

FW: RE: at 1615-31 N. Delaware Ave

Joe Clearkin <joe@clearkin.com>

Thu 8/6/2020 11:47 AM

To: Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

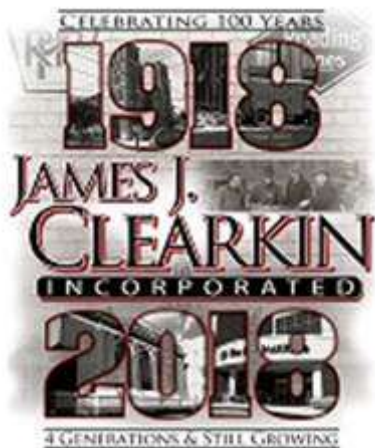
Laura, I came across the nomination on the above referenced property . I think a nomination like this is actually a disservice to the Historical Commission . The commission serves an important and critical function in maintaining the Historical Character of Philadelphia but when you get bogged down on nominations such as this I feel it distracts from your mission .

Should I write a formal letter to the commission objecting to this nomination ? Or will this e mail serve as that objection .

Sincerely

Joseph P Clearkin .

James J Clearkin Inc
110 Franklin Ave
Cheltenham , Pa 19012
(p) 215 663 0700
(f) 215 663 0735
Cell 215 738 0934
www.clearkin.com



Property at 1615-31 N Delaware

Charlie Cook LAST_NAME <charliecook@comcast.net>

Tue 8/4/2020 2:11 PM

To: Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>

Cc: mas@stepgc.com <mas@stepgc.com>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Laura Dipasquale--

I am writing regarding the Property at 1615-31 N. Delaware. It is my understanding there will be a hearing before the Historical Commission on this property.

May I suggest there is a mantra of the medical profession that I hope all professionals would adopt:

"First, do no harm."

I would like to lend some perspective that is admittedly outside the usual view of historic preservationists. I am, however, not without some experience. If you would like, visit my website (www.constructingleaders.com) and watch either the video on Carpenters' Hall or *Saving the Gruber Wagon Works* (the last remaining example of 19th century wagon works manufacturing)--a Corps of Engineers award winning project.

What might seem a minor stroke for cultural heritage could have unfortunate personal consequences for a private individual who has an excellent track record of care and concern for the preservation of historic structures while advancing social opportunities to improve the lives of Philadelphia citizens. When first purchased there was no indication the structure at 1615-31 N Delaware had any value beyond the purchaser's needs. To speculate that it might now have some sort of future cultural or historical possibilities does do more harm to an individual beyond the degree of unproven or speculative preservation value.

There is some speculation that perhaps future excavation might yield significant insights into this part of the city and its development.

I think the research that has been done on the structures and area is worthwhile and well done. However, even though very well researched, this Philadelphia structure is no Troy of Homeric legend. I am not suggesting the ordinary cannot be extraordinary. In this case the benefits of some speculative few individuals ever in the future gaining some insights into past Philadelphia history beyond the excellent research and documentation that has already been done does not balance evenly with burdening the current private owner from using the property as an asset. Although some suggest a strong connection to Philadelphia shipping (and I appreciate the research that has been well done to document that aspect of this part of Philadelphia), there will be no face to "launch a thousand ships"--no Homer to romanticize the legend of this structure. Moreover, it is well documented that Heinrich Schliemann misidentified Troy by misunderstanding the artifacts he excavated. It is my understanding the fill under the structure was imported fill. To think a future archaeologist will find an *in situ* artifact that relates directly to the culture of this particular site is as unfortunate as it is unlikely.

I note, however, laws already exist to protect artifacts during excavation and Historically Commissioning the building is not necessary to protect such unearthed artifacts.

I had the good fortune to learn from Bob Venturi and Denise Scott Brown about the lack of preservation of the structures lost in the creation of Independence Mall. The views they expressed are obviously quite different than the perspectives of those who created the Mall. From all over the world, tourists come to see the iconic Independence Hall, never realizing that neither the view nor the structure itself with its 19th century tower was ever seen by our founders as we look upon it today.

Many buildings were lost, including the historic Jayne Building--architecturally and historically a great loss, but a structure that had not existed at the time of our founding. I am not here to judge the right or wrong of the Mall. Bob and Denise had strong and excellent points to make. Perhaps the Mall is a genuine example that two rights do not make a single right. All I do know is 1615-31 N Delaware is no Jayne Building, it is not Independence Hall, and future speculation that a Homer might immortalize it will not come true.

The significant research has been done well and can be available to scholars, but with so many more important endeavors our city and country need to undertake, I cannot imagine funds will ever be available to move forward with historic but speculative archaeology and restoration.

I ask the Commission to consider no harm should be done to a person who has owned an asset never considered before now to be of historic value at the price of such speculation.

Charles W. Cook, Ph. D



August 5, 2020

Ref: 1615-31 N Delaware Avenue Historic Nomination

To Whom It May Concern;

As president and CEO of Weber Display and Packaging I am dismayed to hear that a fellow member of the Richmond Corridor Association has had their building nominated for Historic Designation. I am referring to the nomination of 1615-31 N Delaware Ave. I am familiar with the building referenced and it is awful. If this is what the City is choosing to preserve for the future, then I fear for future of the City. We have of three industrial buildings in the City totaling over 235,000 SF that are well maintained but at the end of the day they are utilitarian industrial manufacturing facilities configured to best suit production. The last thing I would want is the burden of Historic Designation placed upon any of them.

It is my recommendation that you reject this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'James Doherty, III'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Doherty, III
President/CEO
Weber Display and Packaging

Letter of support for 1615 -31 N Delaware Ave nomination

K <kennethwmilano@gmail.com>

Tue 6/16/2020 4:14 PM

To: Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Laura DiPasquale:

My name is Ken Milano, a local historian for Fishtown and Kensington. This letter is a letter of support for the Keeping Society's historical nomination of the property at 1615-31 N DELAWARE AVE in Philadelphia, PA, a.k.a. the former Bradlee & Co. Empire Chain Works.

As you likely know the neighborhoods of Fishtown and Kensington are still going through a great gentrification process causing the loss of many of our old industrial heritage buildings. In particular, this Bradlee & Co. Empire Chain Works building harkens back to the days when Kensington (Fishtown) was a great maritime center with some of the most famous shipyards in America's history, as well as supporting industries to those shipyards.

This structure could easily be restored and contribute to the gentrification of the and redevelopment of the community, while at the same time saving the historical architecture of the area.

As a local historian who has dedicated the better part of 35 years in researching, documenting, and preserving the history of these two, not just Philadelphia neighborhoods, but great American neighborhoods, I implore you to support this historical nomination application for 1615-31 N. Delaware Avenue.

Kenneth W. Milano
2313 East York Street
Philadelphia, PA 19125
215-317-6466



SABLE CONSTRUCTION, INC.
1609 N. DELAWARE AVE.
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19125
TEL 215-427-1462
FAX 215-427-1796
EMAIL fm@sableinc.com

The Philadelphia Historical Commission
Philadelphia, PA

Attention: Members of the Commission

RE: 1615-31 N Delaware Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19125

I am writing in regard to your considering the building at the corner of DELAWARE and SUSQUEHANNA STS and to somehow "exemplify my Community" How degrading that would be.

There are notable historic buildings and properties in this community, the Kensington Soup Society, Palmer Cemetery, Penn Treaty Park. Many historic churches and I would think others that may be deserving of designation. To use this example of a building to represent the culture of this community is absurd.

Please dismiss this frivolous nomination and terminate this waste of time before it becomes an insult to the heritage of this community.

Submitted by,

Francenia Mott
Local Resident and
Employee of Sable Construction



August 6, 2020

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 1615-31 N Delaware Ave Historical Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

As the owner of Digs Living, a woman-owned landscaping business (certified WBE and WOSB) and a tenant of 1615-31 N. Delaware Ave., I want to express my opposition to the property being designated "historic".

The building at the corner of Delaware & Susquehanna Avenues may be old, but it is not attractive, and it is currently providing no aesthetic value to the community or city on the whole. Historic designation will only bring additional expenses to the owner of the property, which will then be passed along to tenants in higher rental costs. During these trying times, please do not add another obstacle in the road our survival.

Sincerely,

Anna Prinzo
Digs Living, LLC

Sable Construction, Inc.

Attention: The Philadelphia Historical Commission

Re: 1615-31 N. Delaware Ave.

I am writing to express my opposition to this property being designated Historic.

I am the owner of Sable Construction; we are a minority owned business that has occupied this site and an office at 1609 N. Delaware since our start in 1998. During this time we have received significant support from our landlord LMM and fellow tenant Stepnowski Bros. This substantial support has helped Sable to continue in business for twenty-two years.

While the Covid 19 epidemic and the current economic conditions are making it much more difficult to operate I hope that no further restrictions and costs are placed on this property and ultimately on the tenants to jeopardize our ability to continue.

In closing I must say that it is surprising that this nomination is even being considered as although it is an old building it is not in very *good* condition and the street facing walls are ugly. I don't see how this historic designation would benefit anyone.

R. C. White,

President

Sable Construction Inc.

1609 North Delaware Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125-4318
Phone: (215) 427-1462 Fax: (215) 427-1796