

DIAMOND STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY AMENDMENT

Proposed Action: Boundary amendment

Applicant: Philadelphia Historical Commission

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OVERVIEW: This application proposes to amend the boundary of the Diamond Street Historic District, removing all properties from the district on the south side of Diamond Street between N. Lambert Street and N. Van Pelt Street, at the far southwest corner of the district. All of these properties are currently vacant lots. The Diamond Street Historic District was listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1986. At the time of the designation, buildings classified as contributing in the district inventory, which were in very poor condition, stood on these blocks. Not long after the designation of the district, the Department of Licenses & Inspections cited these buildings as “imminently dangerous” and the blocks of houses were demolished, resulting in the vacant lots that are present today. In 2001, the staff of the Historical Commission presented a proposal to amend the historic district boundary to account for extensive demolition, but that proposal called for cutting the boundary to 20th Street, which would have removed several historic buildings from the district. No action was taken by the Commission on the proposal, owing to community opposition to amending the district boundary. This current proposal requests the rescission of two vacant blocks only, where the buildings were demolished approximately 20 years ago. Historic preservation standards advise against including non-historic or non-contributing properties on historic district boundaries. Best practices suggest that the boundary should be amended to remove the vacant blocks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends amending the boundary of the Diamond Street Historic District to remove the vacant lots at 2028-2042 and 2100-2116 Diamond Street from the district.



Proposal to adjust boundary to remove 2028-2042 and 2100-2116 Diamond Street from the Diamond Street Historic District. Existing boundary in red; change in yellow.