

Public comment received by the Historical  
Commission regarding the financial hardship  
application of 113-29 Berkley Street

## Kim Chantry

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**From:** awfromhh/aweiss <awfromhh4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 23, 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** preservation; Jon Farnham; Kim Chantry; Shannon Garrison; Allyson Mehley; Laura Dipasquale; Megan Schmitt; Meredith Keller  
**Cc:** James Kenney; Tumar Alexander; Eleanor Sharpe; Ralph DiPietro; Ian Hegarty; Kegerise, Cory; Doug Mooney; Laura Spina; Mark Squilla; Shaffer, Mark (PHMC)  
**Subject:** On the register: NO to DEMO 113-29 Berkley St Moore PushPin/Keystone Engraving

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NO to DEMO 113-29 Berkley St Moore PushPin/Keystone Engraving  
Dear Dr. Farnham, Commission, Committees, Staff:

Please, NO to DEMO 113 Berkley St Moore PushPin/Keystone Engraving. It is the most important building, individually designated and a contributing part of the very small Wayne Junction District. The start of it all! The building must remain; it is the life and character of the District! The historical commission must protect this building as it committed when placed on the register.

We depend on the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Remember, this building is most important, recognized on the register not only as contributing to a very small district but individually as well!

The Wayne Junction District already lost a very important building to demolition, the Van Straaten and Havey Building, 133 Berkley an adjacent property to 113-29 Berkley as the nomination sat waiting almost 8 years for the commission review due to a backlog.

We cannot lose another building! in a district of 6 buildings (not including the Wayne Junction Train Station.) Especially one that is its life and character! Please protect this site!

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,  
Allison Weiss

**Kim Chantry**

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**From:** paula paul <pauladance5917@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 23, 2021 8:09 PM  
**To:** preservation  
**Subject:** Wayne Junction

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To Whom It May Concern,

Hope you understand the value of preserving 113-129 Berkley Street. It is a most important building, individually designated and a contributing building to the very small Wayne Junction District.

No to Demo. We have enough demolition going on in this neighborhood already and need more preservation to retain the character of our manufacturing past.

Thanks in advance for your serious consideration of the significance of preserving this architectural elder.

Paula Paul  
19144

## Kim Chantry

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**From:** Joan Hill <joanl.hill@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** preservation  
**Subject:** 113-29 W Berkeley Ave/Wayne Junction

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Good Morning, I am a homeowner in the Wayne Junction area and I am against the demolition of the property at 113-29 W Berkley Avenue/Wayne Junction.

Thank you.

Joan Hill

## Kim Chantry

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**From:** Mary Sweeten <mcsweets@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** preservation  
**Subject:** 113-29 Berkley St. demolition

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Hello, I am writing to ask that Ken Weinstein's proposal to demolish this historically certified building not be approved at this time. While I am in awe of the work Ken does to try to preserve some of the historic fabric of Northwest Philadelphia, and understand the difficulties of this site, I think too much has already been lost from what we now call the Wayne District, including the Van Straaten silk mill, where Attic Brewing patrons (myself included) park their cars. The fact that 113-29 was originally part of the printing trade (Keystone Dry Plate) links it to the Max Levy Autograph building in telling the industrial story of the area.

Just my \$.02. Thank you. Mary Sweeten (445 W. Price St.)

SoLo/Germantown Civic Association (RCO)  
Southwest Central Lower Germantown  
CLEAN GREEN SAFE  
Wayne Ave Business Corridor/Happy Hollow Playground -Wayne Junction Community  
Wayne Ave Merchant Association (WAM)  
Registered Community Organization (RCO)  
A Weiss BC Organizer 215 843 5555 awfromhh4@gmail.com

Jan. 24, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch St.  
Phila., PA 191  
Attn: Jon Farnham, Executive Director Jon.Farnham@phila.gov

Re: Opposition Hardship/Demolition

Dear Dr. Jon Farnham:

SoLo/Germantown Civic Assoc. (RCO) opposes the hardship necessitating demolition of 113-29 Berkley St., The Moore Push Pin/Keystone Dry Plate building. As outlined by our bylaws an important part of the purpose of SoLo/Germantown Civic Assoc. (RCO) is "To preserve and enhance the historical heritage of SoLo/Germantown to maintain its unique character for future generations;"

The building at 113-29 Berkley was occupied and used for industrial purposes although most recently by Recovery King, a program for recovering addicts, many living on the premises until it was purchased by the applicant in 2018 and the residents relocated. The building then became vacant.

The building remains and is important, a striking reminder of the very beginning of the industrial district. Many in the community were employed there. As long as anyone can remember the picturesque red brick building has been there. The ghost sign on the west wall reminding us of the Moore Push Pin history on Berkley St.. It is a great part of the history and character of our community.

113-29 Berkley is on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places not only individually but part of the very small Wayne Junction Historic District. The commission has a duty to preserve this important building. They must take action to ensure future generations will benefit and learn from its presence. Once it is gone it is gone.

The Philadelphia Historical Commission recognized the importance by placing 113-29 Berkley on the register individually and as contributing to the very small Wayne Junction District. It is important and deserves the recognition and protection accorded to a property listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allison Weiss – Pamela Bracey – Brenda Cherry  
Organizers

cc: preservation <preservation@phila.gov>, Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@phila.gov>,  
Laura.dipasquale laura.dipasquale@phila.gov, Shannon Garrison <Shannon.Garrison@phila.gov>,  
Meredith Keller meredith.keller@phila.gov, Allyson Mehley allyson.mehley@phila.gov, Megan  
Schmitt megan.schmitt@phila.gov

## Kim Chantry

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**From:** hindsbracy@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 3:41 PM  
**To:** Jon Farnham; preservation; Kim Chantry; Laura Dipasquale; Shannon Garrison; Meredith Keller; Allyson Mehley; Megan Schmitt  
**Subject:** Request to Demolish 113-29 Berkley Street

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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Dear Mr. Farnham and other Board members:

I am writing about 113-29 Berkley St. ( Moore Push Pin/Keystone Engraving) with a request by Mr. Ken Weinstein to have this historic building demolished.

This building is located in the Wayne Junction Historic District.

Germantown waited eight long (8) years for the properties on this block to be placed on the Philadelphia Historic Register. While we waited for historic nomination the **Van Straaten & Havey, 133 W. Berkley St. was demolished.**

I am against the property known as the ( Moore Push Pin/Keystone Engraving) building being demolished at 113-29 Berkley St.

Germantown is a community in which those of us who live here enjoy our historic and not so historic properties. Our visitors both local, national and worldwide also enjoy Germantown's properties and history.

Germantown has had many properties torn down-please do not add this important historic property to that list.

Thank you.

Pamela Bracey  
SoLo Germantown Civic Association  
Long time Germantown Resident.

## Kim Chantry

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**From:** Joseph McCarthy <jfmccarthy3rdarchitecture@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 5:00 PM  
**To:** Kim Chantry; Jon Farnham  
**Subject:** 311 Berkley

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

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Dear Board,

Please accept my plea for the preservation of 311 Berkley St. I am sure you have heard all the reasons over the years for a stay of demolition. All of which could be applied here. No argument for demolition in over 300 pages can paper over the permanent loss of an historic building, the ripping up of a neighborhood context and the diminishment of our historic patrimony.

In this case it can be noted also that the owner created his own problem by demolishing rear sections of the building creating the structural insecurity which he proposes to remedy by totally demolishing the building.

Sincerely, Joseph F. McCarthy R.A.



## Kim Chantry

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**From:** Dee Dee Risher <deedeerisher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 9:08 AM  
**To:** Kim Chantry  
**Subject:** Moore Push Pin Factory

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**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,

As a longtime, 34 year-resident of the Wayne Junction area, I am writing to urge you to deny Kenn Weinstein's proposal to raze 113 Berkley Street in order to build from the ground up.

- Moore Push Pin factory is a critical historial building in our neighborhood, the launch of Wayne Junction's industrial development more than 100 years ago, and one of only a few buildings signifying that era. It is a historical landmark.
- 113 Berkley is also a unique building in architecture and design, and adds character to the Wayne Junction block.
- Weinstein is proposing replacing it with a truly ho-hum midlevel office building--ugly, and not aesthetically pleasing. There is no vision in the building plan at all. Our neighborhood, which is full of beautiful old housing, unique historical factories, and layers of history, deserves better. This would never even be an option in a neighborhood of wealth, such as Chestnut Hill.
- While I can concede that there are challenges with the infrastructure, as Weinstein argues, I believe it would be possible to retain many of the aspects of this historical building even if some new structure were incorporated around it or attached to it. It is possible to have the benefit of a beautiful, vintage facade of this building at the front, while demolishing certain parts of the building that are less stable.
- These kinds of hybrid buildings are all over Philadelphia, and are a good mix of history and current necessity. This pathway takes historical vision and commitment. I believe our neighborhood has that.
- With two lots on either side of this building, it is doubtless very tempting to raze this small structure, and go big. But we need a larger vision about what makes our neighborhood historic, distinctive, and special. As the historical commission, you are in a unique position to protect our history. No one else can do that.

Please send Developer Ken Weinstein back to the drawing board to come up with a more imaginative plan that can honors the significance of this landmark historical site.

Sincerely,  
Dee Dee Risher  
4715 Pulaski Avenue 19144