

**Public Comment
Received by the
Historical Commission**



Cliveden

Know it Feel it Share it

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission Staff,

Cliveden supports the recent nomination of 121 Pleasant Street, also known as the Joseph Meehan House, to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. That the modest Mt. Airy house survives is a testament to its significance as a symbol of local history and preserving the house should be prioritized.

The recent nomination by the Keeping Society highlights the significance of the house as a residence of the Meehan family. Their horticultural business, Meehan Nurseries, was renowned for cultivating plants and making them available to private and commercial clients nationally and locally. As landscape gardening gained popularity and became more accessible to middle and working class families, Meehan Nurseries served the community, impacting the character of the neighborhoods in Mt. Airy, Germantown and Chestnut Hill as they developed in the late 19th and early 20th century. The tree-lined streets and garden-fronted houses of Northwest Philadelphia were made possible by the services and influence of the local nursery. We have records that the Chew family bought plants from Meehan Nurseries for the property at Cliveden, as did many neighboring families who planted gardens at their homes, small and large. As Cliveden plans to investigate the history of the cultural landscape at 6401 Germantown Ave in the coming year, this is especially timely and important to our work interpreting local history to our neighbors.

Please prioritize your review of this nomination so it can be placed on the agenda of the Designation Committee for the December 2020 meeting.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Libbie Hawes
Preservation Director

In support of urgency for consideration of the Joseph Meehan House nomination

Couch, Randall C <couch@isc.upenn.edu>

Fri 10/30/2020 2:12 PM

To: preservation <preservation@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 Historic Commission Staff,

This letter expresses my request that your office attach some urgency to your review of the nomination submitted by The Keeping Society on Monday, October 12th for the Joseph Meehan House, listed at 121 Pleasant Street.

Meehan, who built and lived in the house until he died in 1920, was an English-born and -trained gardener (including at Kew) and horticulturist who immigrated to Germantown to work in his brother's nursery in 1859. Only three years later, his zeal for his new homeland and the cause of freedom led him to enlist in the Union army, where at Sharpstown he received a rifle ball in his shoulder, which he carried to his grave.

After the war, he became a prominent writer and authority on horticultural matters, beginning with articles for the Germantown *Independent* and eventually winning an international readership for his books and essays. He was active in promoting gardening and horticultural discovery and preservation, including at Bartram's Garden, as well as supporting abolition, equality of rights, and education for citizens of all races. He has been the subject of several academic dissertations.

Not only does the period-representative character of the structure and grounds argue for its preservation, but the character and civic profile of its immigrant owner deserve commemoration in his home as part of the neighborhood's cultural heritage. As an East Mt. Airy homeowner and former art conservator, I support this nomination and request that it appear before the designation committee at its December meeting. It is critical that this landmark home be considered for inclusion on the register as soon as possible.

Thanks for your consideration of this important matter.

Randall Couch

121 Pleasant Street

Jenna Conley <jennarebecca@yahoo.com>

Wed 10/14/2020 12:48 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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I am writing to request that your office please consider prioritizing your review of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society on Monday, October 12th for the property listed at 121 Pleasant St which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exists across the US today are in large part due to him and his brother Andrew Meehan's efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant St with its charming dormer, bays, and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in East Mount Airy which should be protected.

As a neighbor and resident, I am asking you to please prioritize your review so that this nomination can go before the designation committee at the December meeting. I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be considered for inclusion on the local register as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best,

Jenna and John Conley

123 Pelham Road, Philadelphia PA, 19119

215-684-9476

Jenna Conley
she/her

Fw: Meehan House 121 Pleasant street Mt Airy

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Fri 10/30/2020 11:16 AM

To: Meredith Keller <Meredith.Keller@Phila.gov>

 1 attachments (737 KB)

Meehan House Letter 2.jpeg;

From: Kelly D <kdavis1198@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 11:15 AM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: Meehan House 121 Pleasant street Mt Airy

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Dear Historic Commission Staff:

Please find attached a letter requesting priority review of the recent submission for the Joseph Meehan House 121 Pleasant Street in Mt Airy. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for the work that you do.

Sincerely,

Kelly Davis
7315 Boyer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Email address: preservation@phila.gov

30 October 2020

To the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

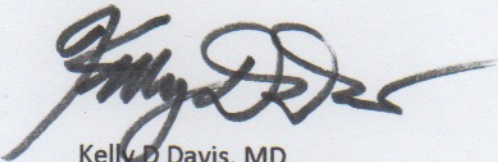
I am writing to respectfully request that your office prioritizes your review of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society on Monday, October 12th for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street, which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan 1840-1920 was a recognized leader in horticulture and landscape gardening and was part of a multi-generational family of horticulturalists and gardeners in England and the United States. He was best known as a writer of authority on horticultural and gardening subjects- he contributed regular articles to many publications both locally and nationally. He was also widely known in the Grand Army of the Republic having had a notable record in the Civil War and served for many years as the color bearer in local parades and other military events. The house he built and resided in until his death (121 Pleasant Street) with its charming dormer, bays, and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in East Mount Airy which should be protected.

As a concerned East Mount Airy resident and lover of old houses (especially those that belonged to important Philadelphians) I am asking that you please prioritize your review so that this nomination can go before the designation committee at the December meeting. I fully support this nomination and believe that it's critical that this structure be considered for inclusion on the local register as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kelly D Davis', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kelly D Davis, MD
7315 Boyer Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Fw: 121 Pleasant St: Joseph Meehan House

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Fri 10/16/2020 8:13 AM

To: Jon Farnham <Jon.Farnham@phila.gov>; Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>; Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>; Megan Schmitt <Megan.Schmitt@Phila.gov>

From: Dana Fedeli <nwpresphila@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2020 3:49 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: 121 Pleasant St: Joseph Meehan House

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Dear Historic Commission Staff,

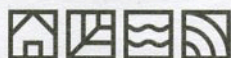
I am writing to request that your office please consider prioritizing your review of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society on Monday, October 12th for the property listed at 121 Pleasant St which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exist across Philadelphia and the US today are in large part due to his and his brother, former City Councilman Andrew Meehan's, extraordinary efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant St with its charming dormer, bays, and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in East Mount Airy which should be protected.

As a neighbor and resident, I am asking you to please prioritize your review so that this nomination can go before the Designation Committee at the December meeting. I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this lovely late 1800s home be considered for inclusion on the local register as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best,
Dana Fedeli



BARTRAM'S GARDEN

October 17, 2020

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Philadelphia Historical Commission Staff:

I am writing to support the nomination of the Joseph Meehan House, 121 Pleasant Street, Mt. Airy, to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The recent nomination document makes a compelling argument for the historic significance of the property associated with the life and work of Joseph Meehan (1840–1920).

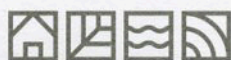
Joseph Meehan was a younger brother of Thomas Meehan (1826-1901), founder of the Meehan family nursey business in Germantown in 1854. Younger brother Joseph joined the family business in 1859 and spent over 50 years as a horticulturist and plant propagator, landscape gardener and designer, and writer — managing the Germantown nurseries on Chew Street. The Meehan family nurseries solidified the horticultural heritage of Germantown, with roots back to the founding of the community. Meehan family publications defined the garden taste of both their local Germantown and southeastern Pennsylvania, and to a large extent the entire US after 1860. The Meehans oversaw a significant national and international exchange of plants, seeds, and horticultural information.

Over my several decades of research on the Bartram family botanic and horticultural business, it's become clear that Thomas Meehan and his brother Joseph played an important role in continuing the garden knowledge and the international business in North American plants centered in Philadelphia, begun by John Bartram ca. 1730. Thomas Meehan worked as head gardener for Andrew M. Eastwick at Bartram's Garden from 1850-1852, at a time when the 3rd generation Bartram heirs — Ann B. Carr and Robert Carr were closing their business and vacating the family botanic garden. Thomas Meehan learned much about North American plants and the traditional Bartram family business directly from Ann and Robert Carr. While working at the old Bartram Botanic Garden, Thomas Meehan began publishing short notes on Bartram plants in *The Horticulturist* and elsewhere. When Thomas moved his nursery business to Germantown, he shortly became editor of the *Gardener's Monthly*, later revived as *Meehan's Monthly* — the most influential national periodical for amateur gardeners and the professional nursery trade in the second half of the 19th century. Meehan's periodical writing is full of historic notes and anecdotes on the Bartram family and Bartram plants. Thomas Meehan codified the early history of botany and horticulture in Philadelphia and preserved it

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK HOUSE & GARDEN

John Bartram Association, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19143 T: (215) 729.5281 F: (215) 729.1047

BARTRAMSGARDEN.ORG



BARTRAM'S GARDEN

for the future. And when Thomas Meehan started his nursery business in Germantown, he brought plants, seeds, and cuttings from the old Bartram Botanic Garden to his new nursery and so kept many Bartram plant varieties in cultivation. With permission from the Eastwick family, the Meehans continued to collect plant material from Bartram's Garden for their business over several decades.

As Thomas Meehan's career as an editor and writer expanded, he turned much of the day to day management of his nursey business over to brother Joseph, who became skilled in growing many difficult North American native plants. Joseph Meehan worked with Thomas's own sons and also trained several extended generations of Philadelphia area gardeners, horticulturists, arborists, and garden designers. From the 1880s Joseph Meehan also began to write and publish much on plants, plant propagation, and garden design. Joseph Meehan's work was often published in professional gardening and nursery trade journals with a national audience, but rarely in his brother's *Monthlies*.

From all his many faceted career, Joseph Meehan's most significant contribution to botanic history may be that he kept the signature Bartram plant, *Franklinia alatamaha* or Franklin Tree in cultivation. Franklinia is a very rare North American plant in the tea family, found by John and William Bartram on the Altamaha River in southeast Georgia in 1765. William Bartram brought seeds back to Philadelphia from the Georgia grove in 1777 and grew five examples of the new tree at Bartram's Garden. The Bartrams had great success with Franklinia, which remains a very difficult plant to grow. Sometime after 1850 the native grove on the Altamaha River died out, so Franklinia is now naturally extinct, and only lives on entirely from garden specimens grown from the Bartram family stock. Thomas and Joseph Meehan took cuttings of the Franklin tree to the Germantown nursery and Joseph Meehan grew Franklinia for much of his career. From 1860-1920 it is probable the Meehan nursery was just about the only nursery in the world producing Franklinia for sale. Several Meehan grown examples of Franklinia are still alive in the US, including two accessioned plants at the Arnold Arboretum, and probably one old Franklinia planted near Horticultural Hall in west Fairmount Park for an 1876 Centennial display of native plants by the Meehan nursery. Joseph Meehan published more than a dozen articles and letters about Franklinia, and from the evidence of a photograph taken late in his life, posing Meehan with a US flag in his Civil War uniform, Joseph Meehan probably had a Franklinia growing in the garden beside his house at 121 Pleasant Street.

Joseph Meehan's engaging life story has elements of adventure — a witness and participant in two critical battles during the Civil War — wounded at the battle of Antietam in September 1862 and prisoner behind Confederate lines during the battle at Gettysburg in July 1863. After the war, Meehan continued devoted to the GAR in his local Germantown. A practical,

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK HOUSE & GARDEN

John Bartram Association, 5400 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19143 T: (215) 729.5281 F: (215) 729.1047

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BARTRAM'S GARDEN

working gardener, Joseph Meehan was also an advocate for wild plants and natural beauty. A prolific writer on plant propagation and garden design, and mentor to the next generation of Philadelphia area horticulturists, landscape gardeners and designers.

Little evidence remains for the Meehan nursey business in Germantown, as the site was divided by new streets and rows of housing in the 1920s. Only a few rare houses used by the Meehan family are still scattered along the perimeter of the old nursery grounds. Thomas Meehan's own house was demolished in the 1920s. . Joseph Meehan's modest house, and the site of his "wild garden" adjacent, were described several times in accounts of Germantown gardens from the late 19th c. The garden site's survival with minimal disturbance, as an open lot in 21st c. Philadelphia is a very rare thing, and the garden site may be just as significant as the house and worthy of city register nomination.

Sincerely,

Joel T. Fry
Curator
215-729-5281

jfry@bartramsgarden.org

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK HOUSE & GARDEN

John Bartram Association, 54th St. & Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia, PA 19143 T: (215) 729.5281 F: (215) 729.1047

BARTRAMSGARDEN.ORG

Fw: Please help save this historic home at 121 Pleasant Street

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Wed 10/28/2020 2:58 PM

To: Meredith Keller <Meredith.Keller@Phila.gov>

From: Maureen & Steve <allenpointlane@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2020 1:06 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: Please help save this historic home at 121 Pleasant Street

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 Historic Commission Staff Members,

I am writing an urgent request to see if there is help that can be garnered by your Commission in the matter of the former home of Mr. Joseph Meehan of Meehan Nurseries, at 121 Pleasant Street, Philadelphia, a man who served in the Civil War and proceeded to have a huge horticultural influence in greater Pennsylvania and beyond.

This home is in my neighborhood and, as a neighbor, I am desperately hoping this property can be preserved and be incorporated in the proposed development plan. As a resident of the area, I am not opposed to development. In fact, I understand and support development that fits in to existing neighborhoods as it can enhance existing properties and bring more vitality to neighborhoods. However, destruction of existing historical homes, with such an extensive historical nature attached, does nothing to preserve that history; in fact, it destroys any physical attachment to that history and literally erases it.

The neighborhood wants this building protected but I am told it can only be saved if the Commission will nominate it. Will you please expeditiously nominate this building on behalf of the neighborhood so that its' history will remain for future generations?

I hope this request will help you understand the immediacy of the need to be nominated before another part of our history is gone forever.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely, Maureen A. Harris

The Historic Meehan House

Quentin S <proko73@gmail.com>

Wed 10/14/2020 12:31 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Historic Commission Staff,

I am writing to request that your office please consider prioritizing your review of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society on Monday, October 12th for the property listed at 121 Pleasant St which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exists across the US today are in large part due to him and his brother Andrew Meehan's efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant St with its charming dormer, bays, and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in East Mount Airy which should be protected.

As a neighbor and resident, I am asking you to please prioritize your review so that this nomination can go before the designation committee at the December meeting. I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be considered for inclusion on the local register as quickly as possible.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best,

Quentin Stoltzfus

Fw: request for nomination- Mt. Airy

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Tue 10/27/2020 3:27 PM

To: Meredith Keller <Meredith.Keller@Phila.gov>

From: Mary Grace Wahl <mgwahl@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 3:17 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: request for nomination- Mt. Airy

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Dear Historic Commission Staff,

I am a Mt Airy resident and highly concerned about a home in my neighborhood, 121 Pleasant St, as it is endangered. It is the former home of Joseph Meehan from Meehan Nurseries. While residents aren't opposed to development, we believe this home should be preserved and incorporated into the plan. As a resident, I want the Commission to know the neighbors want this building protected but we are told it can only be saved if the Commission will nominate it. Can you please nominate this building at the request of the neighborhood and help us save it?

Thank you,

Mary Grace Wahl

7151 Bryan Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119

Fw: 121 PLEASANT ST

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Tue 10/27/2020 10:54 AM

To: Meredith Keller <Meredith.Keller@Phila.gov>

From: Nancy Weissman <weissman.wolff@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 7:04 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: 121 PLEASANT ST

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Dear Historic Commission Staff,

I am a Mt Airy resident and highly concerned about a home in my neighborhood, 121 Pleasant St, as it is endangered. It is the former home of Joseph Meehan from Meehan Nurseries. While residents aren't opposed to development, we believe this home should be preserved and incorporated into the plan. As a resident, I want the Commission to know that neighbors want this building protected but we are told it can only be saved if the Commission will nominate it. Can you please nominate this building at the request of the neighborhood and help us save it?

Thank you very much,
Nancy Weissman

Fw: 121 Pleasant Street

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Tue 10/27/2020 10:53 AM

To: Meredith Keller <Meredith.Keller@Phila.gov>

From: Wolff, Ned <wolffe@arcadia.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:39 AM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: 121 Pleasant Street

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 Historic Commission Staff,

I am a Mt Airy resident and highly concerned about a home in my neighborhood, 121 Pleasant St, as it is endangered. It is the former home of Joseph Meehan from Meehan Nurseries. While residents aren't opposed to development, we believe this home should be preserved and incorporated into the plan. As a resident, I want the Commission to know that neighbors want this building protected but we are told it can only be saved if the Commission will nominate it. Can you please nominate this building at the request of the neighborhood and help us save it?

Thank you very much,
Edward F Wolff



November 23, 2020

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Joseph Meehan House, 121 Pleasant Street

Dear Staff of the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

I am writing to express support for the nomination of the Joseph Meehan House at 121 Pleasant Street in East Mount Airy to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Horticulture is core to Philadelphia's story. At PHS, we are proud to put Philadelphia's proud legacy of horticulture to work every day to advance the health and wellbeing of the Greater Philadelphia Region. This is our purpose, and we implement it each day in partnership with hundreds of thousands of supporters, members, and volunteers in more than 250 neighborhoods.

The nurseries operated by Joseph and Thomas Meehan are an important part of Philadelphia's horticultural story. These nurseries produced and supplied plants that shaped the ornamental landscapes of Philadelphia and America during the Victorian era. Although much of the land occupied by these nurseries along Chew Avenue has now been redeveloped for housing, the Joseph Meehan House remains as a link to this part of the neighborhood's past. The Joseph Meehan house is one element of Philadelphia's horticultural legacy. This rich network of horticultural assets includes private gardens, public parks, community gardens, and commercial spaces all worthy of preservation and care.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,

Matt Rader
President

121 Pleasant Street

ALTHEA BANKS <a.banks1@verizon.net>

Fri 11/27/2020 7:53 AM

To: preservation <preservation@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 Historic Commission Staff:

I am writing in support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exists across the United States today are in large part due to him and his brother, Thomas Meehan's efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens, Awbury Arboretum and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant Street with its charming dormer, side bays and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in the East Mt. Airy neighborhood which should be protected.

As a Mt. Airy resident, I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be included on the local register. My name is Althea Banks and have lived in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia for 63 years. I grow up on Good Street and can remember climbing the peach tree or pulling the grapes off the vine in our backyard. We then moved to the unit block of Pleasant Street where we had a mulberry tree (boy did they stain). I can also remember there was an alleyway behind the house that I current reside and have been living for the past 36 years, and we would go thru there and pick peaches from the trees back there (we were glad to find out we had access to another peach tree). Mt. Airy has always had lots of trees (all different kinds), huge, large, medium and small sizes; not to mention many fruit trees, grape vines. I have believe that all of these trees came from the hard work of the Meehan brothers.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Mrs. Althea Banks

Resident of 146 east pleasant st

SHELIA parker <kellypark1@msn.com>

Fri 11/27/2020 8:18 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Historic Commission Staff:

I am writing in support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

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As a Mt. Airy resident, I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be included on the local register.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

121 E. Pleasant Street

ALTHEA BANKS <a.banks1@verizon.net>

Sat 11/28/2020 9:51 AM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Charles333@gmail.com <Charles333@gmail.com>

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Please note that I am sending this on behalf of Charles Rucker, who has lived in Mt. Airy for 68 years and who presently lives on the 100 block of Meehan Avenue. He does not have computer access right now but wanted to send his support for the above mentioned address being registered in the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Thank you.

I am writing in support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exists across the United States today are in large part due to him and his brother, Thomas Meehan's efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens, Awbury Arboretum and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant Street with its charming dormer, side bays and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in the East Mt. Airy neighborhood which should be protected.

As a Mt. Airy resident, I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be included on the local register. My name is Althea Banks and have lived in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia for 63 years. I grow up on Good Street and can remember climbing the peach tree or pulling the grapes off the vine in our backyard.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

121 Pleasant Street

Beverly <24Bair@comcast.net>

Sun 11/29/2020 5:43 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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I am writing to support the nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street, also known as the Joseph Meehan House. As a Mt. Airy resident I support the nomination to have this house registered with the Philadelphia Historic Commission.

Thank you.

Beverly Gladden
24 E Pleasant Street

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

121 E. Pleasant Street

Dana L McNatt <danalmcnatt@gmail.com>

Sun 11/29/2020 2:52 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Historic Commission Staff:

I am writing in support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exists across the United States today are in large part due to him and his brother, Thomas Meehan's efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens, Awbury Arboretum and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant Street with its charming dormer, side bays and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in the East Mt. Airy neighborhood which should be protected.

As a Mt. Airy resident, I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be included on the local register.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Dana McNatt

Preserving 121 Pleasant Street/Joseph Meehan Home

Susan Nam <susan@susannam.com>

Sun 11/29/2020 7:07 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Hello Historic Commission Staff-

My name is Susan Nam and I am a Mt. Airy resident writing in regards of my utmost support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the 121 Pleasant Street property, also known as the Joseph Meehan home.

Joseph Meehan, a Civil War veteran, was a locally and nationally recognized activist in the horticulture and landscape gardening fields. He had a major hand in the histories of Bartram's Gardens and Awbury Arboretum. He was a believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant Street is a significant contributing piece of architecture in the East Mt. Airy neighborhood which should be protected.

Not only is the protection of this home essential to keeping the integrity of our beloved Mt. Airy neighborhood, but keeping these unique pieces of history intact for the face of Philadelphia as a whole as we are facing a huge surge in new development makes our nomination as urgent as ever.

Thank you for your consideration in the matter!

Warm Regards,

susan nam

the north philly story

(267) 357 7536

susannam.com

FW: 121 Pleasant St.

Megan Schmitt <Megan.Schmitt@Phila.gov>

Tue 1/19/2021 1:46 PM

To: Meredith Keller <Meredith.Keller@Phila.gov>

From: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 10:25 AM

To: Megan Schmitt <Megan.Schmitt@Phila.gov>

Subject: Fw: 121 Pleasant St.

From: Elspeth Everhart <elspeth.everhart@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 6:51 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Subject: 121 Pleasant St.

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 Historic Commission Staff:

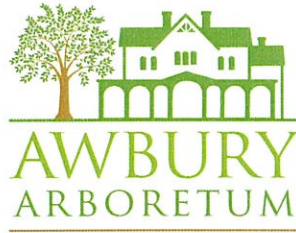
I am writing in support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exist across the United States today are in large part due to him and his brother, Thomas Meehan's efforts. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens, Awbury Arboretum and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality. The home he built and died in at 121 Pleasant Street with its charming dormer, side bays and front porch is a significant contributing piece of architecture in the East Mt. Airy neighborhood which should be protected.

As a Mt. Airy resident, I fully support this nomination and feel it is critical that this home be included on the local register.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Elspeth Everhart



Letter of Support in preservation of the Joseph Meehan House, 121 Pleasant Street, Mount Airy

October 30, 2020

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission Staff,

The Board and Staff of the Awbury Arboretum Association are in full support of the nomination of the Joseph Meehan House at 121 Pleasant Street in East Mount Airy to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. As the preservation and interpretation of our historical landscapes and buildings is a central part of Awbury Arboretum's mission, we- as board and staff of Awbury Arboretum- were alarmed to discover that the Joseph Meehan House at 121 Pleasant Street is threatened with imminent demolition and subsequent development. We therefore urge you to prioritize the preservation of the Joseph Meehan House, as this house has direct connections to Meehan's Nurseries, which was a significant landscaping and horticulture business located just a mile north of Awbury Arboretum for much of the Victorian era.

Joseph and Thomas Meehan and their nursery played an integral part in the landscaping of many properties during the Victorian era, and the business furnished ornamental plantings for countless numbers of residences, including the Francis Cope House at what is now Awbury Arboretum. Much of the nurseries were located on Chew Avenue in what is now known as the Sedgwick Farms section of East Mount Airy, and the nurseries have long since been completely redeveloped with houses. During this process, physical evidence of the Meehans and their business has been erased from the historic landscape, with one lone exception: the Joseph Meehan House. This house is the last-standing survivor bearing testimony to the importance of a business which once did work not only throughout Philadelphia, but throughout the country.

We therefore urge you to prioritize the review of the nomination of 121 Pleasant Street as soon as possible, so that will be placed on the agenda of the Designation Committee's December 2020 meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris van de Velde", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris van de Velde
General Manager



December 15, 2020

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19102

Dear Historic Commission Staff:

The East Mount Airy Neighbors board are in full support of a nomination submitted by The Keeping Society for the property listed at 121 Pleasant Street, which is also known as the Joseph Meehan House to be added to Philadelphia's Local Register of Historic Places.

Joseph Meehan was a nationally and locally recognized leader in the worlds of horticulture and landscape gardening. Plantings that exist across the US today are in large part due to the efforts of he and his brother, Thomas Meehan. Joseph Meehan was a Civil War veteran who was instrumental in the history of Bartram's Gardens, Awbury Arboretum, and a staunch believer of civil rights and education equality.

The circa 1886 home Joseph Meehan built and died in at 121 Pleasant Street, with its charming dormer, side bays, and front porch, is a significant contributing piece of architecture in the East Mount Airy neighborhood that should be recognized and protected. With all other Meehan familial residential and commercial properties long since demolished, Joseph Meehan's house is the lone survivor of the family's architectural legacy to our fair city.

The character of Northwest Philadelphia, with tree-lined street, gardens and greenery can be attributed to the local nursery and are essential to the character of the neighborhoods in Mt. Airy, Germantown and Chestnut Hill.

We are in alignment with our neighbor's to support this nomination and feel this home must be included on the local registry.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tonyelle Cook-Artis
President
East Mount Airy Neighbors

7301 Germantown Avenue ~ Philadelphia, PA 19119
www.eastmountairy.org 215-242-4170

info@eastmountairy.org



EASTMTAIRY



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