United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District
Other names/site number: N/A
Name of related multiple property listing**:** N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: _roughly bounded by 4500-4900 blocks of Magee Street, Princeton Avenue, and Tyson Avenue, by Disston Park, and by the 6900 block of Cottage Street
City or town: Philadelphia State: Pennsylvania County: Philadelphia
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide ___local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

DRAFT

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [x]

Public – Local [x]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) [ ]

District [x]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]

DRAFT

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1053	368	buildings
1	19	sites
		structures
		objects
1054	387	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Domestic: Single dwelling, secondary dwelling
Commerce/Trade: financial institution, specialty store, restaurant
Social: meeting hall
Government: post office
Education: school, library
Religion: religious facility, church school, church-related residence
Recreation and Culture: theater, auditorium, sports facility
Landscape: park, garden

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Domestic: Single dwelling, secondary dwelling
Commerce/Trade: financial institution, specialty store, restaurant
Government: post office
Education: school, library
Religion: religious facility, church school, church-related residence
Recreation and Culture: sports facility
Landscape: park, parking lot
Vacant

DRAFT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Art Deco
Beaux Arts
Bungalow/Craftsman
Colonial Revival
Eastlake
Gothic Revival
Italian Renaissance
Italianate
Moderne
Queen Anne
Second Empire
Shingle Style
Tudor Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, marble, stucco, vinyl, aluminum, sandstone, marble, wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District is located in the northeast section of the City of Philadelphia. It encompasses around 55 city blocks and 158 acres, and consists of the land developed as a distinct residential community by the Disston family between 1872 and the end of World War I for the workers of the Keystone Saw factory, using deed restrictions that both promoted paternalistic control of the community on the part of the Disstons and sought to provide a higher quality of life for Disston's employees at the nearby Keystone Saw works. The district's buildings are a mix of 2- and 3-story, residential, institutional, and commercial buildings. In contrast to other areas of worker housing built in Philadelphia, the district has a greater percentage of semi-detached and small row groups than elsewhere, providing a sense of light and air uncharacteristic of other contemporary communities. Changes to the exterior of the district's buildings have mostly consisted of recladding of the exterior

DRAFT

materials and replacement of wood elements such as porch posts. As a whole, however, historic streetscapes retain the sense of scale, rhythm, forms and volumes and the predominance of the historic materials of the pre-World War I Disston community. The historic Tacony Disston Historic District as a whole thus retains integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, and association and therefore is able to convey its significance under Criterion A.

Narrative Description

Introduction and Setting

The Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District is located in the northeast section of the City of Philadelphia, approximately 7 miles from Center City on the one hand and approximately 4 miles from the northeastern city limit on the other. The area is one of fairly flat topography, although the land rises slightly toward the north-northwest, away from the Delaware River, to a high point located near the intersection of Disston and Glenloch streets. The district, which encompasses around 55 city blocks and 158 acres, consists of the land developed as a distinct residential community by the Disston family between 1872 and the end of World War I for the workers of the Keystone Saw factory. This land was acquired by Henry Disston in 1872 and developed with key deed restrictions that both promoted paternalistic control of the community on the part of the Disstons and sought to provide a higher quality of life for Disston's employees at the nearby Keystone Saw works than those of other factory workers in the city. The factory was located to the southeast of the district, separated from it by a major road, rail line, and a park, and no longer retains integrity. The southwest edge of the district corresponds to the line of a former farm lane that bounded the Disston purchase on the southwest near Magee Avenue. The northeast edge of the Disston land is at Princeton Avenue; the district extends toward the northwest in a roughly triangular shape to Cottage Street from Disston Park, which is located along the district's southeast edge. This shape corresponds to the lots of the former Disston estate with deed restrictions developed by the period of World War I. Longshore Avenue and Disston Street, which run southeast-northwest, form the principal historic spines of the community. Torresdale Avenue was a major thoroughfare beginning in the first decade of the twentieth century.

The Tacony Disston community is characterized by a mix of 2- and 3-story, residential, institutional, and commercial buildings. The number of commercial properties is relatively small and consists principally of mixed-use rowbuildings with residences on the upper floor. The predominant exterior construction material is Philadelphia's traditional red brick, but early frame buildings survive in several locations, and few others are constructed from stone. With the exception of the earliest frame houses on Rawle and Knorr streets near Keystone Street (photo 1), most of the residential properties in the neighborhood share a palette of brick exterior with wood trim and eclectic mixes of vernacular, late nineteenth and early twentieth-century revival styles (photos 2-8). The institutional buildings, including a group of churches (photos 9-13), are constructed with either stone or brick exterior materials.

In contrast to other neighborhoods of workers' housing built in Philadelphia both before and after the Tacony Disston community was created, single and double residences predominate

DRAFT

rather than rowhouses. Three notable, composed row groups, nicknamed "Castle Row" for the military muscularity of their details, survive (photo 14).

Today, the district is separated from the former Keystone Saw factory area, which fronts on the Delaware River, by the considerable barrier of the Interstate 95 highway, and by the also substantial rail line of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.

The district is surrounded by the dense Philadelphia development of buildings of similar scale and materials of construction. This development, most of which post-dates the period of significance of the district, extends to the Pennypack Park on the northeast and into the rest of developed northeast and north Philadelphia to the northwest and southwest of the district. While some of this construction occurred during the creation of the Tacony Disston community, it only fully surrounded the district after the period of significance, which ends at the conclusion of World War I. The district is distinguished from these surroundings by several factors. The first of these is the relatively low density of workers' houses, both semi-detached and rows, in the Disston community. Semi-detached housing can be found outside the district, and building rows can also be found within the district; however, both the rows and groups of semi-detached houses within the Disston district tend not to encompass a whole block; the number of blocks in which they dominate is small. Instead, blocks tend to present a mixture of scales in a picturesque variety of elevations, roof heights, and forms (photo 15).

In contrast, the dominant mode of development of workers' housing throughout the city in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century is of multiple, unbroken, uniform blocks of either semi-detached or, more often, rowhouses that abut the sidewalk directly and are not set back from the street. The second major factor that distinguishes the Disston district from its surroundings is the presence of larger, single and semi-detached houses for Disston's upper level employees, which are located primarily along Disston Street and Tyson Avenue (photos 2-6, 16).

Organization and Buildings

As the concentration of managers' houses suggests, there is a clear pattern of organization within the district of zones that demarcate areas of workers' housing, commerce and institutions, and managers' housing. The district is organized into two principal zones divided by a spine of commercial and institutional buildings along Longshore Avenue. The first zone, located to the southwest of Longhore, is the locus of most of the workers' residences in the form of semi-detached dwellings and rowhouses. The zone to the northeast of Longshore is dominated by residences of Disston managers and professionals from outside the company who served the community, such as doctors. This second zone is predominantly larger, single and semi-detached houses, although peripheral areas of smaller, workers' houses are located along Torresdale and Princeton avenues at the edge of the district. While this pattern of differentiation between zones is clear, neither the lots nor the scale of the houses on the northeast of Longshore are strikingly larger than the scale of the residences to the southwest of the same street. Historically, the district had two principal thoroughfares, Longshore Avenue and Disston Street (historically also called Washington Street), that served to connect the Disston Tacony community to the Keystone Saw factory on the one hand on the southeast and on the other to the major historic road in the vicinity, Frankford Avenue (then the Bristol Turnpike), to the

DRAFT

northwest. Growth in the district proceeded from the southeast, river side in a roughly triangular shape toward the northwest, with Longshore as the spine of the community.

Longshore Avenue was thus historically the first locus of both the major institutional and commercial facilities of the community. Many of the former were donated by or sponsored by the Disston family. Most key examples survive, including the Tacony Methodist Church (photo 17, 4800 Longshore Avenue, 1883, Sunday School addition, 1915, Lachman and Murphy), Tacony Music Hall (photo 18, 4815 Longshore, individually NR listed), and the Tacony Trust Fund Building (photo 19, 4900 Longshore, 1893, John Ord architect) at the southeast end, and the former Tacony Club (4625 Longshore, 1908, Clyde Adams, architect) and the former Mary Disston School (photo 10, 4521 Longshore, 1900-01, Andrew Sauer, architect, NR listed under cover of Philadelphia Schools) on the northwest end. After 1903, when a trolley line was established that connected the Disston Tacony community to others via Torresdale Avenue, both businesses and institutions began to be located along this street as well. Notable among the latter is the former Carnegie library at 6742 Torresdale (photo 20, 1905-06, Lindley Johnson, architect, now a branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia).

The single and double houses of the Disston managers and other professionals of the community are primarily found along Disston Street (historically also called Washington Street) and Tyson Avenue as part of the central zone of the district, as well as on the streets perpendicular to these nearby. Disston Street remains the locus of the most prominent examples (photo 5), including double houses composed so that they appear to be single residences (photo 16). The very southeastern end of Longshore near Disston Park is also the locus of this scale of residential building, and the frontage of the park contains such examples such as the former house of Disston real estate agent Thomas South (photo 20). This northeast zone of the district also includes the community's historic Baptist Church (photo 12, 6930 Hegerman Street, 1898, Charles Douglas architect, 1915-16 addition) and as well as the Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents (4711 Tyson Avenue), indicating that these congregations were composed of the wealthier members of the community. The managers' zone of the district also includes the Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church, a donation of Mary Disston, on one of the highest points in the community (photo 9, 1886). The Baptist church includes a major addition that dates to 1915-16 built of former grindstones from the Disston saw works.

The portion of the district to the southwest of Longshore Avenue consists of the greatest concentration of Disston workers' housing. Some of the earliest houses in the district survive on Knorr (originally Mary) and Rawle (originally Hamilton) northwest of Keystone Street (photo 1). Near these two compositions of castellated rows stand on Edmund and Tulip Street (photo 14), and semi-detached and rowhouses continue in this part of the district toward the south and west to the edge of the district.

The southwest zone of the district includes several important institutions. Most notable among these is the complex of the Roman Catholic church of St. Leo the Great (photo 13, original section, 1884-5, Frank Watson, architect) which was built on land donated by the Disstons.

Landscape Spaces and Features

DRAFT

Disston Park (photo 22), which developed over time through donations of land by the Disston family, was created as a landscaped park and a key buffer and community amenity between the work zone on the southeast side of the railroad, where the factory stood, and the residential community of Tacony to its northwest. Historically, the park held flower beds and walks. Today, the park is characterized by open lawn areas, paths, and mature trees. In addition to the park, the other primary landscape space in the district is the playing fields of the Disston Recreation Center. These are fronted on the southeast by the recreation building, and are bordered by flowering cherry trees and a historic wall with square-plan corner pillars made of former Disston sandstone grindstones (photo 23).

In addition to these main landscape spaces of the district, a number of historic streetscape features are found in the district. These include historic cast iron fences in multiple locations, as well as low stone walls, many of which are built from used grindstones (photos 24-25).

Later Construction and Integrity

Construction after 1920 within the neighborhood has been piecemeal redevelopment of a small number of lots, primarily along Torresdale Avenue. Changes to the exterior of the district's buildings have mostly consisted of recladding of the exterior materials and replacement of wood elements such as porch posts. As a whole, however, historic streetscapes retain the sense of scale, rhythm, forms and volumes and the predominance of the historic materials of the pre-World War I Disston community. The historic Tacony Disston Historic District as a whole thus retains integrity of location, design, materials, feeling, and association and therefore is able to convey its significance under Criterion A.

DRAFT

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

DRAFT

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
Community Planning and Development
Social History

Period of Significance
1872-1918

Significant Dates
1872

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Adams, Clyde
Costello, Peter
Johnson, Lindley
Ord, John
Sauer, Andrew

DRAFT

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Social History for its association with and important place in the history of Pennsylvania company towns. This intentionally and idealistically created community of workers not only supported the operations of the Disston's family company, Keystone Saw, located near the Tacony development along the Delaware River waterfront, but also operated as a tight-knit, self-sufficient "town within a city" that retained its own separate identity from its inception in the early 1870s into the period of the end of World War I. The character of the Tacony development in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries

was essentially suburban, and thus contrasted markedly with the nearly uninterrupted blocks of industrial workers' rowhouses being built in North and South Philadelphia in the period. The Disstons' development was differentiated from those surrounding it by the key, paternalistic control mechanism of a series of deed restrictions that promoted the sobriety of the Keystone workforce, kept competing industry and noxious activities at a remove, and supported moral conduct. The Tacony Disston development was built to serve one of the largest complexes in the city in an age when Philadelphia's economy was based on such heavy industry, yet it provided the Disston workers both with a sense of community and a measure of life in an elite suburb in its relatively low density, safe water supply, and other social and business amenities.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Social History for its association with and important place in the history of Pennsylvania company towns. This intentionally and idealistically created community of workers not only supported the operations of the Disston's family company, Keystone Saw, located near the Tacony development along the Delaware River waterfront, but also operated as a tight-knit, self-sufficient "town within a city" that retained its own separate identity from its inception in the early 1870s into the period of the end of World War I. The character of the Tacony development in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was essentially suburban, and thus contrasted markedly with the nearly uninterrupted blocks of industrial workers' rowhouses being built in North and South Philadelphia in the period. The Disstons' development was differentiated from those surrounding it by the key, paternalistic control mechanism of a series of deed restrictions that promoted the sobriety of the Keystone workforce, kept competing industry and noxious activities at a remove, and supported moral conduct. The Tacony Disston development was built to serve one of the largest complexes in the city in an age when Philadelphia's economy was based on such heavy industry, yet it provided the Disston workers both with a sense of community and a measure of life in an elite suburb in its relatively low density, safe water supply, and other social and business amenities. By the end of the first war, several factors had combined to shift the identity of this portion of the city from a separate, company town to a Philadelphia neighborhood. While it still retained a strong sense of place and connection to the Disston factory as a place of work for multiple generations of Tacony residents into the period of World War II, this neighborhood no longer functioned after the 1910s as an area that was separate, wholly distinct, and demographically homogeneous as it had earlier. After this time, it became the center of a larger neighborhood in which workers and their families were more connected and travelled to other parts of the city.

In several respects, the Disston family's vision for their Tacony development anticipated later nineteenth-century utopian workers' communities both in the United States and abroad, particularly in the emphasis on healthful living circumstances and provision of social and commercial institutions within this community. It preceded, for example, the establishment of both Vandergrift and Palmerton, Pennsylvania (both NR listed) by over twenty years, and was some eight years ahead of the well-known Pullman development of Chicago. While the Tacony development created by saw manufacturer Henry Disston (1819 - 1878) and his successors was tied to the Keystone Saw factory nearby and was built for Disston's workers and those who

DRAFT

served that community, it was intentionally separated from the factory not only by a rail line, but, more important, by a park that the Disstons created as a buffer zone and essential landscape amenity to their development.

There are several likely reasons that this ground-breaking, planned workers' residential community has been under-recognized, in contrast to such model industrial towns as Port Sunlight outside of Liverpool in England, which the Disston's development in Tacony preceded by over a decade, and the Pullman Chicago development, which also followed Tacony. Primary among these is that the Disston Tacony development's innovations lay in the social rather than the artistic realm. The styles of its buildings are those of the vernacular of its time, and are typical of the styles of contemporary buildings in a number of other parts of the city. The lack of architect-designed buildings in Tacony is notable. Further, the Disston Tacony development also exploited existing modes of planning rather than presenting itself to the outside world as an *exemplum vertutis* in terms of its design innovations; its street pattern is based on the Philadelphia standard street grid rather than a deviation from this. While a planned organization of different sectors for workers at different levels of the Keystone operational hierarchy, and the location of the park and institutions, were clearly planned elements of the Tacony development, the Disstons did not employ a professional designer as George McMurtry did at Vandergrift (there the Olmsted firm served this role).[1] Nonetheless, in its utopian aspirations for the quality of life of industrial workers, Tacony anticipates much later developments, even as it served to reinforce the strength of the Disston family industrial enterprise, Keystone Saw.

Developmental History

Background

The seeds of the Tacony community lay in several factors. The first of these was the significant growth of the Disston saw works in the period of the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. On the eve of the Civil War, Henry Disston's Northern Liberties-based saw and tool works had grown substantially from its modest beginnings as a two-man operation (Disston and apprentice David Brickley) in the 1840s to what was characterized in 1859 as "probably the largest" saw and tool manufacturing business in the nation.[2] By the end of the war, there was no doubt on this score, and it was even claimed in 1868 that the Keystone Saw works exceeded the size not only those of its American competitors but also the scale of any such European operation.[3] As an account published that year in Philadelphia's Public Ledger indicated, part of the reason for this was the "American machinery" that made the firm's production far more efficient than that of its competitors, a notable accomplishment for American industry.[4] For example, Disston's advances in toothing saws, formerly done exclusively by hand, were considerable. An 1868 account noted that "to toothe five dozen Wood-Saws in an hour, is rapid work for the best mechanic in the world; Mr. Disston has machinery by which one man can toothe thirty dozen in

[1] On Vandergrift, see Anne E. Mosher, "'Something Better Than the Best': Industrial Restructuring, George McMurtry and the Creation of the Model Industrial Town of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, 1883-1901," *Annuals of the Association of American Geographers* 85, no. 1 (March, 1995): 84-107.
[2] Edwin Freedley, *Philadelphia and its Manufactures: A Hand-Book* (Philadelphia: Edward Young, 1859), p.330.
[3] "Local Affairs," *Philadelphia Public Ledger* 15 July 1868, p. 1.
[4] *Ibid.*

the same time."[5] This level of innovation was not confined to advances in the mechanization of production. Disston's continual efforts to produce a superior product more efficiently caused his business to grow at a prodigious rate. The Civil War constituted a turning point for Keystone. By 1862, Disston had diversified his production to supply both hardware and weapons in addition to saws. The size of his workforce of men and boy apprentices went from 150 in 1858 to between 400 and 500 ten years later.[6]

The ability to expand the site of the manufacturing facilities in its location on Laurel Street in Northern Liberties was constrained by previous surrounding development, and by competition from other industrialists vying for the same territory. Further, the need to retain reliable, skilled workers in an age when commuting any distance to manufacturing jobs was unconventional at best was an important factor in Keystone's continued growth.

The same 1868 account that noted Disston's advances in mechanical production also characterized him both as "a man of remarkable force and energy of character" and as possessing "administrative and executive abilities of high order." Thus, Disston combined not only unusual engineering, scientific, and inventive ability, but also an exceptional level of organizational acumen. These personality traits were joined with what, by the testimony of multiple nineteenth-century accounts, was a sincere concern for the welfare of others and service to the needy through charitable institutions and religious organizations. For example, an obituary characterized him as "truly a man of such loving disposition and generous impulse that he unconsciously entwined the affections of others about him."[7] Six years later, another account asserted that "no citizen of Philadelphia was ever more devoted to its welfare and that of its fellow-creatures than Mr. Disston."[8]

As historian Henry Silcox has suggested, the combination of Disston's managerial shrewdness and his charitable concern for others was the main factor that led to the decision to move his industrial operation to what was then a relatively undeveloped portion of the city. As Silcox notes, Disston "did not establish Keystone Saw Works simply to realize a profit." Further, "Disston viewed the owner as bound together with worker and community in a mutual relationship – a paternalistic relationship – that advanced the company but also benefited everyone involved."[9]

This paternalism closely intertwined the relationship between the Disston family and the Disston company workforce. For both, Henry Disston played the role of *pater familias*. This role arose in part from the facts of biography of Disston's early life. He first arrived in Philadelphia as a thirteen-year-old immigrant from England, accompanying his father and sister. He had served as an apprentice to his father Thomas, with whom he had worked at a lace factory in Derby in

---

[5] J. Leander Bishop, ed. *A History of American Manufactures from 1608 to 1860* 3 (Philadelphia: Edward Young, 1868), p. 41.
[5] Harry C. Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work: The Henry Disston Saw Works and the Tacony Community of Philadelphia* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994), p. 4; Freedley, *Philadelphia and its Manufactures*, p. 330; "Local Affairs."
[7] "Obituary," *Philadelphia Inquirer* 18 March 1878, p.2.
[8] J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia* 3 (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1884), p. 2268.
[9] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 15.

DRAFT

Nottinghamshire. With his father's untimely death three days after their arrival in Philadelphia, Henry, the eldest son, became the ostensible head of the family. After he established his own successful business, his younger brothers emigrated to join him as saw makers in the 1840s, while the second son of the family, William, came later with his own son (also named Henry) to establish a jobbing shop at Keystone. Before coming to Philadelphia, William served his older brother as a key source of information with respect to innovations in steel process and machinery in Britain, a leading center of these technologies. After William's death in 1872, his son Henry returned to England but continued to serve the family business as a recruiter of skilled workers for the firm.[10] The elder Henry Disston also brought all of his own sons into the business as apprentices. At Keystone, they learned alongside employees to become highly skilled technical workers and went on to managerial positions only from the position of this level of experience and camaraderie with the workers. Among his workers, the close connection between family and business extended to Disston's practice of employing multiple generations and individuals within families. Thus, the pattern of Disston familial engagement with the Keystone works was mirrored by his workers' own connections. The creation of the idealistic, intentional community at Tacony, which offered both paternalistic control and protection of his workforce's welfare, was a natural outgrowth of the way that Disston conducted his personal and professional life.[11]

It is a matter of speculation as to when Disston first contemplated moving his industrial operation to and creating a residential community in Tacony. Philadelphia deed records from 1857 through 1869 show that, while Disston acquired numerous parcels of land, he sold none during this period. A cursory inspection of the deeds for these purchases suggests that they were primarily for the purpose of expanding the Northern Liberties industrial plant and operation. While his real estate acquisitions in this period relate to the expansion of Keystone Saw, Disston had, however, clearly also been considering how best to meet the housing needs of his ever-growing work force (thereby retaining these skilled employees in whom he had invested considerable time and money) by at least 1868. On November 24th of that year, the newly formed Disston Building and Loan Association held its first regular meeting to elect officers at the James Page Library Hall on Girard Avenue in the Fishtown section of the city.[12] Before the creation of the Disston Tacony development, the association was holding mortgages and conveying property both in Northern Liberties and in West Philadelphia, presumably for the benefit of Disston employees.[13]

Prior to the creation of the development at Tacony, Disston contemplated expanding in other locations, but fixed on the area where his younger brother Thomas had invested in a summer cottage lot in 1855.[14] The existing development of this portion of the city was marked by several factors, and evinced patterns that related to occupation from the earliest period of European settlement through the mid-nineteenth century. As part of the outlying areas of the former

[10] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 6.
[11] For an extended discussion of Disston's paternalistic approach to Tacony, see Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, Chapter 2.
[11] Notice published in the *Public Ledger*, 14 November 1868, p. 2. It should be noted that Harry Silcox erroneously dates the formation of this organization to six years later. Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 17.
[12] See, for example, Disston Building and Loan Association to Henry M. Ludlam, 8 June 1871, Philadelphia Deed Book JAH 158, p. 90 ff. and to A. H. Shoemaker, 19 June 1871, JAH Book 161, p. 56 ff.
[14] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 7.

Philadelphia County, the area around Tacony became the locus of a number of elite estates that fronted on the Delaware in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century.

In 1832, the seeds of change to this elite estate landscape were sown at Tacony with the incorporation of the Philadelphia and Trenton railroad, which completed laying tracks from a depot near the intersection of Montgomery and Frankford avenues in the Kensington section of what was then Philadelphia County through Tacony to Trenton two years later. Although authorized, the proposed extension of this railroad down Front Street to the core of the city from Kensington, which would have entailed demolition through a heavily developed area, was stopped by mob uprisings in 1840. The railroad, which was the primary line to Trenton and New York, was thus not easily accessed by those travelling from the heart of the city. As the use of the railroad grew in the 1840s, passengers side-stepped the trek up to Kensington and conventionally took a steamship from a wharf at Walnut Street to Tacony after the construction in the 1840s of a spur from the main rail line and a steamboat landing at roughly the foot of what is now Unruh Avenue. The rail depot led to the development of a small hamlet around it at Tacony beginning in the 1840s. This development included two hotels, a guest cottage, and lumber and coal yards near to the depot, and a grid of five by six streets, all southeast of the rail line. Larger estates surrounded this small grid, including E. Green's "Silver Pine" along the river to the southwest of the lumber and coal yards. Green Lane, which would later form the southwestern edge of the Disston family holdings in Tacony, connected this estate to the Tacony (late State) Road and the Bristol Turnpike (Frankford Avenue). A farm lane, which would later become Washington Street, and in turn, Disston Street, connected J. Robinson's "Tacony Hill" estate to the Tacony Road.[15] Along with the arrival of the railroad depot and steamship wharf, construction in the area was further spurred by the creation of the Tacony Cottage Association (from whom Thomas Disston, Henry's brother, purchased and developed a lot), an organization whose purpose was to support the creation of St. Vincent's Catholic German Orphanage, whose buildings survive on a property on the Delaware riverfront at the end of Cottman Avenue.[16]

In the 1850s and 1860s, Tacony continued to grow. Historic maps from these decades shows that the grid of streets between the Tacony Road and the river continued to expand toward the northeast (see figure 1). By 1855 (after the 1854 Consolidation of Philadelphia city and county) industrial production had come to the vicinity in the form of a steam mill on the Green estate, near the river. A school had been built on the northwest side of the Tacony Road, and the Robinson property lane had become a second road connecting the Bristol Pike to Tacony Road.[17] As part of a larger effort to regulate and add the 23rd Ward to the Philadelphia City Plan after the Consolidation, Isaac Shallcross, who had surveyed in the area for the city since at least the 1830s, surveyed the Tacony area. His 1860 plan, confirmed by the court of Quarter Sessions in 1863, shows the grid of the Tacony hamlet streets, the Tacony Road and the Bristol Pike, and also indicates Green Lane (then called Salters Lane) and the road that would become Longshore Avenue, as well as Tulip Street and "Mill" Street, roughly in the location of Ditman Street today.

[15] M. Dripps, *Map of the Township of Oxford, Boroughs of Frankford and Bridesburg, with Parts of Bristol, N. Liberties and Cheltenham Townships* (Philadelphia, 1849).
[16] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 7.
[17] R. L. Barnes, *Barnes New Map of the Consolidated City of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1855). http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/HSF.D2D19, accessed 7 November 2014.

[18] It was almost certainly not the case that all of these streets were laid out and opened at this time, but they were certainly projected. In 1867, the population in the area had grown sufficiently that Episcopal services were first held at the Washington House, one of the hotels in the area southeast of the rail line. The Church of the Holy Innocents opened its own building (now demolished) in this part of Tacony in 1869.[19]

First Developments at Tacony, 1872-1878: Creating a Controlled, Ideal Community

Henry Disston began to accumulate land in Tacony in April, 1872, purchasing estates from C. W. Morris, James Robinson, George Hammersley and Christopher Eastburn.[20] Ground was broken and the saw handle and file production operations were moved to Tacony the same year. In fact, the overall move to Tacony took some time: the gradual relocation of the Disston operations from Northern Liberties would not be totally complete until the end of the nineteenth century.[21]

Another key event of 1872 in the development of Tacony was the hiring of Thomas W. South by Disston. South, a relative of Mary Disston (Henry's wife), was born in Ohio, and after serving in the Union Army, "came to Philadelphia and entered the employ of Henry Disston" at Tacony, where South "became manager and general agent of the real estate of the firm."[22] It is apparently not known how South came by this position or why he was considered qualified for it. South would go on to become the surrogate mayor of the Disston development, and was termed the "father of Tacony" in an obituary.[23] In addition to his role as real estate agent and manager for the Disstons, South was strongly connected to Philadelphia's entrenched Republican political machine, serving, for example, as an index clerk in the recorder of deeds' office for conveyance for the city in the 1870s and as a police magistrate.

The amount of development that had taken place between Disston's 1872 land acquisitions and the Centennial, and thus before Henry Disston's death in 1878, is documented by an atlas of the 23rd Ward published by G. M. Hopkins in 1876 (figure 2).[24] In this period, some 55 houses were constructed under South's management on the roughly L-shaped parcel aggregated by Disston's purchases and set aside for the purposes of the construction of the residential community. Disston's holdings extended on the northeast to a line that would become Princeton Avenue, and on the southwest to a line to the southwest of Knorr Street, but not extending as far as the former Salter's/Green Lane. The boundary of the holdings on the north corresponded to the little

---

[17] Isaac Shallcross, *Land of a Portion of 23rd Ward Lying Between Bridesburg and Holmesburg East of Bristol Turnpike, 1860*, Philadelphia City Streets Department, http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/192-1_HP, accessed 7 November 2014.
[19] Samuel F. Hotchkin, *The Bristol Pike* (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs, 1893), p. 63.
[20] Disston's first Tacony purchases are reflected in the following Philadelphia city deeds: James Robinson to Henry Disston, 15 April 1872, Philadelphia Deed Book JAH 228, p. 470 ff.; C. Eastburn to Disston, 2 May 1872, Deed Book JAH 245, p. 428ff.; George Hammersley to Disson, 5 June 1872, JAH 254, p. 269 ff.; C. W. Morris to Disston, 2 July 1872, JAH 261, p. 90 ff.
[21] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 8.
[22] Sam Hudson, *Pennsylvania and its Public Men* (Philadelphia: Hudson & Joseph, 1909), p. 155.
[23] Louis M. Iatarola and Siobhán Gephart, *Tacony* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000), p. 29.
[24] G. M. Hopkins, *City Atlas of Philadelphia by Wards, Complete in 7 Volumes, Vol. 3, 23rd Ward* (Philadelphia, 1876), plate J.

Wissinoming Creek (roughly at Cottage Street) and at what would become the rear of the lots of the northwest side of the 7000 block of Torresdale Avenue.

The Hopkins 1876 atlas also documents the plan for the city streets in this vicinity that would later come to be laid out. The streets shown on the atlas that would be built in Tacony include Knorr, Unruh, and Magee, as well as Tulip, Hegerman, Adeline (later Torresdale), Ditman, Jackson, and Cottage.

The Tacony houses built before the Centennial were all located near the intersection of Keystone Street and what is now called Knorr Street, both of which were created for the Disston development. At the time of their construction, the latter street was called Mary – both of these therefore being named for Henry Disston's business and wife, respectively. The literal imprint of the family on the ground continued with the first two blocks of what is now called Knorr Street – in the 1870s dubbed Hamilton (the name of Henry's oldest son) Street. Deeds for the transactions of this period indicate that lots were laid out for development, along with the streets, by the city surveyor Isaac Shallcross. Lots acquired later were re-surveyed and all the lots numbered in 1882 by George S. Webster. [25]

The houses on Mary, Hamilton, and Keystone represent a mixture of types and construction materials typical of development in peripheral parts of the city in the period after the Civil War that were more suburban in character. These areas included sections of Germantown and West Philadelphia. Equally, the grid pattern of streets and lots laid out in Tacony for the Disston development represented continuity with contemporary Philadelphia development, rather than a break from it. On the southeast side of Keystone Street and in lots behind these fronting on the railroad tracks in an area that would later be part of Disston Park, on the northeast side of Mary (Knorr) Street, and on the northeast side of Hamilton (Rawle) Street, a series of double houses with generous side and relatively deep back yards were built. All of these were built of wood frame construction except for the four double houses fronting on the rail line, which were slightly larger and built of brick. On the southwest side of Mary Street, a group of porch-fronted, brick exterior row houses had been constructed. The key difference between Disston's development and that in other areas of the city in the period was the emphasis on single and double houses and the comparatively small percentage of row houses. This emphasis clearly contrasted with the endless blocks of row developments for industrial workers that had begun to march both north and south from Center City in the period after the Civil War. Disston thus was giving his workers a living circumstance that, by the standards of the period, was more suburban in character than urban – this contrasted notably with the dense city fabric found around the original Disston factory Northern Liberties' location. The elite and healthful associations with suburban landscapes of the period would have not gone unremarked and unappreciated by Disston workers and their families in the nineteenth century.

In addition to these relatively small buildings, two larger properties had been developed in this area by the Centennial. On Longshore Avenue, which would become the major institutional and

[24]Multiple deeds from transactions in the 1870s testify to Shallcross's role in laying out the first lots in Tacony. Harry Silcox erroneously identifies George S. Webster as the individual responsible for laying out lots in the early 1870s. In 1872, Webster was still a student at the University of Pennsylvania. See Sandra Tatman, "Webster, George Smedley," http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/18711, accessed 12 November 2013.

commercial spine of the community, a larger double house had been constructed at the western corner of the intersection with Keystone: 4922/4918 Longshore Avenue. This house corresponded to the first lot purchased by Thomas South, in 1873, from Disston for development.[26] The 1876 atlas also shows that across the street stood the only single house constructed on Disston land to that point: 4921 Longshore. Finally, in addition to the residential buildings shown on the 1876 atlas, a single church is also indicated on Longshore Avenue.

The Tacony development represented in the 1876 atlas nonetheless seems a relatively modest beginning to the community created by the Disstons – it would have housed over 55 workers, however, in the saw handle and file shops that were completed in 1873 along the river. Examination of the Disston real estate sales' records, federal census data, and deeds from real estate transactions flesh out the picture of the Disston development and the nascent patterns this 1870s construction represents.

Purchases of houses as well as undeveloped lots from Henry Disston and his successors are documented by a ledger that records these sales until the mid-1890s.[27] The first sale, of a pair of lots in 1873, was to the Tacony Methodist Church congregation for property on the southwest side of Longshore Avenue at Edmund Street, where a small wood frame chapel was built (it was later moved to a different site). This is the church shown in the 1876 atlas. The Disston ledger also shows that the first houses in the development were complete by 1874. The first purchases for residences were by Christopher and Nicholas Eisenhardt. Christopher and Nicholas, along with their younger brother Conrad, were German-born Disston workers who were among the force that moved to Tacony with the relocation of the saw handle shop in 1872. Christopher, the eldest, was the superintendent of this portion of the Disston works.[28] Each of the Eisenhardts purchased one half of one of the wood frame double houses on the southeast side of Keystone Street between Longshore and Knorr streets. The purchase price for each of these was $1,500.00. Along with Christopher Eisenhardt, another Disston manager among the first purchasers was the English-born master steel smelter Jonathan Marsden, who performed a variety of duties for Disston, including traveling to England annually to recruit skilled workers, and who planned the construction of the Disston steel works at Tacony, which were completed in 1877.[29] Marsden's significance in Tacony is recalled by the fact that one of the streets there is named for him. Marsden purchased the house at 4921 Longshore. Another Briton, engineer William Boardman, purchased a frame house at 7051 Tulip Street (no longer extant) shortly thereafter.[30]

In addition to the Eisenhardts and Marsden, a number of less senior staff purchased houses early on. For example, saw handle maker Samuel Helverson and laborer Rober Miller each bought a

---

[26] Disston Real Estate Sales Book No. 1, p. 1, Collection Historical Society of Tacony.
[27] Disston Real Estate Sales Book No. 1.
[28] The 1870 U. S. Census enumerates all three Eisenhardts as living in their mother Martha in Philadelphia, and that all three were already working in the saw works. 1870 U. S. Census, 48th Enumeration District, Philadelphia, p. 160.
[28] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 47. It should be noted that Silcox dates Marsden's move to Tacony to 1875, which may be erroneous given the 1873 date of his property purchase. Further information about Marsden is given in Silcox, ed. *The History of Tacony, Holmesburg and Mayfair: An Intergenerational Study* (Philadelphia: Brighton Press, 1992), pp 27-30.
[30] Disston ledger, pp. 1-3.

house on the same side of Keystone as the Eisenhardts, and laborer George Larson bought one side of a double house on Knorr Street.[31] The Disston ledger indicates that none of the houses in the first row built on the southwest side of Mary Street were purchased, strongly suggesting that these buildings were retained by the Disstons as rental properties.

The Disston ledger suggests that there were multiple strategies for development in Tacony in addition to construction completed by the Disstons themselves in the early stages of Tacony. Disston agent Thomas South purchased a Tacony lot for the first time in 1873: a large property on the southwest side of Longshore Avenue southeast of Tulip Street; this would remain undeveloped until the construction of the Tacony Trust Fund Building and Loan Association in 1893 from designs by John Ord.[32] He would go on to purchase and develop additional undeveloped lots and to act as a middle man in transactions between those who had bought property in Tacony and Mary Disston, after her husband's death. Individuals other than South also sold or re-sold lots, either through Disston or not. For example, William R. Pierce, described as a "commission merchant," in the deed of sale from Disston, purchased land two lots with frame houses (later demolished when the street was widened) on Torresdale Avenue (then called Adeline Street) near the intersection of Longshore in 1876, then sold the lots back to Disston for $5 that same year. House carpenter W. J. Schweppenheiser had purchased a lot nearby in 1875 from Disston.[33]

While there was clearly variety in the specific mechanism of development of the Tacony lots, there was uniform consistency in the explicit deed restrictions that carefully controlled the types of commercial activities that could be conducted in Tacony. The banned activities, which hold sway to this day, were articulated from the earliest Disston Tacony deeds:

- tavern or building for the sale or manufacture of beer or liquor of any kind or description
- courthouses
- carpenter, blacksmith, currier (tannery), or machine shop
- livery stable, slaughter house, soap or glue boiling establishment or factory of any kind whatever where steam power shall be used
- any building for any "offensive occupation"

These restrictions served several purposes. First, they supported a sober workforce and family life in a residential community free of such nuisances as prostitution (the "offensive occupation"), the noxious smells and polluted waste products created through the animal rendering operations inherent in soap, glue, and leather production, and small-scale industrial plants that could be found in many of the older parts of the city. The restriction on animal-based industry also sought to limit not only industrial competition but also the number of unskilled worker residents. The ban on livery stables and steam-powered factories restricted the mobility of the Disston workers (most of whom could not afford to commute on the steamship to Center City; the train, however, allowed them to travel back and forth if needed to Kensington and

[31] Ibid.
[32] The notice of this commission was published in the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 8, n. 5, 1 February 1893.
[33] Disston ledger, pp. 2-3.

Disston's Northern Liberties plant), and further helped ensure that Keystone was the only major employer in the vicinity. The restrictions on courthouses also limited the recourse of residents to authorities beyond those controlled by the Disstons. Like the more suburban configuration of Tacony lots and houses, these restrictions contrasted sharply with the Northern Liberties circumstances of the earlier Keystone works. There, densely developed blocks of rowhouses intermingled with tanneries and other animal-based operations along the Cohocksink Canal, and smoke-belching, coal-fired, steam-engine based factories that produced iron and steel products. In Northern Liberties before the Civil War, Disston had seen such dramatic social events as the development of ethnic and race-based enclaves, race riots, and violent clashes between Irish Catholic and American-born Protestant textile workers over social, religious, and political issues in nearby Kensington.[34]

Disston and his successors controlled the lives of his workers and the Tacony community through these restrictions, and more informal ones such as the decision to omit bells from church buildings, which limited the ability to sound alarms and thus disrupt the community through the activities of volunteer fire companies.[35] The Disstons' control meant that those who "might disagree with Disston policies or oppose the values expressed in the deed restrictions had no means of addressing their grievances except to leave the community," or choose not to join it.[36] This control, however, came hand-in-hand with incentive, as the suburban style of the community established from the very beginning stood in clear and positive contrast to the dense fabric of other industrial workers' residential areas of the city. Just as important was the Disston family's financial support of the company's workers. As the establishment of the Disston Building and Loan before the move to Tacony suggests, and the establishment of a parallel organization in Tacony in 1873 supports, home ownership was an essential ingredient for this – "rent or loan payments to the [Tacony] were collected on the basis of the worker's ability to pay. Community folklore states that there was never a foreclosure on a Disston home. Disston's terms for loans and rents were considered reasonable and fair by the standards of the day."[37] Further, Disston provided benefits for his workers that "far transcended a simple exchange of labor for pay." Charitable and beneficial practices on Disston's part dated to the period when Keystone was headquartered in Northern Liberties, and included both a clinic for free medical treatment and a soup kitchen. Among the extras (according to the standards of the age in which no health insurance existed) at Tacony was the Keystone Beneficial Association established by Disston, which gave illness and death benefits to his member workers. Further, Disston and his successors allowed for both social and religious institutions that met the needs of their workers and their workers' families. The establishment of the Methodist chapel in 1873, which responded to the British, working class origins of some of his workers, was followed by the founding of other churches in the 1880s: the Tacony Baptist Church (1881), and by St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church (1884), whose membership came primarily from those of Irish background.[38] Notably, Presbyterians began worshipping in the Tacony Hall in the mid-1880s;

---

[34] Nicholas Wainwright, "The Age of Nicholas Biddle, 1825-1841," in Russell Weigley, ed., *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1982), p. 295. On the Kensington riots, see David Montgomery, "The Shuttle and the Cross: Weavers and Artisans in the Kensington Riots of 1844," *Journal of Social History* 5, no. 4 (Summer 1972): 411-446.
[35] See Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 20.
[36] Ibid.
[37] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 17.
[38] Iatarola and Gephart, *Tacony*, p. 95.

Mary Disston endowed the Disston Presbyterian Church, which was built in 1886, as a memorial to her late husband and daughter. In the 1890s, two more congregations were added to the Disston community. In the early 1890s, both the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tacony, a new congregation, and the Episcopal Church of the Holy Innocents, which had been located on the river side of the railroad line, purchased lots from the Disston estate; both opened new church buildings later in the decade, on Jackson Street and Tyson Avenue, respectively. While the Disstons were Presbyterians, religious pluralism was fostered in Tacony. Important social institutions, such as the Tacony Music Hall and the Disston Public School, both located on the spine of Longshore Avenue, were also created in the 1880s.[39] The Reverend Samuel F. Hotchkin, a Philadelphia amateur historian and author of several books on sections of the city, characterized the donation of the lot for the school as a manifestation of the family's "usual generosity."[40]

Another example of the inextricable relationship between control and benefit, and between the residential community and the Disston family, was the way in which utilities were organized in the community. Rather than drawing water from the often-polluted Delaware for residential use, Henry Disston pumped water from the Pennypack Creek watershed two miles away from Tacony, thus giving "Disston's town the purest [public] water in Philadelphia."[41] The water plant not only provided an essential utility, but also cash profit to the family.[42] The Tacony Fuel Gas Company was organized in 1888 in the home of Disston agent Thomas South, with Hamilton Disston as treasurer and principal investor.[43]

Thus, Henry Disston established both a workplace and residential community at Tacony that served several purposes. Its strategic location removed his skilled, white, ethnically northern European, Christian workforce from the densely developed urban landscape of Northern Liberties and provided incentives to relocate in the form of a subsidized, suburban-style residential community that offered a considerably higher quality of life than they had enjoyed there, even if this was a highly structured and constrained life. At the same time, this location also provided the ready means to ship Disston products both by rail and ship from the existing railroad spur and waterfront location, and a workforce that was committed by relative geographic isolation to working for the company that provided a home and social institutions *in situ*.

Growth in Tacony

After Henry Disston's death in 1878, the company and the development at Tacony continued to grow as the move of the Keystone works proceeded. In 1877, when Disston suffered the first of a number of strokes that would kill him in 1878, the company was at a crucial turning point with the move of the steel works, which was completed in 1879. By 1887, the vast majority of the Keystone operation had been relocated to Tacony, and the land owned by the Disston estate totaled nearly 400 acres, including the land on the southeast side of the railroad line that was

[39] See Iatarola and Gephart, *Tacony*, and Hotchkin, *The Bristol Pike*, pp. 67-74.
[40] Hotchkin, *The Bristol Pike*, p. 74.
[41] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 9.
[42] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 35.
[43] Ibid.

largely occupied by the saw works and associated enterprises.[44] After Henry's death, and because of the way his estate was structured financially, much of the control and fiscal operation of the real estate in Tacony was handled directly by his widow Mary.[45] Her estate would continue to be the primary family real estate entity in the community until the 1940s, controlling not only the rental and development of houses and lots, but the establishment of community welfare organizations.[46] At the time of its dissolution after the death of her last named heir in 1942, the Mary Disston Trust held 365 residential properties, which were available only to Disston employee renters.[47]

G. M. Hopkins's 1887 Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 23rd Ward (figure 3) testifies to the extent and character of the Disston Tacony development at that point.[48] The demographic distribution adumbrated by the 1876 atlas, in which Longshore Avenue served as a demarcation line between Jonathan Marsden's larger, single house on the northeast side and smaller, double and row houses for lower-rank workers stood on the other side of Longshore, is seen as a clear pattern of two different areas with houses built at different scales in the 1887 map. On the southeastern end of the community adjacent to the railroad line, construction was anchored at one end by St. Leo the Great Church on the southwest side of Unruh on Keystone Street, and on the northeast by large double and single houses on spacious lots in the block bounded by Keystone, Princeton and Tulip streets and Tyson Avenue on the "managers'" side of Longshore Avenue. Significantly, a community park had been established by the Disstons in the blocks between Keystone and the rail line and Tyson and Longshore. This landscaped park would serve as a key buffer and community amenity between the work zone on the southeast side of the railroad, where the factory stood, and the residential community of Tacony to its northwest. The map clearly shows paths crossing the southwestern half, and a central island bed. The 1887 map also clearly shows Tacony railroad station significantly larger than that indicated on the 1876 (and earlier) map on the other side of the tracks from the northeastern block of the park. Facing the park and the station, at the prominent corner of Keystone and Disston (called Washington at the time), Disston agent Thomas South's house is one of only two properties identified in the map by the name of the owner, thus indicating his importance in the community. The other house identified by name is that of Enoch R. Sinclair, another Disston foreman, located on the northeast side of Longshore two doors up from Marsden's residence. The growth of the Tacony workforce is reflected in the 1887 map in the construction of numerous double houses to the northwest of the original groups on Mary, Hamilton, and Keystone streets. One group of brick row houses that would become known as "Battleship" or "Gun Battery" row had been constructed in the 6700 block of Marsden Street.[49] This row had been used Jonathan Marsden as a tool on his 1880 trip to Sheffield to recruit more skilled steel workmen.[50] The northwestern end of the development was anchored by the Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church on Tyson

[44] "The Keystone Saw, Tool, Steel and File Works," in *Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Part III: Industrial Statistics*, vol. 15 (Harrisburg, PA: E. K. Meyers, 1888), p. E27; Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 8.
[44] On Mary Disston and her estate's activities, see Silcox, *Northeast Philadelphia: A Brief History* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009), pp. 87-91.
[46] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 57.
[47] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 137. Silcox reports that virtually all of these houses were purchased by their owners at the time.
[48] G. M. Hopkins, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 23rd Ward* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1887), plate 8.
[49] Iatarola and Gephart, *Tacony*, p. 12.
[50] Silcox, *Northeast Philadelphia: A Brief History*, p. 89.

DRAFT

Avenue at Glenloch, and by the Henry Disston Public School, on the southwest side of Lonsghore between Ditman and Glenloch. The map also shows that the existing school on the southeast side of the railroad had been converted for use as a police station.

The 1887 atlas also indicates that at the moment when the majority of the Disston operation had been established at Tacony, forces outside the Disston family were beginning to shape the town's development. The first industrial competitor to Keystone Saw had appeared on the scene nearby: Gillinder and Sons' Franklin Flint Glass Works was located adjacent to the Keystone works to their southwest, on the other side of the end of Magee Street. These manufacturers of window glass had relocated from an inland Kensington location in 1883.[51] Significantly, the same site would shortly be taken over, in 1887, by the Tacony Iron and Metal Company, which would soon be the firm responsible for casting the Calder statue of William Penn that stands atop Philadelphia City Hall, among other important projects.[52] As Silcox has noted, this company relied on skill metal workers such as those that were recruited by Disston from Sheffield and other English centers of steel industry.[53] The arrival of this company represented the first significant competition in Tacony for the skilled workers that were essential to the Disston operation. That same year, Erben, Search and Company also opened a woolen knitting factory immediately adjacent to the southwest of the Keystone Saw along the river.

This map also indicates that other residential real estate developers had begun activities in Tacony adjacent to or near the Disston holdings. To the northeast of the Disston land on the other side of Princeton Street, D. R. Patterson's multi-block property had been laid out for development in small lots. Although not yet laid out in lots, property now owned by the "Tacony Real Estate Association" lay southwest of Magee Street above Torresdale Avenue. Not far from Tacony on the northeast, the map shows the "Tacony Land Company" had laid out lots in another multi-block holding above Cottman Avenue.

Despite the fact that the circumstances of the Tacony community development were beginning to shift in the late 1880s, it was also being recognized as a remarkable achievement. In fact, the newer real estate and industrial developments near the Disstons' factory and residential community can be directly attributed to the effort to capitalize on their successes. One salient instance of this recognition of the Disston accomplishments is a report on Industrial Statistics published in 1888 by the state's Secretary of Internal Affairs. In this, not only are Henry Disston's extraordinary industrial achievements lauded, but his fervent interest in the well-being of his employees is also trumpeted. The author notes that Disston "was especially desirous that, so far as possible, [his employees] should become house owners." He further presents the founding of the building association in 1873 as "convenient and safe for investing the surplus earnings of the workmen," as well as a table of the rents of the Disston estate houses, which range from a minimum of $7 per month for a 5-room frame house to $18 per month for a 9-room brick dwelling, with a total of 220 rental properties. Another description originally published in the Frankford Gazette in 1888, and paraphrased by Samuel Hotchkin in the 1890s, is more

[51] See Hexamer General Surveys for the Franklin Window Glass Works, http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/HGSv19.1842; http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/HGSv10.0949-950, accessed 10 November 2014.
[51] See Hexamer General Survey for Tacony Iron and Metal Company, http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/HGSv24.2352, accessed 10 November 2014.
[53] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 57.

effusive. Hotchkin reports that "Henry Disston is revered and beloved," and that "young men called the new town 'Pluck'."[54]

Hotchkin, writing in the early 1890s, goes on particularly to praise the park that separates the Tacony residential community from the rail line and the factory and, as his account makes clear, serves as a gateway to the "village" when visitors arrive by train. Train service to and through Tacony had expanded considerably with the Pennsylvania Railroad's completion of the Connecting Railroad in the early 1870s. This line linked the Pennsylvania Railroad's West Philadelphia depot (near where 30th Street Station stands today) with the former Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad, thus completing the connection to downtown Philadelphia via the continuation of the Pennsylvania's lines across the city from 30th Street to the Delaware (the Connecting Railroad would eventually become the main line of the Pennsylvania Railroad across North Philadelphia and remains the Amtrak line today). Hotchkin reports that the 1888 account he paraphrases identifies the park as "the first thing that attracts a visitor when leaving the [railroad] cars and makes a pleasing foreground to display the fine houses which front on it. In the spring of the year, when its flowers are in bloom, the effect must be both pleasing and striking." Hotchkin goes on to underscore the importance of the park, asserting that "every new village should begin by laying out a park," and recapitulates a well-worn dictum that these small parks serve as "lungs of a city." Hotchkin goes on pointedly to contrast places like Tacony, where "the traveler cannot glance from the [train] car window . . . without pleasure," and which afford the "benefit of light and air," with other real estate activities in then-burgeoning Philadelphia: "men are too close in dividing their land; it is easier to cover a tract with houses than to restore its natural beauty."[55]

The 1890s saw further industrial and residential development in the Tacony area outside of the Disston holdings, along with further expansion of the Disston plant and Disston-owned residential land. Beginning in the late 1880s, Peter E. Costello became an increasingly important presence in the development in Tacony. Costello, who was born in Boston of Irish parents and arrived in Tacony in 1874, first found employment there in the Disston file shop. In 1880, he was one of a group of file cutters boarding with Disston laborer Henry Hayes in Tacony.[56] Records of sales from the Disston estate indicate that Costello purchased his first Tacony lots in July of 1888 – and that first sale corresponded to all of the lots fronting on the southeast side of Ditman Street between Unruh and Knorr. A group of double houses were built there by Costello.[57] In addition to the sale of other groups of lots to Costello alone, the Disston ledger also records purchases by Costello and Thomas South together. Costello's role in the community did not stop with his place as a builder, however: in 1891, he organized another important Tacony utility, the Suburban Electric Company, and also introduced, in 1901, the first street car line to serve the community. The Holmesburg, Tacony and Frankford Railroad Company, although a relatively modest initial effort, provided the first regular, affordable means for Disston and other Tacony factory workers to commute from outside the bounds of the Disston development.[58]

---

[54] Hotchkin, *The Bristol Pike*, p. 58.
[55] Ibid.
[56] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 63, and U. S. Census, 1880.
[57] Disston ledger, p. 54; Philadelphia Deed Book GGP 417, p. 10.
[58] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 63.

By 1894, the development on Disston Tacony land spanned to its southwest boundary with several groups of row houses on Tulip Street behind St. Leo's Church, at the south corner of the residential Disston holdings. Both row and double houses had spread as far inland as Glenloch Street on the southwest side of Longshore Avenue. The larger houses on the northeast side of Longshore extended up to Torresdale Avenue, and Disston Street, still known as Washington, had become the major spine for the management houses on this side of the community, while Longshore remained the principal institutional and commercial thoroughfare. Peter Costello's brownstone-clad single house was located on Washington at the corner of Torresdale.[59] Atlases of the city published in 1895 also show that residential development in the area had reached beyond the Disston land that year: brick rowhouses and double residences appear in the former Patterson estate, and scattered houses had also been built to the southwest of the Disston holdings.[60] The Bromley 1895 atlas also indicates that by that year, Disston Park had been extended the full width of the Disston land, from Magee to Princeton Avenue. This extent of the park from its 1887 size thus included an area developed beginning in 1873 with houses on the southeast side of Keystone Street southwest of Longshore Avenue that were removed to extend this important Tacony landscape feature.[61]

As Silcox has noted, the close knit community of Tacony that had persisted from its early 1870s start began to change from a "village of uniform values and small-town way of life" in the 1890s.[62] The influx of other industries, and thus other employers, the start of development of surrounding land by other parties, and the sheer size of the ever-growing Disston workforce began to shift this community from a small, isolated suburb of Disston's making to a larger neighborhood in the greater territory of the city.

This shift took place over the course of approximately two decades. A crucial factor in connecting Tacony to other portions of the city and changing its physical character was the introduction of a second trolley line in 1903 on Torresdale Avenue. In the nineteenth century, Torresdale Avenue was open only in small sections in Tacony. In fact, groups of double houses built on Disston land stood in its bed between Longhore Avenue and Unruh. Thus, the main thoroughfare, Longshore Avenue, connected the community to the Disston plant and the waterfront and reached out to Frankford Avenue, and there was no easy way to access neighborhoods adjacent to Tacony, including Wissinoming to the southwest, and Holmesburg to the northeast. Thus, not only the introduction of the trolley, but the cutting through of Torresdale itself on which it ran in the first years of the twentieth century changed the character of Tacony's relationship to areas outside it. The introduction of the trolley, the conventional way in which most commuters traveled in Philadelphia, allowed workers unprecedented ability to travel to work at the Keystone works and other nearby factories. Part of the shift in Tacony to a Philadelphia neighborhood relied on Torresdale as a connector. It slowly became the twentieth-century main street of the community.

---

[59] George W. and Walter S. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 23rd and 35th Wards* (Philadelphia, 1894), plates 9-12.
[59] G. W. Baist, *Baist's Property Atlas of the City and County of Philadelphia, Penna, Complete in One Volume* (Philadelphia, 1895), plate 47.
[60] George W. and Walter S. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Complete in One Volume* (Philadelphia, 1895), Plate 48.
[62] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 59.

By 1910, development in Tacony had clearly reached beyond the Disston land on the northeast, and spanned to Cottman Avenue. Torresdale Avenue linked Tacony to nearby Wissinoming, which had grown to significant size, and construction south of Hellerman Avenue was underway. As Silcox notes, in the early twentieth century, "Taconyites were now less likely to know their neighbors [and] the town had grown large enough to promote anonymity." It had also grown large enough to develop ethnic enclaves, including small groups of Italian, African-American, and Jewish immigrants who came to find work on the Tacony waterfront, and to share in the quality of life of the Disston workers.[63]

The period of World War I was a watershed for Tacony. In 1917, a group of residents formed the Tacony Fathers' Association. Their goal was "'better living conditions' . . . in a growing town that housed more strangers than friends."[64] The ideal, paternalistic workers' suburb in the city that Henry Disston created was no longer the utopian community blessed with "light and air" that it had been. While Keystone Saw continued to operate, and the Disstons and the company continued to support activities and organizations in Tacony, the bucolic separation of this community from the world around it had become a thing of the past. While Tacony continued to grow, and to remain a neighborhood closely tied to the Keystone factory into the period of World War II, that separate, suburban town was absorbed into the larger fabric of the city.

Conclusion

It could easily, and not inaccurately be argued that the creation of the Tacony community development was a matter of enlightened self-interest on Disston's part. In retrospect, it might be characterized as elitist, paternalistic, and controlling. By the standards of his age, however, and relative to the working and living conditions and choices available to industrial workers in Philadelphia, Disston offered his labor force not only better working circumstances, job security for themselves and other members of their family, and better working benefits, but also a suburban-style town and associated quality of life that represented a utopian vision of what a worker's community could be. It thus anticipated many other, similar efforts that would follow it and a significant step in the recognition of the importance of both good working and living conditions for American industrial workers. The Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District therefore merits listing in the National Register for its significance under Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development and Social History for its association with and important place in the history of intentional, idealistic company towns in Pennsylvania.

DRAFT

[63] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 71.
[64] Silcox, *A Place to Live and Work*, p. 70.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baist, G. W. *Baist's Property Atlas of the City and County of Philadelphia, Penna, Complete in One Volume*. Philadelphia, 1895.

Barnes, R. L. *Barnes New Map of the Consolidated City of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia, 1855.

Bishop, J. Leander, ed. *A History of American Manufactures from 1608 to 1860*. Philadelphia: Edward Young, 1868.

Bromley, George W. and Walter S. *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 23rd and 35th Wards*. Philadelphia, 1894.

_____. *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Complete in One Volume*. Philadelphia, 1895.

"Church of Grindstones." *Washington Post*, 14 April, 1916, p. 6.

Disston Real Estate Sales Book No. 1, p. 1, Collection Historical Society of Tacony.

Dripps, M. *Map of the Township of Oxford, Boroughs of Frankford and Bridesburg, with Parts of Bristol, N. Liberties and Cheltenham Townships*. Philadelphia, 1849.

Freedley, Edwin. *Philadelphia and Its Manufactures: A Hand-Book*. Philadelphia: Edward Young, 1859.

Hopkins, G. M. *City Atlas of Philadelphia by Wards, Complete in 7 Volumes, Vol. 3, 23rd Ward*. Philadelphia, 1876.

_____. *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 23rd Ward*. Philadelphia, 1887.

Hotchkin, Samuel F. *The Bristol Pike*. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co., 1893.

Hudson, Sam. *Pennsylvania and its Public Men*. Philadelphia: Hudson & Joseph, 1909.

Iatarola, Louis M. and Siobhán Gephart. *Tacony*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2000.

"Obituary." Philadelphia Inquirer, 18 March 1878, p.2.

Scharf, J. Thomas, and Thompson Westcott. *History of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: L. H. Everts & Co., 1884.

DRAFT

Scott, James D. *Scott and Moore's Map of the Consolidated City of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: Scott and Moore, 1856.

Secretary of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. "The Keystone Saw, Tool, Steel and File Works." In *Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Part III: Industrial Statistics, vol. 15*. Harrisburg, PA: E. K. Meyers, 1888.

Silcox, Harry C. *A Place to Live and Work: The Henry Disston Saw Works and the Tacony Community of Philadelphia*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1994.

_____. *Northeast Philadelphia: A Brief History*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.

Silcox, Harry C., ed. *The History of Tacony, Holmesburg and Mayfair: An Intergenerational Study*. Philadelphia: Brighton Press, 1992.

Weigley, Russell ed. *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1982.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
_X_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
_X_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #PA 6692
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

DRAFT

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property appox. 158 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.0245°	Longitude: -75.0548°
2. Latitude: 40.0182°	Longitude: -75.0492°
3. Latitude: 40.0249°	Longitude: -75.0367°
4. Latitude: 40.0312°	Longitude: -75.0420°

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at the south corner of Disston Park, and continuing northwest along the edge of Disston Park to its northwest boundary, continuing northeast along the edge of Disston Park to a point opposite the southwest boundary of 6602 Keystone Street, continuing northwest across Keystone Street and along the southwest boundary of 6602 Keystone Street to its northwest corner, continuing northeast along the northwest (rear) boundary of 6602 Keystone Street to its northern corner, continuing northwest along the southwest border of 6605 Tulip Street to its northwest corner, continuing across Tulip Street to the south corner of 6604 Tulip Street, continuing northwest along the boundary of this property to its northwest (rear)

DRAFT

corner, continuing southwest along the rear (southeast) boundary of 6613 Edmund Street to its southern corner, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6613 Edmund Street to it northwest corner, continuing across Edmund Street to the south corner of 6606 Edmund Street, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6606 Edmund Street to its northwest corner where it meets the boundary of 6603 Hegerman Street, continuing northeast along the southeast boundary of 6603 Hegerman Street to its southeast corner, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6607 Hegerman Street to its northwest corner, continuing across Hegerman Street to the south corner of 6606 Hegerman Street, continuing along the southwest boundary of 6606 Hegerman Street and 6607 Vandike Street to the northwest (front) edge of 6607 Vandike Street, continuing across Vandike Street to the south corner of 6608 Vandike Street, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6608 Vandike Street to its west (rear) corner, continuing northeast along the rear of 6608 Vandike Street to the point where this property line meets the south corner of 6606 Torresdale Avenue, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6606 Torresdale Avenue to its west (front) corner, continuing northwest across Torresdale Avenue to the south corner of 6610 Torresdale Avenue, continuing northwest along the southwest boundaries of 6610 Torresdale Avenue and 6621 Marsden Street to the west (front) corner of 6621 Marsden Street, continuing across Marsden Street to the south corner of 6608 Marsden Street, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6608 Marsden Street to its west (rear) corner, continuing northeast along the northwest boundaries of 6608, 6610, and 6612 Marsden Street to the north (rear) corner of 6612 Marsden Street, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6615 Ditman Street to its west (front) corner, continuing across Ditman Street to the south (front) corner of 6608 Ditman Street, continuing northwest along the southwest border of 6608 Ditman Street to its west (rear) corner, continuing northeast along the rear property line of 6608-6644 Ditman Street to the south (rear) corner of 4560 Unruh Avenue, continuing northwest along the rear property lines of 4560-4550 Unruh Avenue, continuing across Unruh Avenue to the south (front) corner of 6630 Glenloch Street, continuing northwest along the southwest boundary of 6630 Glenloch Street to its west (rear) corner, continuing northeast along the rear property lines of 6630-6648 Glenloch Street, continuing across Unruh Avenue to the west (front) corner of 4513 Unruh Avenue, continuing northeast along the northwest boundary of 4513 Unruh Avenue and along the northwest (rear) boundaries of 6708-6742 Glenloch Street to the north (rear) corner of 6742 Glenloch Street, continuing northwest along the rear boundaries of 4506-4500 Knorr Street to a point in the middle of Jackson Street, continuing along the middle of Jackson Street to a point parallel with the southwest boundary of 6816 Jackson Street, continuing northwest across Jackson Street and along the southwest boundary of 6816 Jackson Street to its west (rear) corner, continuing northeast along the northwest boundary of 6816 Jackson Street to its north (rear) corner, continuing southeast along its northeast boundary to its east (front corner), continuing in a straight line to the center of Jackson Street, continuing northeast along the center of Jackson Street to the center of Longshore Avenue, continuing northwest along the center of Longshore Avenue to the center of Gillespie Street, continuing northeast along the center of Gillespie Street to a point parallel with the south corner (side rear) of 4414 Disston Street, continuing northwest along the rear property lines of 4414-4400 Disston Street, continuing northeast along the northwest boundary of 4400 Disston Street, across Disston Street and the northwest boundary of 4401 Disston Street to the north (side rear) corner of 4401 Disston Street, continuing southeast along the rear (northeast) property lines

DRAFT

of 4401 and 4415 Disston Street to a point in the middle of Gillespie Street, continuing northeast along the middle of Gillespie Street to a point in parallel with the west (front) corner of 6651 Gillespie Street, continuing southeast along the southwest boundary of 6651 Gillespie Street to its south (rear) corner, continuing northeast along its southeast boundary and to a point in the middle of Tyson Avenue, continuing southeast along the middle of Tyson Avenue to a point parallel with the west (side rear) corner of 7000 Torresdale Avenue, continuing northeast along the rear of the property lines of 7000-7048 Torresdale Avenue and to a point in the middle of Princeton Avenue, continuing southeast along the middle of Princeton Avenue to the middle of Torresdale Avenue, continuing southwest along the middle of Torresdale to a point parallel with the north (front) corner of 7051 Torresdale Avenue, continuing southeast along the northeast (side) boundaries of 7051 Torresdale Avenue and 7502 Vandike Street and to a point in the middle of Vandike Street, continuing northeast in the middle of Vandike Street to a point in the middle of Princeton Avenue, continuing southeast along the middle of Princeton Avenue to a point in the middle of Edmund Street, continuing southwest along the middle of Edmund Street to a point parallel with the west corner of 4824 Princeton Avenue, continuing southeast along the rear boundary of 4824 Princeton Avenue to its south corner, continuing northeast along the rear of 7048-7050 Tulip Street to the north (rear) corner of 7050 Tulip Street, continuing southeast along its northeast boundary and to a point in the middle of Tulip Street, continuing northeast to a point in the middle of Princeton Avenue, continuing southeast along the middle of Princeton Avenue to a point parallel with the east corner of Disston Park, continuing southwest along the southeast edge of Disston Park to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary corresponds to the limits of the developed portion of the Disston holdings in the Tacony section of Philadelphia at the end World War I, after which point the Disston-created community was no longer self-contained, and Disston Park, which was the main designed landscape feature and buffer for this community.

---

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Emily T. Cooperman, Ph.D, Senior Consultant
organization: Preservation Design Partnership, Llc.
street & number: 30 South 17th Street, Suite #1301
city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code:19103
e-mail etcooperman@comcast.net
telephone:267-702-0778 date:11/15/14

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

DRAFT

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Tacony Disston Community Development Historic District

City or Vicinity: Philadelphia

County: Philadelphia State: Pennsylvania

Photographer: Emily T. Cooperman, John M. Evans

Date Photographed: See table

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: See table

#	Date	Photographer	Description of view
1	11/14/2014	Emily Cooperman	4900 block Knorr Street, looking north at northeast side
2	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	7013 Tulip Street, looking northeast
3	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	4921 Longshore Avenue, looking east
4	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	7000-7016 Hegerman Street, looking north.
5	4/2/2013	John M. Evans	4600 Disston Street, looking southwest
6	4/2/2013	J. Evans	4622 Disston street, looking southwest
7	3/29/2013	J. Evans	6822 Hegerman Street, looking northwest
8	3/29/2013	J. Evans	6824 Hegerman Street, looking north
9	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	Disston Memorial Presbyterian Church, looking west from Tyson Avenue
10	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	Mary Disston School, looking north from Longshore Avenue

DRAFT

11	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	German Evangelical Lutheran Church (St. Petri), looking north from Jackson Street
12	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	Tacony Baptist Church, looking east from Disston Street
13	3/27/2013	J. Evans	St. Leo the Great Church, looking northwest from Keystone Street
14	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	"Castle Row", Tulip Street, looking west
15	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	6800 Block Ditman Street, looking southwest from Longshore Avenue
16	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	4709-11 Disston Street, looking north
17	3/28/2013	J. Evans	Tacony Methodist Church, looking south from Longshore Avenue
18	3/28/2013	J. Evans	Tacony Music Hall, looking north from Longshore Avenue
19	3/27/2013	J. Evans	Tacony Trust Fund, looking south from Longshore Avenue
20	3/29/2013	J. Evans	Tacony Branch, Free Library of Philadelphia, looking northwest from Torresdale Avenue
21	3/27/2013	J. Evans	Thomas South residence, 6932 Keystone Street, looking north from the intersection of Keystone Street and Disston Street
22	3/27/2013	J. Evans	Disston Park, looking northeast from near Unruh Avenue, with Keystone Street at left
23	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	Used grindstone wall, Disston Recreation Center, looking northwest on Longshore Avenue at intersection of Glenloch Street
24	11/14/2014	E. Cooperman	Historic fencing, 6900 block Hegerman Street, looking west from near Disston Street intersection
25	3/27/2013	J. Evans	Rear wall, 6739 Ditman Street, looking northwest from Josephine Street showing former grindstone wall

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

DRAFT