ADDRESS: 2101 E WESTMORELAND ST AND 3320 COLLINS ST
Name of Resource: Scholler Bros., Inc.
Proposed Action: Designation
Property Owner: ARAWA Holding Corp
Nominator: Keeping Society of Philadelphia
Staff Contact: Meredith Keller, meredith.keller@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes to designate the properties at 2101 E. Westmoreland Street and 3320 Collins Street and list them on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination contends that the properties satisfy Criterion for Designation J. Under Criterion J, the nomination argues that the properties comprised an industrial complex known as Scholler Brothers Incorporated where textile soaps, softeners, and other textile chemicals were manufactured. The nomination contends that the company and its associated buildings are representative of Kensington's larger historic textile industry. The buildings on the Westmoreland lot are in very poor condition. Most of the structures have lost their roofs and are vacant shells of buildings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the nomination fails to demonstrate that the properties at 2101 E. Westmoreland Street and 3320 Collins Street satisfy Criterion for Designation J. While Scholler Brothers is an example of the manufacturing firms that collectively comprised the Kensington textile industry, it is not an exemplar. To qualify under Criterion J, a site must exemplify, not merely be an example of, the heritage of a community. Each criterion in the preservation ordinance establishes a standard that some but not all properties can meet. If the ordinance were intended to permit the designation of all properties regardless of merit, it would not have included Criteria for Designation. Moreover, the poor condition of much of the complex argues against designation. The preservation ordinance authorizes the Historical Commission to mandate the preservation, but not the reconstruction, of historic buildings.



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

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM (CD, EMAIL, FLASH DRIVE)
ELECTRONIC FILES MUST BE WORD OR WORD COMPATIBLE

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

Street address: **2101 E. Westmoreland Street and 3320 Collins Street**

Postal code: **19134**

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2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **Scholler Bros., Inc.**

Current/Common Name: **2101 E. Westmoreland Street**

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3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Site ☐ Object

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4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: ☐ excellent ☒ good ☒ fair ☒ poor ☐ ruins

Occupancy: ☒ occupied ☒ vacant ☐ under construction ☐ unknown

Current use: Unknown

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5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and site/plot plan of the resource's boundaries.

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6. DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and photographs of the resource's physical appearance, site, setting, and surroundings.

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7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from **1908** to **1957**

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: **ca.1908; and ca.1940**

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: **Horace W. Castor, Architect**

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: **Irwin & Leighton, Contractors**

Original owner: **Scholler Bros., Inc.**

Other significant persons: **NA**

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

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

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

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

9. NOMINATOR

Organization: **Keeping Society of Philadelphia**

Author: **Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian** Date: **2 September 2020**

Address: **1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320** Telephone: **717.602.5002**

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 Email: **keeper@keepingphiladelphia.org**

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: September 11, 2020

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: October 30, 2020

Date of Notice Issuance: November 2, 2020

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Arawak Holding Corp.

Address: 2101 E Westmoreland St/3220 Collins St

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19134

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

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission:

Date of Final Action:

☐ Designated ☐ Rejected

NOMINATION

FOR THE

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Figure 1. The northwest and southwest elevations of Building 2: Office and Building 3: Warehouse. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia, 2020.

SCHOLLER BROS., INC.

ERECTED 1908–1940

—

MANUFACTURERS OF TEXTILE SOAPS & SOFTENERS

—

2101 E. WESTMORELAND STREET AND 3320 COLLINS STREET

KENSINGTON

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Summer 2020
Scholler Brothers, Inc., 2101 E. Westmoreland Street and 3320 Collins Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Figure 2. The boundary for the proposed designation is delineated in red. Source: Atlas, City of Philadelphia, 2019.

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the designation of the subject property is as follows:

2101 E. Westmoreland Street:
Beginning at a point at the Northeast corner of Westmoreland and Amber Street, thence extending northeasterly along Amber Street a distance of 255 feet to a point; thence extending southeasterly along a line parallel with E. Westmoreland Street a distance of 70 feet to a point; thence extending southwesterly along a line parallel with Amber Street a distance of 168 feet to a point; thence extending southeasterly along a line parallel with E. Westmoreland Street a distance of 17 feet to a point; thence extending southwesterly along a line parallel with Amber Street a distance of 87 feet to a point along E. Westmoreland Street; thence extending northwesterly along E. Westmoreland Street a distance of 86.99 feet to the northeast corner of Westmoreland and Amber Streets, the place of beginning.

3320 Collins Street:
Beginning at a point on the northwesterly side of Collins Street (40' wide) measured North 57 degrees 35' 34" East, along the northwesterly side of said Collins Street, the distance of 172' from the intersection formed by the northeasterly side of Westmoreland Street (60' wide) and the northwesterly side of Collins Street; thence extending from said point of beginning North 32 degrees 24' 26" West, the distance of 70' to a point; thence extending North 57 degrees 35' 34" East, the distance of 152.583' to a point; thence extending South 32 degrees 24' 26" East, the distance of 70' to a point on the northwesterly side of said Collins Street; thence extending South 57 degrees 35' 34" West along the northwesterly side of said Collins Street the distance of 152.583' to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

OPA Account Nos. 884201435 and 884201440



Figure 3. An aerial photograph of the subject property with each building component delineated, as reflected in the paragraph below. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia, 2018.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Known historically as Scholler Bros, Inc., the subject property is an urban industrial complex in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. In keeping with the ubiquitous built environment of the larger city, the five contributing buildings are all of red brick construction: 1. Laboratory; 2. Office; 3. Warehouse; 3a; Warehouse; 4. Factory; 4a. Garage; 4b. Garage; and 5. Factory.





Figure 4. Left: The southwest elevation of Building 2: Office and Building 3: Warehouse. Figure 5. Right: Looking east at the subject property. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia, 2018.

Building 1: Laboratory

Building 1: Laboratory is a rectangular brick shed with a clerestory that is situated northwest to southeast. The building is attached at the southeast by Building 3: Warehouse and at the northeast by Building 4a: Garage.



Figure 6. The northwest and southwest elevations of Building 2: Office. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia, 2020.

Building 2: Office

Appearing to have been built as a corner rowhouse, Building 2: Office is a two-story brick building that faces southeast onto Westmoreland Street. The building is clad in warm red brick that comprises a semi-symmetrical fenestration on Westmoreland Street of two windows and a pedestrian door on the ground floor and three windows centered and symmetrically placed on the second. The pedestrian door is shuttered and accessible by a flight of three steps. The building features a two-tiered cornice starting with two courses of brick dentils, followed by courses of pressed tin metal. The building featured a flat roof, most of which has deteriorated. The northeast elevation on Amber Street is roughly five bays in width featuring a single window, followed by a pedestrian door, and three additional windows, all of which emulate the Westmoreland Street façade. The northeastern half of the second-floor features three like-sized windows followed by the upper portion of ghost signage that spans two full bays. The fading paint, framed in its faded border, features two words in small font, followed by two large letters: "if its…H-O", which was apparently some kind of advertisement.



Figure 7. Looking southeast at the northwest elevation of Building 1: Warehouse and Building 2: Office. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2020.





Figure 8. Top: The northwest elevation of Building 1: Laboratory, showing ghost signage. Figure 9. Bottom: The northwest elevation of Building 1: Laboratory and Building 2: Office. Source: Oscar Beisert.



Figure 10. The southwest elevation of Building 3: Warehouse. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2019.

Building 3 & 3a: Warehouse

Removed by one building from the corner of Westmoreland and Amber Streets, Building 3: Warehouse is an L-shaped, red brick structure that is of load-bearing masonry and steel post construction. The primary (southwest) elevation is three bays in width and stands one-and-one-half-stories tall and dominated by a prominent gable. The building is centered on a double-door, vehicle bay that is raised from the sidewalk with a stone threshold, a pair of heavy wooden doors, defined at the top by a segmental brick arch. This opening is flanked by single window openings with stone sills and segmental brick arches. The windows are shuttered with plywood. The top half-story is formed by a gable at the center of which is an oculus that is formed by brick headers. The original pressed tin metal cornice partly exists.

The northwest elevation of the L-shaped portion of the building faces onto Amber Street, which is divided into two sections. The southwesterly portion is two bays in width with a pedestrian door and window at the ground floor, and two windows at the second floor. The northeasterly portion of the northwest elevation features a vehicle door at the ground floor and two windows on the second. The first floor features heavy wooden doors. The details of the façade, fenestration and features are similar the southwest elevation.



Figure 11. Left: The northwest elevation of Building 4: Factory. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2020. Figure 12. Right: Looking east at the northwest and southwest elevations of Building 4: Factory. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia.

Building 4: Factory, 4a: Garage, and 4b: Garage

Standing on the southwest side of Amber Street Building 4: Factory is a large red brick factory that rises three full stories tall with a partial fourth floor pent house at the primary (northwest) elevation on Amber Street. A one-story production shed appends the southwest elevation of the larger mass. The northwest elevation is four irregular bays in width, the three smaller of which represent the larger, four-story component at the northeast, while the largest bay serves the three-story component at the southwest. The three bays feature a larger open aperture that corresponds with the stair tower at each floor, leading to the fourth floor pent house where the opening is not present. Flanking this open aperture is two smaller like-size multi-light window, which extend to the fourth floor. The said three-story component of Building 3 at the southwest features a large loading bay at the ground floor with two large multi-light windows at the second and third floor. The one-story component appending the southwest elevation features a large multi-light window that has been infilled. The larger, southwest elevation features three bays of multi-light windows at the second floor and four at the third. A single-story garage appends the northwest elevation of Building 3, which is non-contributing.



Figure 13. Top: The northwest elevation of Building 4: Factory. Figure 14. Bottom: the northeast and northwest elevations of Building 4b: Garage and Building 4: Factory. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2020.




Figure 15. Left: The southeast elevation of Building 5: Factory. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2020. Figure 16. Right: Looking north at Building 5: Factory. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia.

Building 5: Factory

Standing on the northeast side of Collins Street, Building 5: Factory is a two-story industrial building of load-bearing and steel frame construction with a flat roof. The building features a modernist industrial fenestration in a warm red brick façade evocative of its period of construction, featuring infilled bays at the ground floor and large industrial windows at the second. The windows at the second floor have been infilled, but at least one section of Argus glass blocks remain near the southwest end of the façade. At the south corner of the building is a small two-story stair tower that penetrates the roofline allowing roof access. This tower also features double metal doors at the ground floor with Argus glass blocks in at least part of the floors above. The flat roof features intact skylights.

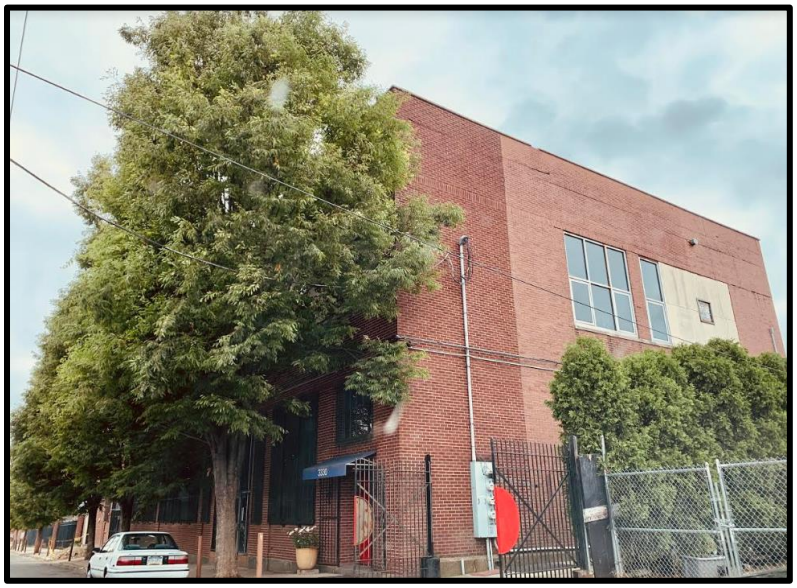


Figure 17. The northeast and southeast elevations of Building 5: Factory. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2020.

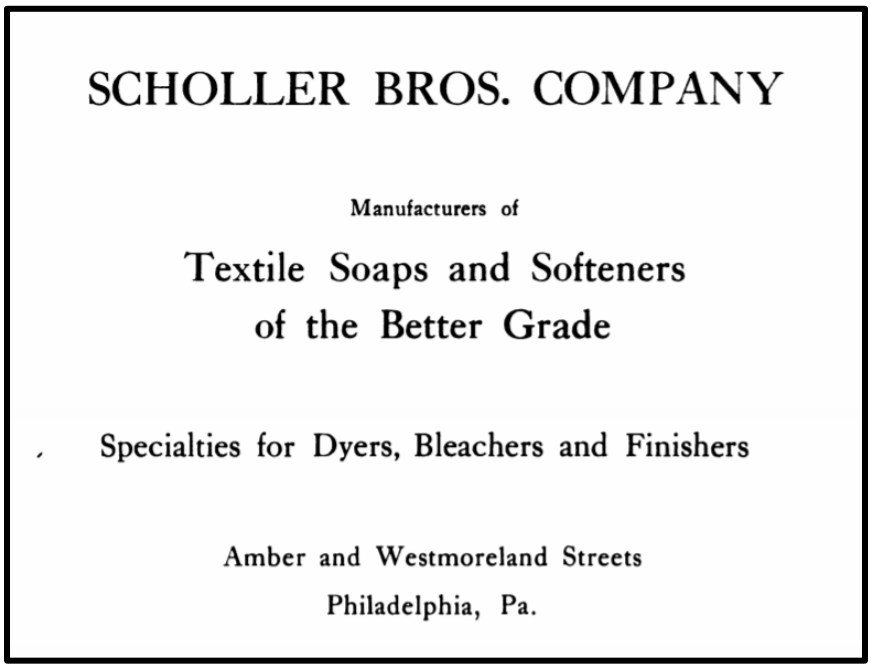


Figure 18. Advertisement for "Scholler Bros. Company". Source: *Official Pictorial and Descriptive Souvenir Book of the Historical Pageant.* (Philadelphia: 1912).

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Known historically as the Scholler Brothers, the subject property at the corner of Amber and Westmoreland is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The subject property satisfies the following Criteria for Designation, as enumerated in Section 14–1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

(j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.[1]

The period of significance dates from 1908, when construction of the subject facility began, to 1957, when a large portion of the firm's operations moved to New Jersey.

[1] Criterion J is presented in two parts.

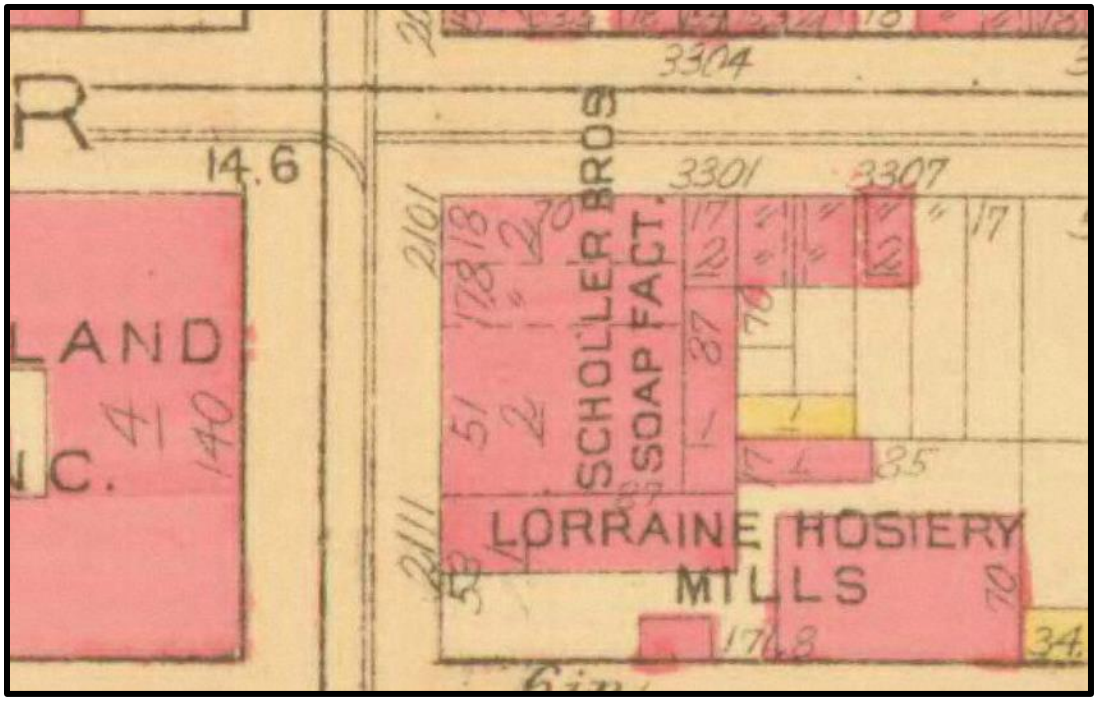


Figure 19. A 1925 Atlas, showing Scholler Brothers, the subject property. Source: Atlas of the City of Philadelphia (North Phila.), Wards 25, 33, 37, 38, 43 and 45, 1925, Plate 32. Via Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

CRITERION J

Scholler Brothers Incorporated (Scholler Bros., Inc.) is a significant industrial complex representative of the history of the textile industry in Kensington from 1908 to 1958, exemplifying the cultural, economic, social, and historical heritage of what was then a larger manufacturing ecosystem. Founded circa 1907, Scholler Bros., Inc. was a family partnership between Frederick Charles Scholler (1886-1957); Adolph Scholler (1884-1939); and Henry Herbert Scholler (1888-1939), which grew from a small building at 3301 Amber Street to a large plant that occupied much of the block at Westmoreland and Amber Streets.[2] The firm manufactured "textile soaps and softeners," as well as "specialties for dyers, bleachers and finishers", becoming one of "the country's largest manufacturer of textile chemicals…"[3] Scholler Bros., Inc. supplied their products to "mills throughout the country", as well as "many mills of Canada, England and Australia…[4] In addition, the firm was also a well-known manufacturer that contributed to the efforts of World War I.[5] Known informally as soap manufacturers, the firm was "one of the most important in its field".[6]

[2] *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 3 January 1882, 3. Note: Adolph Scholler became a dyer and a chemist for the firm of Pilling & Madeley at the age of eighteen, a firm which he served until 1919 when he joined Scholler Bros., Inc.

[3] *Official Pictorial and Descriptive Souvenir Book of the Historical Pageant*. (Philadelphia: 1912).; "F.C. Scholler Dies in Phila." *Courier-Post*, 7 October 1957, 4.; and "Scholler Trust Audit Due, Battle Develops," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1 April 1959, 11.

[4] "Entire World Depends Upon This Manufacturing District," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 12 November 1924, 18.

[5] *Evening Public Ledger*, 14 August 1918, 10. Source: Newspapers.com.

[6] *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Company, 1941), 505.

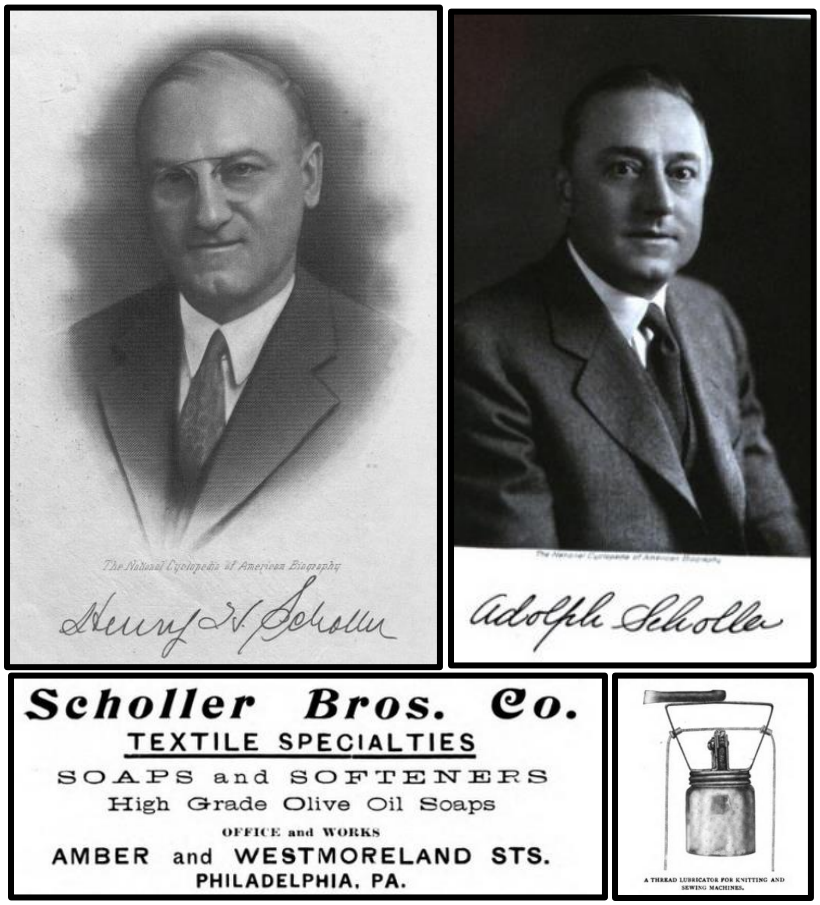


Figure 20. Top left: Henry H. Scholler. Source: *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Company, 1941), 504. Figure 21. Top right: Adolph Scholler. Source: *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Company, 1941). Figure 22. Bottom left: Advertisement for Scholler Bros. Co. Source: *Davison's Hosiery and Knit Good Trade.* (New York: Davison Publishing Co., 1911), 354. Figure 23. Bottom right: A drawing for a product manufactured by Scholler Bros., Inc. Source: "A Thread Lubricator for Knitting." *Textile World Record*, April-September 1909, 161.

Historic Context: Scholler Bros., Inc.

Born to Henry Scholler (1848-1896) and Louise M. Schwab (1854-1893), the Scholler brothers, the founders of the firm, were first generation Americans, as their father, "an expert dyer and chemist", arrived at Philadelphia from Germany in 1871.[7] After both of their parents died leaving them orphaned by 1896, the Scholler brothers put themselves through school. Frederick C. Scholler graduated from Central High School in 1905, after which he spent two years conducting experimental work "pertaining to the dyeing and finishing of fabrics".[8]

[7] *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Company, 1941), 505.
[8] *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Co., 1897), 165.

Along with his brothers Adolph and Henry, Frederick Scholler established the Scholler Brothers Company on December 24, 1907 with a capital of less than $2,000. From the beginning, the company manufactured soaps and softeners employed in the manufacture of textiles. The original products were "added sulphonated oils for all types of fibers, yarns, and fabrics".[9] These "sulphonated oils and finishes for all fibers, yarns and fabrics" were added to the products of textile manufactures for various purposes, including durability, preservation, waterproofing, etc. As chemists and manufacturers, the Schollers were constantly engaged in the development of new and improved products related to textile chemicals. In 1909, the company patented and began manufacturing a thread lubricator, which was used for "lubricating and softening yarn" in industrial knitting process.[10]

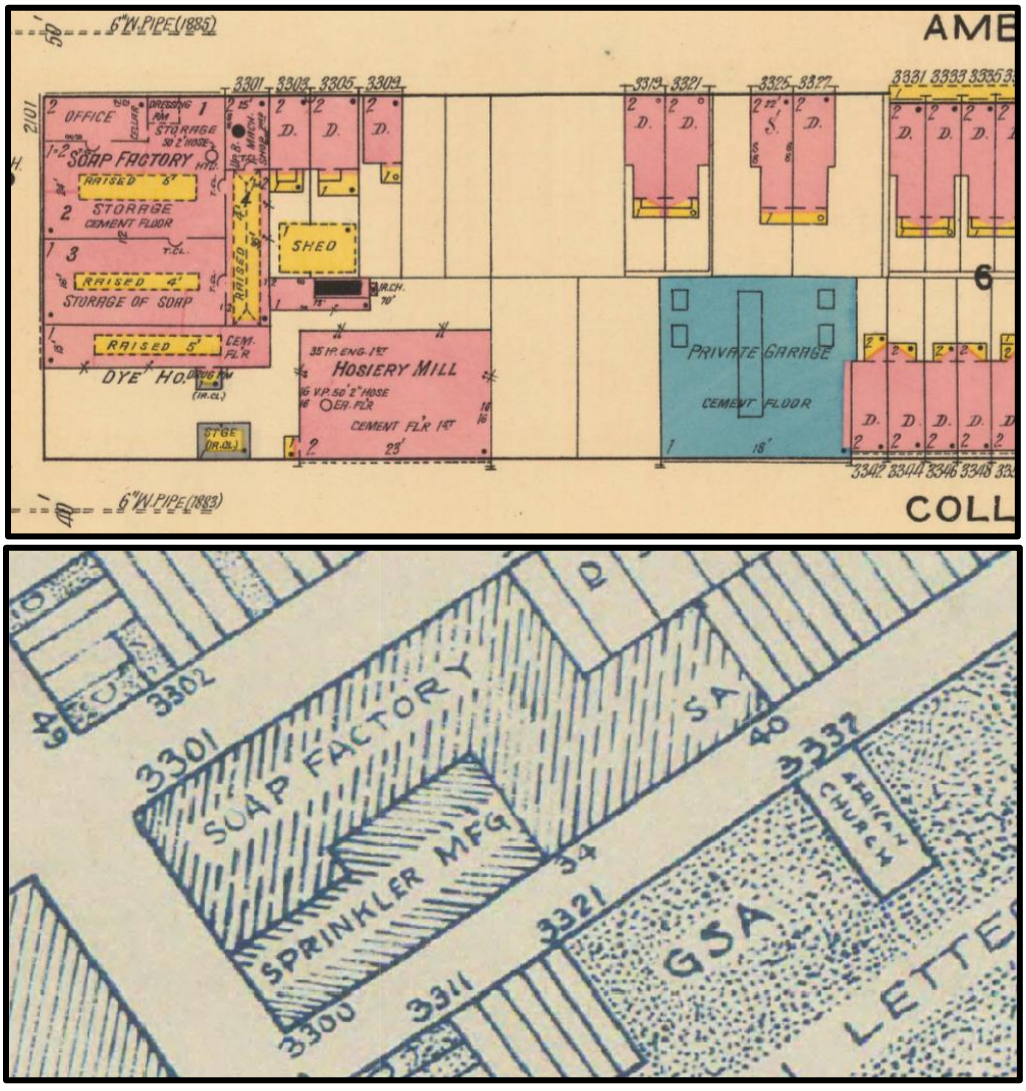
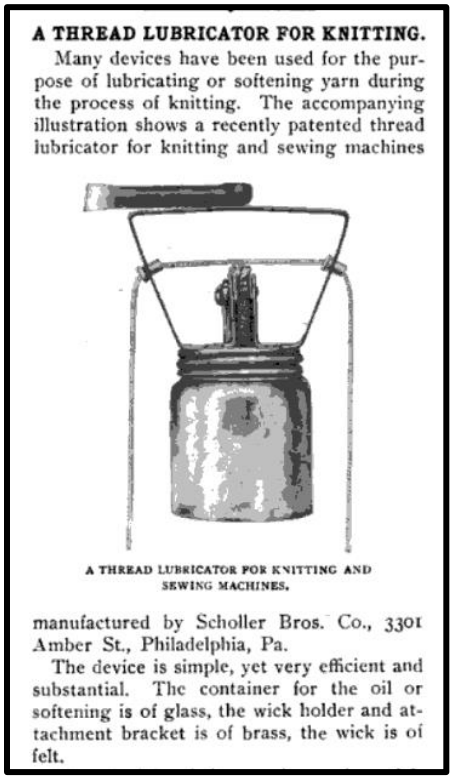


Figure 24. Top: 1910 Philadelphia Atlas by George Bromley. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network. Figure 25. Bottom: Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Vol. 10, 1920. Source: Penn State Digital Collections.

[9] *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Co., 1897), 165.
[10] "A Thread Lubricator for Knitting." *Textile World Record*, April-September 1909, 161.

A few months after the company was founded, Adolph Scholler purchased Lot No. 26 from Robert E. Irwin on April 17, 1908, which occupied 17 feet front on Amber Street, and is known today as 3305 Amber Street. Adolph Scholler immediately sold the property to the Scholler Brothers Company. This would remain their only property until 1912, when Adolph Scholler purchased Lot Nos. 24 and 74, the former of which occupied 51 feet on Westmoreland Street and now includes Buildings 3 and 3a.[11] The firm commissioned Barnes Brothers, contractors of 1449 Louden Street, to construct a "manufacturing building" at 2107 East Moreland Street in 1912.[12]



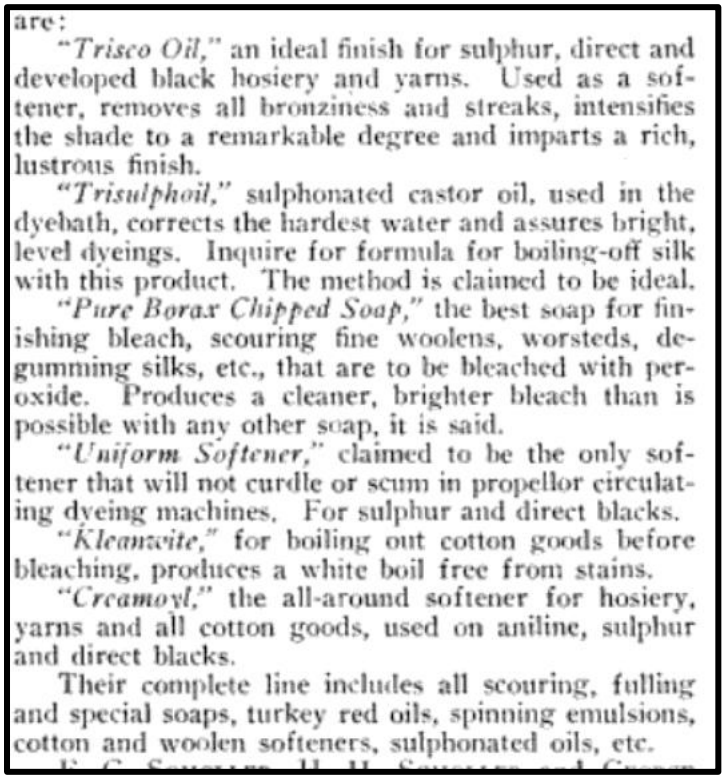
A THREAD LUBRICATOR FOR KNITTING.

Many devices have been used for the purpose of lubricating or softening yarn during the process of knitting. The accompanying illustration shows a recently patented thread lubricator for knitting and sewing machines

A THREAD LUBRICATOR FOR KNITTING AND SEWING MACHINES.

manufactured by Scholler Bros. Co., 3301 Amber St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The device is simple, yet very efficient and substantial. The container for the oil or softening is of glass, the wick holder and attachment bracket is of brass, the wick is of felt.



are:

"Trisco Oil," an ideal finish for sulphur, direct and developed black hosiery and yarns. Used as a softener, removes all bronziness and streaks, intensifies the shade to a remarkable degree and imparts a rich, lustrous finish.

"Trisulphoil," sulphonated castor oil, used in the dyebath, corrects the hardest water and assures bright, level dyeings. Inquire for formula for boiling-off silk with this product. The method is claimed to be ideal.

"Pure Borax Chipped Soap," the best soap for finishing bleach, scouring fine woolens, worsteds, degumming silks, etc., that are to be bleached with peroxide. Produces a cleaner, brighter bleach than is possible with any other soap, it is said.

"Uniform Softener," claimed to be the only softener that will not curdle or scum in propellor circulating dyeing machines. For sulphur and direct blacks.

"Kleanwite," for boiling out cotton goods before bleaching, produces a white boil free from stains.

"Creamoyl," the all-around softener for hosiery, yarns and all cotton goods, used on aniline, sulphur and direct blacks.

Their complete line includes all scouring, fulling and special soaps, turkey red oils, spinning emulsions, cotton and woolen softeners, sulphonated oils, etc.

Figures 26. & 27. Products made by Scholler Bros., Inc. Source (left): "Scholler Bros. Co.", *Posselt's Textile Journal*, July 1919, xxii. Source (right): *Textile World Record*, 1909, 417.

In 1914, the name "Scholler Brothers, Incorporated" became official with an enlarged capital of $15,000.[13] On January 20, 1916, Cardine Smith sold Lot No. 114 to Adolph Scholler, which occupied 17.8 feet on Westmoreland Street at the corner of Amber Street and features what is identified as Building 2 in this nomination. On June 12, 1917, Lot No. 114 was purchased from Charles W. Filer, et. al. by Adolph Scholler.[14] A few days later, it was announced that Henry Drake, a contractor, was commissioned in 1917 to make alterations to their factory at the northeast corner of Westmoreland and Amber for a cost of $4,000.[15]

[11] Philadelphia Deed Registry.
[12] *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, 24 July 1912, 482.
[13] *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Co., 1897), 165.; and *Harrisburg Telegraph*, 6 June 1914, 11.
[14] Philadelphia Deed Registry.
[15] *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 28 June 1917, 16.



Figure 28. An advertisement of the companies helping the World War I efforts. Source: *Evening Public Ledger*, 14 August 1918, 10. Source: Newspapers.com.

During the First World War the firm landed numerous contracts, which led to "the plant being quadrupled in 1918" to approximately 200,000 square feet.[16] This led to the further expansion of the subject property along Amber Street in 1919:

Lot No. 9: Amber (51 feet front), later the site of Building 4
John G. Vogler, Jr. et. Al. to Adolph Scholler, August 22, 1919
Adolph Scholler to Scholler Bros., Inc., July 8, 1930
Lot No. 63: Amber Street (17 feet front), later the site of Building 4a
John G. Vogler, Jr., Exec. to Adolph Scholler, August 22, 1919
Adolph Scholler to Scholler Brothers, Inc., July 8, 1930
Lot No. 65: Waterloo Street (34 feet front), later the site of Building 5
John Vogler, Jr., et. Al. to Adolph Scholler, August 22, 1919
Adolph Scholler to Scholler Bros. Inc., August 22, 1919

[16] *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Company, 1941).

Lot No. 97: Amber Street (17 feet front), not part of the proposed designation
Samuel E. Carber to Adolph Scholler, August 22, 1919
Adolph Scholler to Scholler Bros., July 8, 1930
Lot No. 43: Waterloo Street (43 feet front), late the site of Building 5
The Frankford Road Land Co. to Adolph Scholler, August 27, 1919
Sub, see 161, 162
Lot No. 41: Amber Street (17 feet front), later the site of Building 4a
Clarence E. Outterson to Adolph Scholler, September 15, 1919
Lot No. 83: Amber Street (17 feet front), later the site of Building 4a
Joseph Maerino to Adolph Scholler, September 15, 1919
Adolph Scholler to Scholler Bros, Inc., July 8, 1930
Lot No. 95: Amber Street (17 feet front), later the site of Building 4a
Joseph Marino to Adolph Scholler, September 15, 1919
Adolph Scholler to Scholler Bros. Inc., July 8, 1930

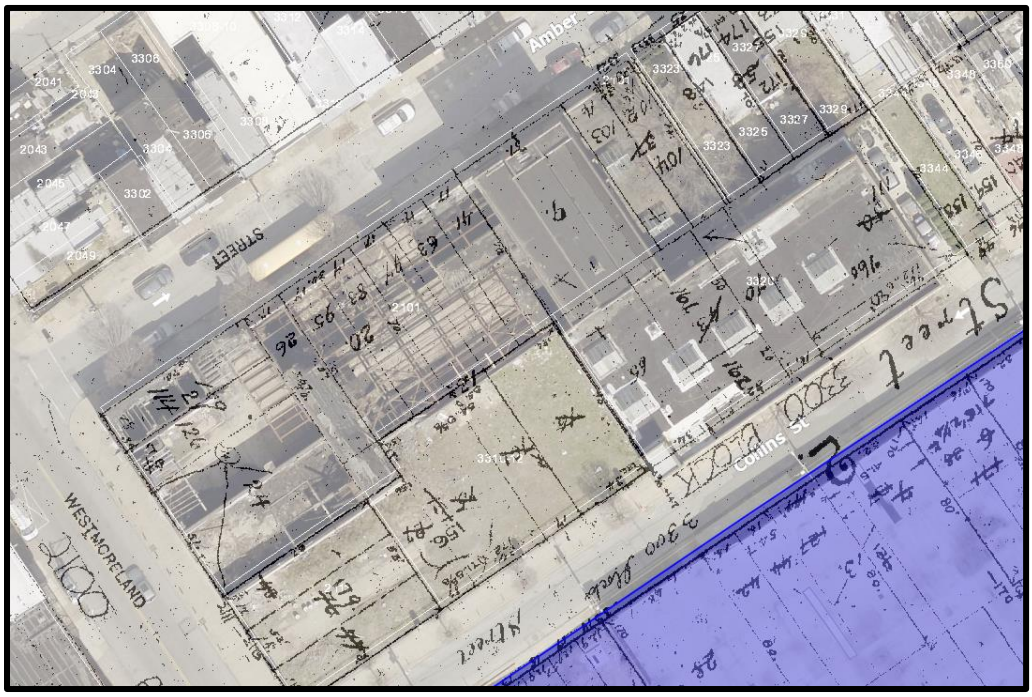


Figure 29. A layout of the lots that comprise the subject property. Source: Atlas, City of Philadelphia.

In 1922, the company was continuing in the manufacture of textile soaps, softeners, specialties, and sulphonated oils. Specifically, the specialties included Trisco Oil, a finish for cotton dyed goods, Trisulphoil, an entirely sulphonated castor oil, and Tri-A-Nol.D, a degumming compound for silk.[17] In 1925, the firm patented the following, which would lead to additional new and improved products: Soaps. 192,275. April 22.; Preparation for the treatment of textile fabrics. 192,277.; Softener, intensifier, and finish in treating textile fabrics. 192,277. April 22.; Scouring and fulling oils and softeners. 192,278. April 22.; Softeners for

[17] *Textile Colorist*, 1922, 413.

softening and finishing in the textile trades. 192,279. April 22.; and Preparation for textile fabrics. 192,280. April 22.[18]

Another incorporation occurred in 1927 with the creation of "Scholler Brothers, Ltd.", a subsidiary company at St. Catharine's, Ontario, Canada with capitalization of $50,000.[19]



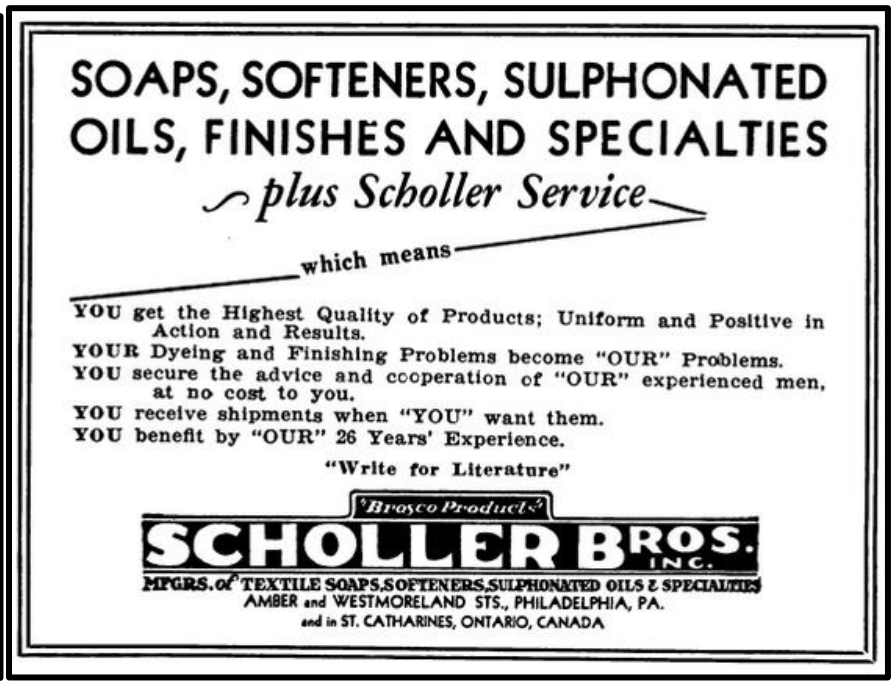


Figure 30. Left: A vintage 1940 Montgomery Ward Bra/Panties Underwear Advertisement. Source: eBay. Figure 31. Right: An advertisement for Scholler Bros., Inc. Source: *Rayon and Syntehtic Yarn Handbook.* (New York: Rayon Pub. Co., 1934), L.

Perhaps their largest expansion occurred after May 17, 1939, when Scholler Bros., Inc. filed a patent application for Dura Beau, which was a textile treating composition.[20] This and other products manufactured by the company improved appearance and durability of fabrics used in the manufacture of apparel. [21] This product led to the procurement of several more lots and the construction of Buildings 4, 4a, and 5.[22] Horace W. Castor, architect, was commissioned to design at least one of the buildings—Buildings 4 and 4a, of brick and steel, which was constructed by Irwin & Leighton.[23] Building 5 was constructed specifically as a soap factory in 1940.[24] Building 4b was constructed at some point after 1950, though the precise date is not known.

[18] *Annual Report of the Commissioner of Patents*. (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1924), 1035.
[19] *American Chemical Industry: The Chemical Companies*. (William Haynes, 1949), 364.
[20] The Dura Beau patent was "for a range of repellent finishes for all natural and synthetic fibers."
[21] *Dan River's Dictionary of Textile Terms*. (Dan River Mills, Inc., 1947), 44.
[22] *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, 4 July 1939, 23.
[23] "Factory Building Addition Proposed", *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 25 June 1939, 72.
[24] Philadelphia Sanborn Atlas 1916-May 1951. Via Penn State Databases.

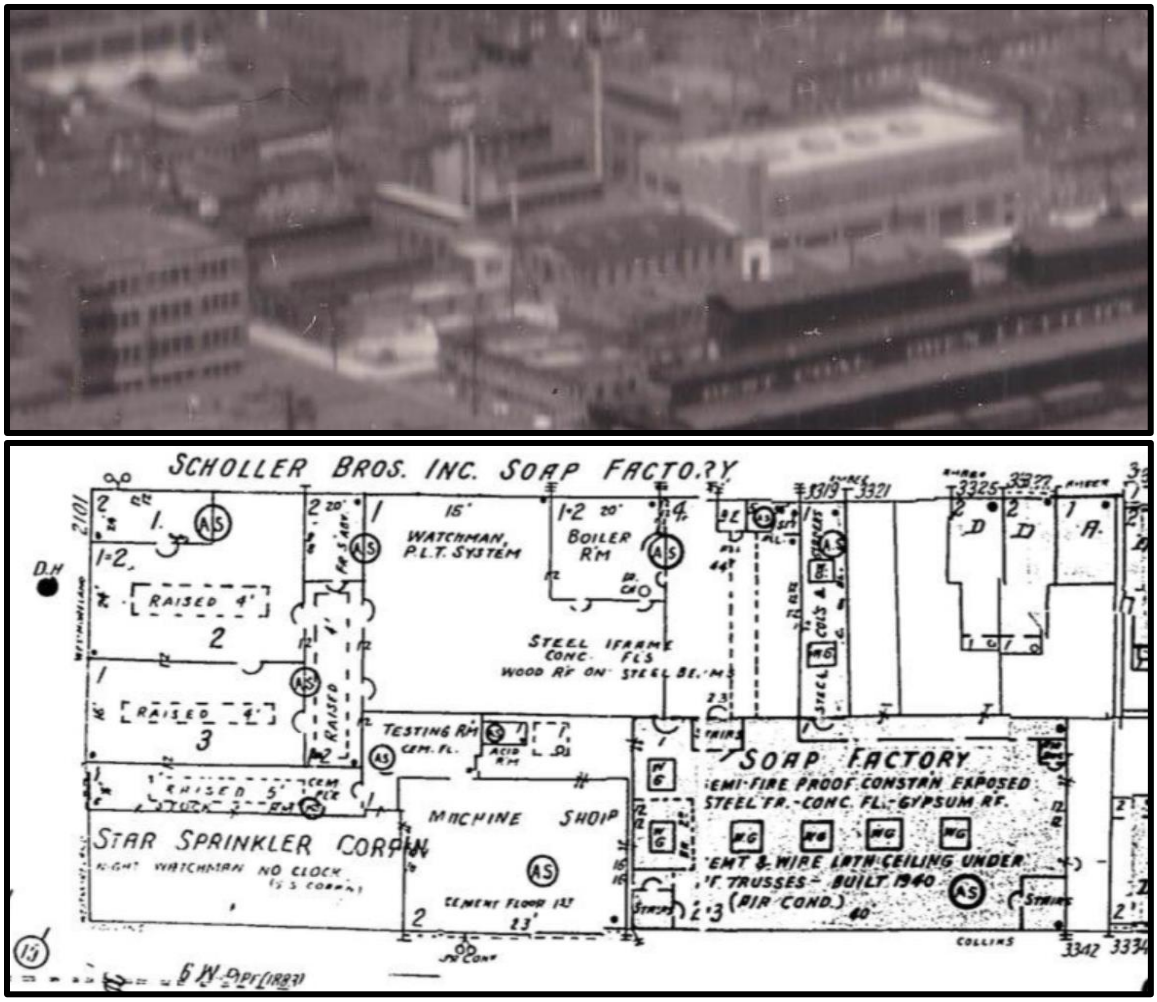


Figure 32. Top: A 1940s aerial photograph of Scholler Bros., Inc., showing Building 5 at the right when it was relatively new. Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia. Figure 33. Bottom: The Scholler Bros., Inc. Soap Factory, the subject property, as it was in 1951. Source: Philadelphia Sanborn Atlas 1916-May 1951. Via Penn State Databases.

None of the Scholler brothers had married and/or produced any known children, nor had any of their other siblings. As a result, the brothers created an endowment to establish the Scholler Foundation for the purpose of maintaining the business intact for employees and for educational and research purposes.[25] While the company has since been subsumed by another larger firm, the Scholler Trust survives to-date in Philadelphia.

By January 1958, Scholler Bros., Inc. had expanded their operations to a site on Elwood Road in Weymouth, New Jersey. The new building was completed for the manufacture of chemicals.[26] While the firm did continue at the subject property for many years, the new New Jersey location would be its seat, justifying the close of the period of significance in 1957.

[25] *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*. (New York: James T. White & Company, 1941), 505.
[26] *The Daily Journal*, 13 March 1958, 23.

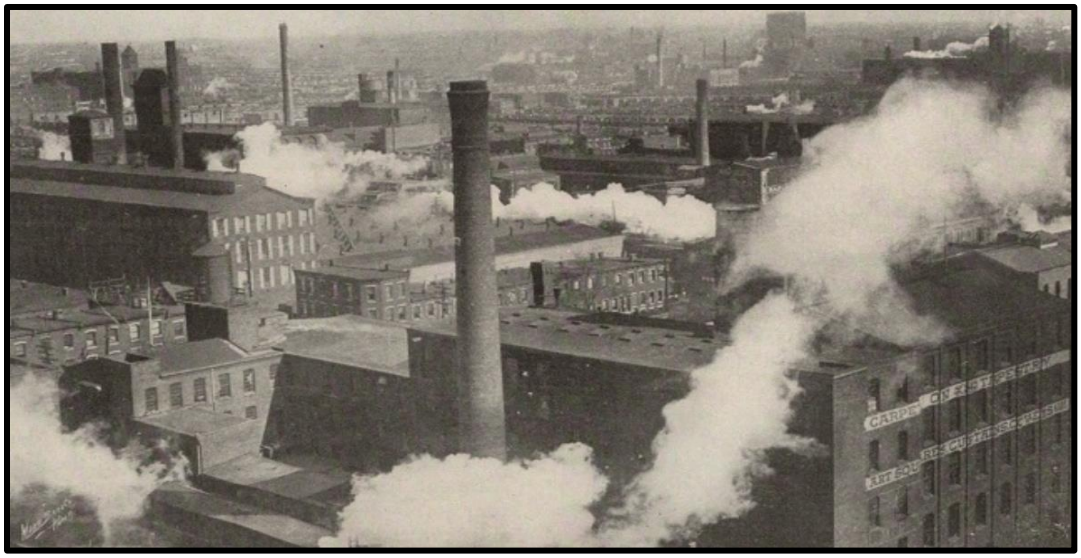


Figure 34. The Industrial District of Kensington, c. 1900. Source: Kensington." http://www.workshopoftheworld.com/kensington/kensington.html. Accessed on 17 December 2011.

Historic Context: The Early Industrial Development of Kensington

Within the larger context of Philadelphia as the former "Workshop of the World," Kensington was one of the primary neighborhoods of working-class Philadelphia, home to both native and immigrant laborers and workers residing in close proximity to their work sites. The industrial history of Kensington no doubt has its roots in some eighteenth-century enterprises, but its primary period of development was in the nineteenth century. The first of Kensington's industries were chemical works, glass factories, machine shops, potteries, and wagon manufactories. While much of the city's nearby industrial development began closer to water, near the Delaware River, the Canal, and Pegg's Run, Kensington hosted some of these early enterprises west of North Front Street in the area north of Girard Avenue and south of Lehigh. However, no industry would come to define the industrial history of Kensington like that of textiles.

Historic Context: The Development of Kensington's Textile Industry

While the manufacture of textiles was a known and viable industry dating back to the colonial period, Philadelphia's greatest period of development and productivity as a textile powerhouse took place in the nineteenth century, when Kensington continued to evolve as one of the city's most important industrial neighborhoods. Located on the cusp of Northern Liberties and Kensington, "the first mill of any considerable size to engage in textile manufacture" was the Globe Mill, which was established in 1804 by Seth Craige at Germantown and West Girard Avenues.[27] By the late 1820s, there were approximately 104 textile firms in Philadelphia, employing about 9,500 people.[28] The population of Kensington at that time was approximately 7,259, a population statistic that would double to

[27] Oberholtzer, Ellis Paxson, *Philadelphia: A History of the City and Its People* (Philadelphia: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912) 1; 441.

[28] Russell F. Weigley, ed. *Philadelphia, A 300-Year History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1982), 275, 488.

approximately 16,000 in 1830.[29] This population boom is invariably linked to the advent of Kensington's "specialized cottage industry" for the production of textiles, a system where each part or step of the manufacturing process was completed by "independent, partial-process" component entities and firms.[30] This great period of industrial progress led to the establishment of Philadelphia's first hosiery factory by Martin Landenberg in 1843. The first patents for knitting machinery in the United States followed in 1850, issued in Philadelphia.[31] Incidentally, it was Philadelphia's position as a major manufacturing center for textiles that led to the construction of the subject property in the first and second quarters of the twentieth century.

As part of the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia*, completed in 2012, Logan I. Ferguson, of Powers & Company, Inc., summarized the city's position as a textile manufacturing center:

> By the mid-19th century, the textile industry in greater Philadelphia achieved an unprecedented level of prominence and its title as the "world largest and most diversified textile center."[32]

In 1850, Kensington was home to approximately 126 textile firms, which represented roughly 39 percent of the larger $65 million industry in Philadelphia, then employing a reported 12,369 people.[33] Five years later in 1855, "the value of the textile fabric in Philadelphia was more than all of the city and state of New York and more fabric was produced than in any other city in the United States." Textile production had also become one of the city's top five industries, valued at roughly $23.5 million, with steel production trailing behind at approximately $14.7 million. Another comparison was the manufacture of clothing and apparel, valued at $21.4 million, while wood and publishing and bookbinding were valued at $6.1 million and $6.4 million respectively.[34]

According to the 1860 Federal Census, the value of Philadelphia's "textile manufacture had grown to $135 million with 464 firms and 18,521 employees."[35] This also reflects the largest increase in Philadelphia's population, growing from 121,376 in 1850 to 565,529 in 1860, representing a 365 percent boom. In the decades to follow between 1860 and 1920, the population continued to grow with a rate that fluctuated between seventeen to twenty-five percent.

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[29] *Kensington: A City within a City* (Philadelphia: Keighton Printing House, 1891), ix.
[30] Scranton, *The Philadelphia System of Textile Manufacture, 1884–1984*, 28.
[31] J. Thomas Scharf and Thompson Westcott, *History of Philadelphia: 1609–1884* (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts and Co., 1884), 2306–07.
[32] Logan I. Ferguson. *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia.* (Philadelphia: Powers & Company, Inc., 2012).
[33] Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism*, 182.
[34] *Philadelphia Board of Trade*, 15–20.
[35] Ibid., 15–20.

In the book *Workshop of the World*, the neighborhood and its industrial establishments are described in detail:

> The textile trades came to dominate Kensington by the mid-nineteenth century. The genesis of the ingrain carpet industry was centered around Oxford and Howard Streets in West Kensington, where some mills still stand. Other early carpet mills in this area are now gone, but they included James Gay's Park Carpet Mill, the Dornan Brothers' Monitor Carpet Mill, William J. Hogg's Oxford Carpet Mill, the Stinson Brothers' Columbia Carpet Mill, and the carpet mills of Horner Brothers, and Ivins, Dietz, and Magee (later of Hardwick and Magee). The earliest carpet factories operated mainly through "outwork" the owners providing yarns to workers who hand loomed the goods in their homes. As these small textile concerns grew, their owners built small factories in East Kensington. Associated textile trades, such as dye works, yarn factories, woolen and worsted mills, cotton mills, and even textile machinery factories were often located in the same building or complex. After the 1860s, Kensington was filled with two story brick rowhouses and steam powered mills. In 1883, Lorin Blodget described the northward expansion of the area as having had rapid and successful development from vacant fields a few years ago, to a densely built up city, all of which is recent, and most of it within ten or twelve years.[36]

While the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form: *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* focuses on properties below Lehigh Avenue, the subject property certainly relates to the larger context, providing a highly specialized product and service to the industry.

[36] *Workshop of the World: A Selective Guide to the Industrial Archeology of Philadelphia* (Wallingford, PA: Oliver Evans Press, 1990), 233.

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This nomination was completed by the Keeping Society of Philadelphia with the primary author as Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian and Historic Preservationist, with assistance from J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian and Kelly E. Wiles, Architectural Historian.

The following sites were used to create the nomination:
Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network
Newspapers.com
Proquest Historical Newspapers

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