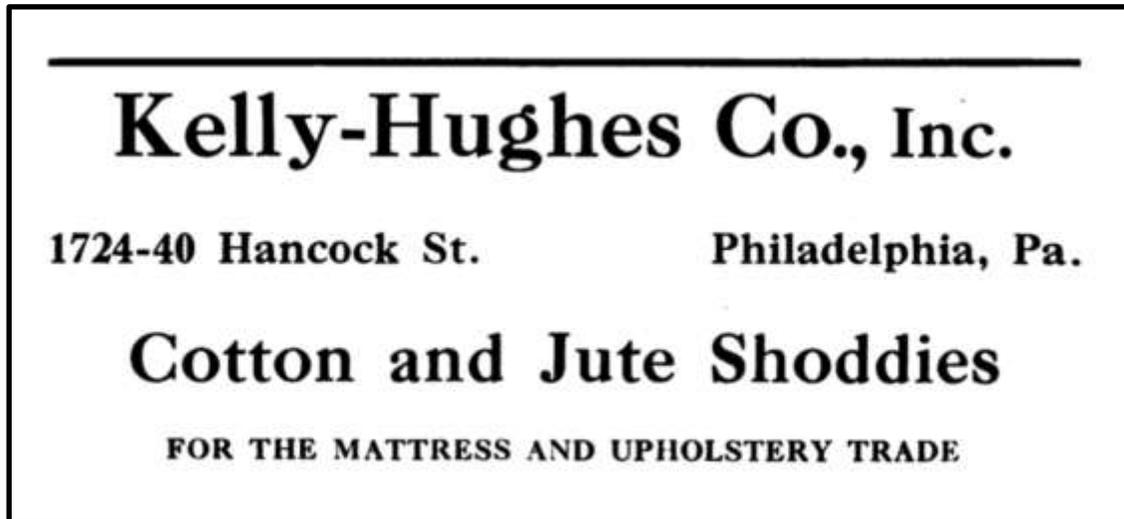
⁵⁷ *Textile World Journal*, 7 Aug 1919, 119.

⁵⁸ *New York Times*, 4 Jan 1922, 16.

⁵⁹ *Philadelphia City Register for 1922*, 685.

⁶⁰ 1930 United States Federal Census (database on-line) Provo, UT, USA, for Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Enumeration District 867, Sheet No. 4A, Household of Joseph F. Hughes, as viewed on Ancestry.com, 8 May 2016; 1930 United States Federal Census, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Roll:2133; Page:4A; Enumeration District: 1038; Image:895.0; FHL microfilm:2341867, Household of Francis L. Kelly, as viewed on Ancestry.com 8 May 2016; Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1963, (database

The Kelly-Hughes Company was unable keep up with its loan payments in the 1930s and the buildings were sold at sheriff sale in 1933 to the Company's creditor, the Jasper Building and Loan Association.⁶¹ The building and loan association went into receivership two years later and building sat under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's care for almost ten years. In 1944 when Sam and Rose Netsky purchase the building from the State.⁶² After Sam Netsky's death, the building is sold to brothers Leon and Lester Netsky on July 30, 1957 for \$100 for their upholstery business.⁶³



Advertisement for the Kelly-Hughes Co., Inc., ca. 1920s. Courtesy Hathi Trust.

Criterion C

The Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory represents an era of the industrial revolution that was characterized by a distinctive architectural style and influence.

The Architectural Form and Style for Industrial Buildings and Warehouses

In the early days of the Industrial Revolution, Sir William Fairbairn contended that mill engineers made their first aesthetic improvements to such buildings by advancing their designs beyond "brick boxes." Fairbairn himself designed a mill in 1827 that was "without architectural pretension," but also stylized the building beyond the brick box that was required. Fairbairn used

on-line) Provo, UT, USA: Death Certificate No. 70678 for Mary Kelly, dated 4 July 1929, as viewed on Ancestry.com 8 May 2016; Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1963 (database on-line) Provo, UT, USA, Death Certificate No. 7864 for Marie Catherine Kelly, date 15 Jan 1953, as viewed on Ancestry.com 8 May 2016; Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906–1963 (database on-line) Provo, UT, USA, Death Certificate No. 28357 for Francis L. Kelly, date 8 March 1946, as viewed on Ancestry.com 8 May 2016

⁶¹ Deed Poll: Richard Weglein, sheriff, to the Jasper Building and Loan Association, for \$250 [sic], 27 November 1933, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 3711, p. 376, CAP.

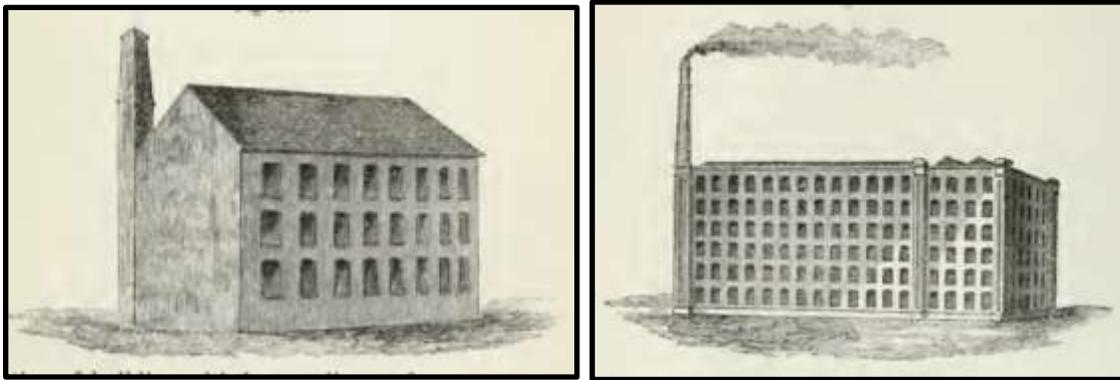
⁶² Deed: William C. Freeman, receiver of the Jasper Building and Loan Association, to Samuel Netsky and Rose, his wife, for \$10,800, 12 June 1944, Philadelphia Deed Book C.J.P., No. 198, p. 161, CAP.

⁶³ Deed: Roase Netsky, widow, to Leon Netsky and Lester Netsky, for \$100, 30 July 1957, Philadelphia Deed Book C.A.D., No. 614, p. 400, CAP.

pilasters and a cornice to enhance the appearance of a mill, which was an application later seen in many American commercial and industrial buildings.

I have been induced to refer to this subject from the fact, that in former times anything like architecture as applied to mills was unknown and greatly neglected; and there was a total disregard of taste or design until late years, when a few examples of architectural construction were afforded by the introduction of slight cornices and pilasters, showing that it was possible at a small cost to relieve the monotony of a large brick surface, and bring the structure within the category of light and shade.⁶⁴

Fairbairn recollected that industrial structures, principally mills, were “square brick-buildings, without any pretensions to architectural form,” which he described in relation to Figure 248, shown below, from his book *Treatise on Mills and Millwork: Part II. On Machinery of Transmission and the Construction and Arrangement of Mills*. In 1827, he designed “a new mill of a different class, and persuaded the proprietor to allow some deviation from the monotonous forms then in general use.”⁶⁵



Figures 248 and 249 from William Fairbairn’s *Treatise on Mills and Millwork: Part II. On Machinery of Transmission and the Construction and Arrangement of Mills*. Fairbairn unused these images to show the “improvement” in aesthetics by introducing elements of style to the industrial building. Courtesy Archive.org

Fairbairn is one of the pioneers given credit for the impetus to the stylized industrial building and this was certainly was one of the formative movements of the nineteenth century in early industrial design.

It was speedily copied in all directions with exceedingly slight modifications, but always with effect, as it generally improved the appearance of the buildings, and produced in the minds of the mill owners and the public a higher standard of taste.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ William Fairbairn, Esq., C.E., *Treatise on Mills and Millwork: Part II, On Machinery of Transmission and the Construction and Arrangement of Mills* (London: Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts & Green, 1863), vi–vii.

⁶⁵ Fairbairn, *Treatise on Mills and Millwork: Part II*, 113–115.

⁶⁶ Fairbairn, *Treatise on Mills and Millwork: Part II*, 113–115.

As stated above by Fairbairn, a movement of sorts transcended the industrial revolution and its buildings were “undecorated” with a stylistic treatment of simple functional design. G.D. Dempsey, a British engineer, noted that by the 1850s he and his fellows had mastered the “undecorated style,” which he considered appropriate for industrial buildings.⁶⁷ The “undecorated style” was employed on many Philadelphia buildings related to industry.

At the same time another style was being created in industrial Germany, where German architects of the 1820s and 1830s were using brick to create architectural style and detail without much additional expense. The Rundbogenstil was created in Germany and was the precursor to the “American round-arched style.” A defining principle of the style was that the architectural style did not cost extra and/or influence the building and/or its use, but rather “the round-arched style was generated by—not applied to—a building’s structure.”⁶⁸

Rundbogenstil was inspired by traditional Germanic and Italianate architectural forms and characterized by round arches, elaborate brickwork, and extensive window and door detailing. It began in elite circles in Germany, where architects were increasingly inspired by the historic castles and cathedral surrounding them. Thus Rundbogenstil carries many elements of these grand Byzantine and medieval structures such as barrel-vaulted ceilings, arches, buttresses, spires, and domes. At the heart of Rundbogenstil as a movement was the idea of “progressive synthesis,” using a variety of eclectic architectural elements to create a modern, “daring” new kind of building. Like most architectural styles do, it arrived in the United States in a relatively distilled form. Much of the ideological weight was lost in translation, but German-American architects like Otto Wolf interpreted Rundbogenstil in their own way. They incorporated choice elements from the German style books: arched windows, ornate cornices, towers, and spires were common.⁶⁹

The influences of both Fairbairn’s ideas and methods and the Rundbogenstil (or the round-arch style) came to dominate American architecture in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. A transition occurred in America much like in England and across Europe. In Philadelphia, early mills were without particular reference to architectural style or pretense. The most famous example was Robert’s Mill (late Townsend’s Mill), the perfect example of what Fairbairn might have called a plain box.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ Betsy Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 209–213.

⁶⁸ Bradley, *The Works*, 235–237.

⁶⁹ Mary Feitz, *The Jewel of Brewertown: Past, Present, and Future at The Poth Brewery* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2015), 23–24.

⁷⁰ Jennifer Green, “Flour Milling,” in *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. accessed 5 May 2016, <http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/flour-milling/>



Robert's Mill (late Townsend's), Church Lane (late Mill Street), Germantown. One of the oldest mills in Pennsylvania, there were mills of this appearance constructed in Frankford and other parts of Philadelphia through the turn of the nineteenth century. Courtesy Bryn Mawr.

Like the examples given by Fairbairn, Philadelphia followed suite in the embellishment of mills in the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. Two examples that still stand in Kensington are the Landenberger Hosiery Complex at 1101 Frankford Avenue, ca. 1850; the Bromley Mill at 2301 N. Front Street, c. 1870; and numerous other small and large scale examples. Each of the buildings were minimal in design, but were not masonry boxes like the Robert's Mill in its seventeenth or eighteenth century, early style.

By the turn of the twentieth century, buildings like Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory at 1722–1740 Hancock Street were rebuilt, reconfigured, and renovated beyond recognition, yet these manufactories still engaged in the application of architectural embellishment. The Kellys appear to have triumphed and failed on several occasions over the years; however, the facades of their mill in the 1700 Block of N. Hancock Street have architectural unity and express elements of style akin to both the ideas of Fairbairn and the Rundbogenstil. This is a facility that employed minimal architectural details to achieve their understanding of the unstated, but clearly extant “undecorated style” developed along with the American “round-arched style,” as identified by Betsy Hunter Bradley in *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*.

Simple built stylistic features that adhere to both the “undecorated style” and the American round-arched style are as follows:

- A simple, symmetrical fenestration that spanned a brick box with windows and doors, incorporating both attractiveness and utility;
- A brick cornice built up from a corbel table and a projecting course;
- Bands of brick corbeling and coursing within the façade;
- Brackets built up from brick corbeling; and
- Overall a warehouse that is essentially a “fire-proof” brick box that is embellished to appear as a simple, but attractive commercial building.

Does the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory hold a candle to large scale or even medium size industrial complexes and buildings in Philadelphia? The answer is no. But rather the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory represents the commitment of even small-scale enterprises to a larger architectural movement and the unique evolution of American industrial architecture in a modest, but distinctive format. All of the features described and final product that comprise the Francis Kelly Waste & Shoddy Manufactory are representative of an era in the industrial revolution that was characterized by a distinctive architectural style and influence.

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Contributors.

Sponsored by Kensington Olde Richmond Heritage, this nomination was a collaborative effort of by Oscar Beisert, Andrew Fearon, Dana Fedeli, and Ken Milano.

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