FRENCH VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Proposed Action: Designation
Nominator: Historical Commission staff
Number of properties: 24
Staff Contact: Meredith Keller, meredith.keller@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes to designate a historic district comprised of 24 properties along Emlen and Huron Streets and Gate, Elbow, and E. Allens Lanes in the West Mount Airy section of Philadelphia. The district also includes six gas street lights, three masonry gates, and a stone plaque. All 24 properties are classified as contributing. The nomination argues that the district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, D, E, and J. Under Criterion A, the nomination contends that the district is significant for its connection to the Henry Houston estate and for George S. Woodward’s Philadelphia contribution to the national trend in developing utopian planned suburbs. Under Criteria C and D, the nomination argues that the development of French Village reflects the environment of the 1920s and ‘30s era of suburban planning and European Revival architecture and, more specifically, the French Normal Revival style. Under Criterion E, the nomination notes that significant Philadelphia architects, including Robert Rhodes McGoodwin, H. Louis Duhring, Willing, Sims & Talbutt, Mellor & Meigs, and Tilden, Register & Pepper, designed the district’s buildings. Under Criterion J, the nomination contends that the French Village suburban plan intersects with the wider developing Mount Airy community.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the nomination demonstrates that the proposed district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, D, E, and J.
1. NAME OF HISTORIC DISTRICT
   French Village Historic District

2. LOCATION
   Please attach a map of Philadelphia locating the historic district.
   Councilmanic District(s): 8

3. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
   Please attach a map of the district and a written description of the boundary.

4. DESCRIPTION
   Please attach a description of built and natural environments in the district.

5. INVENTORY
   Please attach an inventory of the district with an entry for every property. All street addresses must coincide with official Office of Property Assessment addresses.
   Total number of properties in district: 24
   Count buildings with multiple units as one.
   Number of properties already on Register/percentage of total: 0 / 0%
   Number of significant properties/percentage of total: 0 / 0%
   Number of contributing properties/percentage of total: 24 / 100%
   Number of non-contributing properties/percentage of total: 0 / 0%

6. SIGNIFICANCE
   Please attach the Statement of Significance.
   Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1924 to 1936
CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:
The historic district 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.

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Please attach a bibliography.

8. NOMINATOR

Name with Title Jenna Farah and Libbie Hawes Email meredith.keller@phila.gov
Organization Philadelphia Historical Commission Date September 4, 2009
Street Address 1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor Telephone 215-686-7660
City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19102

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: September 4, 2009
☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: February 5, 2020
Date of Preliminary Eligibility: 
Date of Notice Issuance: February 11, 2020
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation:
Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission:
Date of Final Action:
☒ Designated ☐ Rejected 11/16/16
2. Location

Figure 1: French Village is located in the West Mount Airy neighborhood of Northwest Philadelphia, south of Cresheim Creek and east of Wissahickon Park.
3. Boundary Description

Beginning at the northeast corner of Elbow Lane and McCallum Street and extending northwest along the southwest property line of 7321 Elbow Lane; thence extending northeast and curving southeast along the rear property lines of 7321, 7319, 7315, 7311, and 7307 Elbow Lane; thence extending northeast along the rear property lines of 411, 407, and 403 Gate Lane; thence continuing southeast along the northeast property line of 403 Gate Lane; thence extending southeast along the northeast property line of 403 Gate Lane to a point on the northwest side of Gate Lane; thence extending northeast along Gate Lane and crossing Emlen Street to a point at the southwest property line of 7303 Emlen Street; thence extending northwest and curving northeast along the west property lines of 7303 and 7305 Emlen Street to a point at the center of the west property line of 7305 Emlen Street; thence crossing Emlen Street and extending along the south, west, and east property lines of 7306 Emlen Street; thence crossing Emlen Street to a point on the west property line of 7309 Emlen Street; thence extending northeast along the west property line of 7309 and 7311 Emlen Street to a point on the west property line of 7311 Emlen Street; thence crossing Emlen Street and extending along the south, west, and north property lines of 7312 Emlen Street to a point on Emlen Street; thence extending south along the east property line of 7312 Emlen Street to a point; thence crossing Emlen Street and extending along the north property line of 7311 Emlen Street to a point; thence extending south along the east property line of 7311 Emlen Street to a point; thence extending along the north, northeast, and southeast property lines of 7309 Emlen Street to a point of intersection with the property line of 7301 Huron Street; thence extending along the northeast, southeast, and southwest property lines of 7301 Huron Street to a point of intersection with 7309 Emlen Street; thence extending
Along the south property line of 7309 Emlen Street to a point of intersection with the northeast property line of 7305 Emlen Street; thence extending southeast along the northeast property lines of 7305 and 7303 Emlen Street to a point of intersection with the northwest property line of 333 W. Allens Lane; thence extending northeast along the northwest property line of 333 and 325 W. Allens Lane to a point on Huron Lane; thence extending southeast to the northwest corner of Huron Lane and W. Allens Lane; thence extending southwest along W. Allens Lane, crossing Emlen Street, and continuing along the southeast property line of 401 W. Allens Lane; thence extending northwest along the southwest property line of 401 W. Allens Lane to a point on Gate Lane; thence extending southwest along the south side of Gate Lane and crossing Elbow Lane; thence continuing southwest along the southeast property line of 7304 Elbow Lane; thence extending northwest along the southwest property line of 7304 Elbow Lane; thence extending southwest along the southeast property lines of 7308 and 7312 Elbow Lane; thence extending northwest along the southwest property line of 7312 Elbow Lane; thence extending southwest along the southeast property line of 7316 Elbow Lane to a point along McCallum Street; thence extending northwest along McCallum Street to a point and place of beginning.

The French Village Historic District boundary includes all buildings and appurtenances of the properties outlined in the above map. Also included are the stone gates adjacent to 333 W. Allens Lane, 401 W. Allens Lane, and 419 Gate Lane. Six gas lamps located along Elbow Lane are also included within the boundary and are part of the proposed designation.

Figure 3: Map showing the location of the six original gas lamps located along Elbow Lane.
Figure 4: Map showing the location of the three masonry gates adjacent to 333 W. Allens Lane, 401 W. Allens Lane, and 419 Gate Lane.

Figure 5: Map showing the location of the carved stone stating “Defense d’afficher” (post no bills). The stone is embedded in the masonry wall of 401 W. Allens Lane at the northwest corner of W. Allens Lane and Emlen Street.
4. Description of the built and natural environment in the district

French Village includes 24 houses designed in the French Norman Revival style, built from 1924 to 1936. This neighborhood is located in Mount Airy, just south of Cresheim Creek and on the edge of the Wissahickon Valley Park. The houses populate a small neighborhood on five streets: West Allens Lane, Emlen Street, Huron Lane, Elbow Lane, and Gate Lane (Figure 6). The wooded landscape and secondary streets comprise an enclosed neighborhood of houses built in this unusual romantic revival style. The French Village houses and site remain remarkably preserved through continued use and maintenance.

Figure 6: Aerial image of French Village, surrounded by the Wissahickon Valley Park, 2018. (Pictometry)

Site

The proximity to one of Philadelphia’s best natural resources, the Wissahickon Valley, can be felt in this small wooded enclave with tree canopies and landscaped lots which use the sloping topography to their advantage. Elbow Lane and Emlen Street link French Village to the more arterial McCallam Street and West Allens Lane with wide radial curves. These streets provide larger sites for villa style houses. Gate Lane serves as a short, straight, and informally paved link

1 Formerly Shurz Lane. Philadelphia records do not indicate the time of this change, but it is still referred to as “Shurz” in the 1930 United States census.
between the two, having mid-sized properties sited along on the street. Huron Lane offers an extension of the main core, and was subdivided and improved as part of the French Village development, also having larger lots and buildings. Smaller gatehouse buildings mark the outer bounds of the neighborhood on West Allens Lane. The architectural design of the French Village houses unites with the surrounding natural environment through the incorporation of local Wissahickon schist and designed outdoor living spaces.

**Suburban Landscape**

It is important to note the features in the French Village suburban landscape as part of the description of this site. The planning that went into the design of this neighborhood included elements of the streetscape, much of which is extant. The sidewalks are laid in broad slate slabs that relate to the slate shingles on the houses. Stone garden walls are built enclosing each property, giving the neighborhood a sense of privacy. At major entrances to the neighborhood, stone gates extend from these walls, marking the distinction of the community. Six original gas light fixtures remain on Elbow Street. These streetscape details endorse the sense of romantic history evoked by the French Norman Revival architecture (*Figure 7*).

*Figure 7: Intersection of Elbow and Gate Lanes, featuring a masonry gate, gas streetlight, and slate sidewalks, 2019. (Cyclomedia)*
Two gate houses, which mirror each other in plan, mark the entrance to French Village at Emlen Street and Allens Lane. 333 W. Allens Lane (Figure 8) is at left and 401 W. Allens Lane (Figure 9) is at right, 2018. (Philadelphia Historical Commission)

Architecture

The houses designed for French Village reflect the 1920s trend of eclectic regional and period revivals in an unusual style inspired by the medieval farmsteads and manors of Normandy, France. Robert Rodes McGoodwin and other important Philadelphia architects, such as H. Louis Duhring and the firms of Willing, Sims & Talbutt, Mellor & Meigs, and Tilden, Register & Pepper, designed houses which embraced traditional massing and forms seen in the Norman countryside. The French Village houses express a romanticized version of the native Norman vernacular architecture with exaggerated and fanciful details. Three types of residences are exhibited in the French Village district: a villa or ‘chateau’, a cottage, and a gatehouse (Figures 8 and 9). This range of types allowed for an eclectic mix of forms, all designed with various motifs and details of the French Norman style.

The massing of the 2 ½-story houses is substantial, square and rectangular in shape. Steeply sloped hipped and gable roofs are often bell-cast or having catslides and varying levels and pitches. The villa style houses, with more rambling plans, were built on larger sites on Elbow Lane, Emlen Street, and Huron Street. Gate Lane contains several mid-sized, gabled cottages with somewhat regular rhythmic bays on their street façades. There are three gatehouse style
residences that take on the most creative illustration of the French Norman style with much architectural detail in a combination of the villa and cottage features on a smaller scale. The houses have the appearance of a cluster of variously sized and shaped buildings with independent roofs. Most have a round or octagonal turret which may shelter a recessed entrance or act as the stair tower for the house, having conical or pyramidal roofs. Single and two-story wings and ells are commonly found extending the length of the plan, often incorporating a loggia, porch, or sunroom. All of the houses feature a garage on the premises designed in the style of the main building.

The clustered forms of the French Village houses are characterized by their articulated asymmetrical shapes and punctuated by eclectic architectural details. Multiple soaring chimneys rise out of slate roofs, contrasting to the heavy massing (Figure 10). The roofs are embellished with dormer windows of every shape: eyebrow, gable, hipped, segmental, and shed. Some larger dormers are very decoratively styled with scroll shaped gables, cut through the cornice to accommodate their size. The fenestration is rarely in regular bays and instead tends to be asymmetrically laid out to accommodate a mix of window and door sizes. The windows are generally wood casement style in diverse configurations and sizes. Single, double, and triple casement windows are represented, as well as lancet windows. French doors are frequently used on both the first and second floors as an additional variation of opening. The French doors and casement windows are equipped with slatted shutters. The masonry window openings are sometimes shaped into segmental arches or adorned with projecting decorative stone lintels and sills. Front entrances are often located in recessed niches or under porticos. These
prominent entryways are commonly in segmental or semicircular arches. In a few cases, an exterior stair, leading to a second floor entrance, is incorporated into the stone of the façade and doorway.

A wealth of ornamental details complete the romanticized design of the French Village houses. Upon closer inspection, instances of decorative stone carving and sculptural ornament are apparent. The design of these embellishments is robust, of substantial weight, and lines and in harmony with the massing and form of the houses. Doorways and porticoes are decorated with carved lintels and shaped niches. Round and segmental arches are formed with courses of stone; sometimes dressed stone contrasts the rustic Wissahickon schist rubble of the wall façade. Stone finials decorate gables and dormers, accenting the various designed interruptions to the cornice and roofline. Details in metal also contribute to the style of the French Village houses. Copper gutters and flashing have acquired a verdigris patina, which equally complements and draws attention from the masonry. Wrought iron balconettes trim the front of French doors. At the peaks of gables and tips of turret roofs, many of the houses are decorated with fanciful weathervanes (Figure 11).

Figure 11: 415 Gate Lane, 2018. (Philadelphia Historical Commission)
6. Statement of Significance

The French Village properties in the West Mount Airy neighborhood are significant as a historic district under Criteria for Designation A, C, D, E, and J, pursuant to Section 14-1004(1) of the Philadelphia Code. The properties are connected to the Henry H. Houston estate and George S. Woodward’s Philadelphia contribution to the national trend to develop utopian planned suburbs (A). The development of French Village reflects the environment in the 1920s and ‘30s era of suburban planning and European revival architecture with implicated ideas from the Garden Suburb and Arts and Crafts movements (C). The design of the houses embodies the French Norman Revival architectural style, inspired by farmsteads and mansions of Normandy (D). Robert Rodes McGoodwin and other important Philadelphia area architects; H. Louis Duhring, Charles Willing, Joseph Sims, James Talbutt, Marmaduke Tilden, Henry Register, George Pepper, Walter Mellor, and Arthur Meigs had a significant impact on the architectural history and cultural development of Philadelphia, particularly in the development of first-ring suburbs along commuter railroad lines (E). The French Village suburban plan and intersection with the developing wider community exemplifies the select engineering of economic, social, and cultural heritage of the Mount Airy community, also contributing to the collection of eclectic architectural styles in this area, an example of cultural and historical heritage (J).

Woodward’s original plan for French Village was represented in an architectural model that featured individual houses, ancillary structures, and extensive landscaping (Figure 12). That original model, still housed at the George Woodward Company offices, plotted the buildings along Elbow and Gate Lanes. Only the two gatehouses on W. Allens Lane and three houses on Emlen Street were included in the early plan. For the purposes of this nomination, French Village Historic District includes all buildings shown in the model and five additional properties located on W. Allens Lane, Emlen Street, and Huron Lane. The five properties not represented in the early model were constructed between 1927 and 1936 in the same French Norman style on land held by George Woodward or the George Woodward, Incorporated. The properties also contained the same deed restrictions as original French Village properties in which Woodward specified his preferred architects.² The buildings maintain the same architectural style, building

² A 1936 city survey shows that four of the five properties were intended to be bound by Emlen Street to the west, Cresheim Road/park land to the north, and an extension of Lincoln Drive that was never realized to the east. The last lot of land within the French Village Historic District, 7309 Emlen Street, transferred from George Woodward,
materials, landscaping features, and defining characteristics as those buildings represented in Woodward’s model and are therefore considered part of an extension of the original French Village plan (Figure 13).
French Village Historic District

(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 significant person in the past.

(J) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

The French Village neighborhood reflects the development of first-ring suburbs in the early twentieth century that grew out of the “degraded conditions of the city, coupled with a growing demand for housing in an environment that melded nature with community.” This trend occurred not only in Philadelphia during a period of rapid industrialization, but throughout the country, especially around major Northeast cities. These developments were often the result of real estate and architectural interests of industrial magnates. These entrepreneurs also acted as public benefactors by building libraries and bridges and by donating land for public parks. French Village epitomizes this description, reflecting the national and local trends of suburban development.

French Village was carved out of Henry Howard Houston’s estate adjacent to his Chestnut Hill development. Houston, in addition to serving as president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, built the Wissahickon Inn (Chestnut Hill Academy), Saint Martin-in-the-Fields Church, and the Philadelphia Cricket Club. It was in his capacity as president of the railroad company that he was successfully able to lobby for a line of the railroad specifically dedicated to Chestnut Hill that would enable commuters to easily reach his developments from Center City. Complementing his railroad extension, Houston further enabled the suburban development by building the required infrastructure. The creation of a suburban package was a common activity for a wealthy land developer. Transforming the country estate into a planned suburban neighborhood and daily escape from the grimy city became a model of life among the upper and middle classes of the time; French Village is one such development.

Houston’s development activities in the Chestnut Hill and Mount Airy neighborhoods set the stage for his son-in-law, George S. Woodward, to make real estate contributions to the area.

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4 George Woodward Company website: http://www.georgewoodwardco.com/history.htm
Woodward, through his company, George Woodward Co., not only built planned estate communities like French Village, he was also well known for projects such as replacing dilapidated homes along Germantown Avenue and replacing them with twins, where the company still holds a waiting list to present day.⁷

Woodward heavily relied on the precedent Houston set by following firm rental procedures, such as never increasing rent so long as a family remained in the property. In addition, to continue the uniformity of French Norman design, Woodward included deed restrictions on unbuilt lots within French Village to ensure that any future construction would be French Norman inspired.⁸ Finally, following the similar model of mixed private ownership and rental properties established by Houston, Woodward sold 12 of the 24 lots to individuals and built rental properties on the remaining lots. However, the three long-time rental properties owned by the company until recently were sold to private owners.⁹

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⁹ Deed research and information available through CityAtlas show that the George Woodward Company no longer owns any of the nominated properties.
One of Woodward’s primary goals was to provide housing for both young families and older residents. He set out to achieve this goal through building large and small homes (the larger concentrated on Elbow Lane, the smaller on Gate Lane; see Figures 14 and 15). A significant part of his philosophy on creating an ideal neighborhood involved carefully selecting tenants. His opinions on suitable tenants were included in a 1920s edition of The Survey magazine where he explained that “his ownership of the houses . . . ‘assures the tenant against undesirable neighbors.’ [He also] rented some of the houses ‘at cost’ to young married people ‘who were decidedly in the class of social assets.’”

A study of the first tenants (renters and owners) unveils how insular this community was. Most of the men were prominent bankers and investors, and there is a high degree of intermarriage among the families. Among those Woodward deemed acceptable for his development were Richardson Dilworth, a lawyer and assistant city solicitor (and later Mayor of Philadelphia, 1956-1962); Preston Blair Lee, vice president of the First National Bank of Philadelphia; and Temple S. Fay, M.D., one of Philadelphia’s foremost neurosurgeons and medical educators.

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11 For more information on the individuals, see the inventory section of the nomination which contains biographies of the first tenants.


(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.

The French Village architecture is the work of multiple architects, all of whom were well known in Philadelphia and a few whom were known beyond the city. The collective work of Willing, Sims & Talbutt, Tilden, Register & Pepper, Herman Louis Duhring, Jr., Mellor & Meigs, and most prominently, Robert Rodes McGoodwin, created a core neighborhood of cohesive style and feeling that reflected George Woodward’s vision and appreciation for French Norman architecture.

As the architect responsible for the majority of the houses, including all of the Woodward-commissioned properties, Robert R. McGoodwin was among the notable architects of the early twentieth century who were patronized by some of Philadelphia’s wealthy elite. This notable group included Horace Trumbauer and Edmund D. Gilchrist. McGoodwin designed most of the homes in French Village. The district ultimately exhibits the cohesiveness of his designs, all different yet comprised of similar elements, massing and materials, which creates the core feeling and aesthetic of French Village. In 1942, McGoodwin published a monograph of his work that prominently featured French Village. While these works and his association with the Woodward/Houston estates bolstered his notoriety in Philadelphia, McGoodwin’s other commissions, including plans for the Charleston Society Library in Charleston, South Carolina, contributed to his national reputation for his ability to design buildings with a “picturesqueness, charming composition, and the suggestion of solid modern comfort.”

Among the secondary group of architects who contributed works to French Village is Mellor & Meigs, best known for their many large residences found in numerous Main Line communities. The firm focused on designing high-end suburban residences, though they contributed several similarly capacious houses to Northwest Philadelphia, particularly in the Germantown and Mount Airy neighborhoods. Likewise, Willing, Sims & Talbutt produced a high volume of residential work for the upper class, especially in Chestnut Hill, and was a frequent competitor.

of McGoodwin and Mellor & Meigs. In addition, Willing in particular was widely known for his landscape design. While Tilden, Register & Pepper designed their share of suburban residences that would rival the other firms, they focused more on developing a diverse portfolio that included speculative Center City skyscrapers, more modern in style than the revival architecture of suburban dwellings. Finally, Herman Louis Duhring, Jr., like McGoodwin, designed several buildings for George Woodward. Duhring is most well known for creating an English village atmosphere in Chestnut Hill (also commissioned by Woodward) as well as his work using the Pennsylvania farmhouse design motif.

McGoodwin was the primary architect of French Village, yet the collective group of architects responsible for French Village represents the most preeminent architects in the Philadelphia region in the early twentieth century. Their works are notable as are their relationships with a wealthy patron; a common relationship during this time period.

Figure 16: George Woodward commissioned Robert Rhodes McGoodwin to design a small development named Cotswald Court in the St. Martins section of Chestnut Hill; the George Woodward Company still owns Houses 1, 2, and 3 located at 8000 Lincoln Drive and 8001 Navajo Street. (Pictometry)

Figure 17: McGoodwin’s 1916 plan for Houses 1, 2, and 3 in Cotswald Court, which predated French Village by several years. (Philadelphia Architects and Buildings)

Figure 18: 8001 Navajo Street in the Woodward-developed and McGoodwin-designed Cotswald Court. (Cyclomedia)
Figure 19: Willing Sims and Talbutt designed numerous residences in Chestnut Hill and the Main Line, including a Glenside estate for Frederick Rosengarten. (Philadelphia Architects and Buildings)

Figure 20: Falcondale, the estate designed by Willing Sims and Talbutt for Frederick Rosengarten, currently houses the Christian Counseling and Education Foundation at 1803 E. Willow Grove Avenue, Glenside. (Google)
Figure 21: Like other French Village architects, Mellor & Meigs designed numerous estates for wealthy clients in Philadelphia and the suburbs; the above St. Davids property was designed for William Alexander and was featured in *American Country Houses of Today* in 1913. (Philadelphia Architects and Buildings)

Figure 22: Tilden, Register & Pepper designed the Schofield Andrews house at 9002 Crefeld Street in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia. (Philadelphia Architects and Buildings)
Figure 23: Aerial image of 9002 Crefeld Street designed by Tilden, Register & Pepper. (Pictometry)

Figure 24: Woodward commissioned H. Louis Duhring to design Winston Court, a multi-family development in Chestnut Hill; the development is in close proximity to Duhring’s quadruple houses he designed for Woodward on E. Benezet Street. (Pictometry)
(C) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style
(D) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen

George Woodward expanded the development of the railroad community in Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill started by his father-in-law, Henry Howard Houston, by subdividing land from the Houston estate into properties for families of varied means. By his own design, Woodward’s planned suburbs created small neighborhoods within larger communities inside the city bounds. The architectural characteristics of the houses in these neighborhoods evoke a sense of romantic antiquarianism and European regionalism. French Village is an appealing and exceptional version of this style. Woodward’s development and design preferences demonstrated the national trends in suburban planning and residential architectural design in the 1920s and ‘30s. In Philadelphia, designers and builders embraced the materials and topography of the natural Wissahickon Valley landscape, sometimes termed the “Wissahickon Style.”18 In the context of this era, the design and construction of French Village emerges as a stellar example of the reflection of the natural and built environments in the developing Mount Airy/Chestnut Hill neighborhood and the Wissahickon Valley, characterized by a distinctive French Norman architectural style.

*Designing with the Natural Wissahickon Landscape*

In a trend common with the Arts and Crafts movement throughout the architectural world in the first quarter of the twentieth century, architects and planners in Philadelphia sought to incorporate the natural environment into their designs for residential homes and neighborhoods. The Garden Suburb and Country Club Suburb were additionally important in Woodward’s development, as Henry Howard Houston had already cultivated an exclusive culture with social and community amenities, including; St. Martin’s Church, Philadelphia Cricket Club, and Chestnut Hill Academy. The developing area of Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill, much of it formerly Houston estate land adjacent to the verdant and rocky Wissahickon Valley Park, was an exemplary candidate for this approach (*Figure 25*).

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Figure 25: Villas within French Village were often designed with elaborate landscaping to incorporate the natural environment of the Wissahickon Valley. (Philadelphia Historical Commission)

In this rocky and forested valley, the seven mile Wissahickon Creek forcefully flows through a deep gorge. The Wissahickon Valley is part of the piedmont region of Pennsylvania between the Atlantic coast and the eastern side of the Appalachian Mountains. Wissahickon Creek is the largest of a system of streams which drain into the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers through Philadelphia. The dramatic topography of the Wissahickon Creek and its tributaries is dotted with obtruding rock formations made up of primarily hard metamorphic rock. This material is locally referred to as Wissahickon schist, a type of schist with a high mica content that appears as flecks of silver. As the creek has cut through this rock, outcroppings and cliffs of highly layered rock at abrupt angles have become exposed, pieces often breaking off. This plentiful local fieldstone is easily cleaved, making it an excellent choice for a building material.

Amid this rustic terrain just southeast of Cresheim Creek, French Village is tucked away from arterial traffic routes in Mount Airy. This isolated, natural setting uses the steep creek gorge to its advantage, inviting the wooded and inclined landscape to enclose the site of the neighborhood. The French Village houses, like many in Mount Airy and adjacent Chestnut Hill,
were built of Wissahickon schist. Use of the local material blends the built environment with the texture of the natural scenery. Individual property sites intersected with the natural landscape, incorporating loggias and terraces accessed by French doors, which extended living space outside. The use of many dormer windows carried the forested scenery and light up through the highest half level of the houses. Designed landscapes brought vegetation through property sites. Early garden plans show formal geometric gardens with a French Baroque yet rustic cottage flavor. Today, many of the gardens in French Village have retreated to the popular English Cottage style, but original hardscaping, like terraces, fountains, and garden walls, can still be found sculpting the environment into a village within the natural landscape.

Figure 26: Example of a gatehouse design, located at 419 Gate Lane. (Philadelphia Historical Commission)

Suburban Planning in French Village

Early in the twentieth century, the pastoral outer bounds of early twentieth-century Philadelphia were approached with a population of increasing density brought out by Houston’s commuter railroads. By the 1920s, automobiles were also redefining the bounds of civilization. Along the railroad corridors and new driving roads in Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill, George Woodward divided his father-in-law’s estate into lots suitable for single detached houses with

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automobile garages sited on ample land. Like so many real estate developers turned social reformers before him, Woodward intended to create a utopian community with housing of a variety of sizes in a landscape that provided respite from the proximate city. French Village is an example of how Woodward’s vision carved a town within a city into even smaller, more insular neighborhoods.

Woodward, with the help of trusted architect Robert McGoodwin, laid out French Village on five streets in Mount Airy: Elbow Lane, Gate Lane, Emlen Street, West Allens Lane, and Huron Lane (formerly Schurz Lane). This group of small streets carved a village-like neighborhood out of a piece of the Houston estate. Elbow Lane and Emlen Street link French Village to the more arterial McCallam Street and West Allens Lane with wide radial curves. Gate Lane serves as a short, straight, and informally paved link between the two. As a dead end alleyway, Huron Lane is less connected to this main core, but was subdivided and improved as part of French Village. Most of the properties on Huron Lane and Emlen Streets were initially sold to private owners by Woodward, though designated to be built within the French Norman style by those contracts.²⁰

The arrangement of these streets intentionally provides a very private circulation route, limiting the neighborhood traffic by design. In fact, Gate Lane had a history of closing its (now missing) gate to through traffic on Sundays. 21 Three sizes of housing were planned to occupy the lots, representing Woodward’s attempt to include families of diverse means and demographics. 22 McGoodwin’s architecture follows this plan, exhibiting three types of residences: a villa or “chateau,” a cottage, and a gatehouse (see Figures 26, 27, and 28). This range of types allowed for an eclectic mix of forms, all designed with the various motifs and details of the French Norman style. The design of the village planning extends into circulation routes and the streetscape with slate sidewalks under stone arches for pedestrian traffic. The gatehouses at the entrances to the neighborhood and boundaries of individual houses, marked by stone walls, added to the sense of the village’s seclusion. Also extant are six original lampposts on Elbow Lane, which complete the distinctive look of the neighborhood. This approach to suburban planning, with the inclusion of deliberate village-like details and enclosures was prevalent, as it conformed to a Garden City idea that the city and suburb should be separated. 23

The French Norman Architectural Style

French Village’s architectural style was inspired by a trip to France George Woodward made with his wife, Gertrude, where they viewed the Norman countryside.24 Returning to Philadelphia, Woodward engaged Robert Rodes McGoodwin, already a collaborator in the development of neighboring Chestnut Hill, to design a small enclave of residences that suggested the French Norman vernacular style. The designs embraced many traditional massing and form models from farmhouses and farm buildings seen in the Norman countryside. McGoodwin, also having studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, was presumably familiar with this vernacular and able to use his experience as inspiration and reference. The few French Village houses not designed by McGoodwin were contracted to others by private owners from Woodward’s pool of architects, as required by the contract of sale. By hiring one of Woodward’s required architects, owners adopted the vocabulary of French Norman Revival, varying only slightly in execution.

24 Contosta, 70.
The moment was right for a number of influences from architectural theory to converge in the design of French Village. Following in the reform tradition of Andrew Jackson Downing in the mid-nineteenth century, Woodward and McGoodwin sought to design country houses that revived the romantic aesthetics of European architectural styles in pastoral settings “as a powerful means of civilization.” The aesthetic movement’s romanticized ideas about beauty precipitated a series of urban and suburban planning theories toward the end of the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century. The Garden City and City Beautiful movements endeavored to reform and beautify urban areas, integrating parkland and parkways into congested cities. This evolved into, and cooperated with, suburban planning in park-like settings, sometimes called Garden Suburbs. Moreover, Woodward and McGoodwin were influenced by the philosophies of the Arts and Crafts movement, where a revival of medieval craftsmanship and authenticity in materials and design were central principles. Also

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27 MacLeod, 3. and Ames, and McLelland, 39-41.
contemporary were the regional and period architectural revivals, which included eclectic styles such as Tudor, Cotswald, Spanish, Colonial, and Dutch Colonial Revivals.

From this frenzy of tastes in design emerged the French Norman style. The farms and manors of Northern France have particular characteristics, somewhat distinct from their southern counterparts, which influenced the American adaptation of the style for a residential design revival (*Figures 29 and 30*). Two period resources give a good look at just what the Woodwards observed in Normandy: *Farmhouses, Manor Houses, Minor Chateaux and Small Churches from the Eleventh to the Sixteenth Centuries in Normandy, Brittany and Other Parts of France* by Ralph Adams Cram (1917) and *Small Manor Houses and Farmsteads in France* by Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Roger Wearne Ramsdell (1926). These books include plates of photographs and measured drawings documenting the admired vernacular style which can be used to draw some conclusions about design themes that transferred in the 1920s.

The aesthetics of Norman architecture, as it manifests in French Village, are best represented in the massing and form of the French Norman revival style. The heavy-set, stout and rectangular massing of the structural volumes, topped with pyramidal hipped roofs, are ubiquitous throughout the Norman examples. Allusions to this massing are seen in the houses on Elbow Lane, Emlen Street, and Huron Lane, comprised of similar bulky volumes and having steep hipped roofs. Also represented are more simply planned, central hall, gabled houses, which have their counterpart in the cottage-type houses built on Gate Lane. The gatehouse type buildings in French Village have the most fanciful design of the three types, incorporating both of these forms, having volumes with hipped roofs, as well as cross gables. The farmsteads and manor houses also exhibit the grouping of related farm and dependency buildings in clusters of assorted shapes and volumes, arranged in a sprawling horizontal manner. This aesthetic can be seen in all three of the types of houses built in French Village, with multiple rooflines delineating sections of their asymmetrical plans. The French Village houses have the quality of an arrangement of several clustered buildings, though their shapes make up one mass, sometimes with wings or ells attached. Norman farmsteads and manor houses are commonly enclosed by a

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wall or line of foliage for privacy and protection. These walls enclose a central farmyard or planned gardens, as they are used in French Village. Significant effects have been achieved by borrowing French methods of enclosure and terracing to add this sense of individual private property.

![Figure 30: Ferme de Turpe, Normandy, as depicted in Ralph Adams Cram's Farm Houses, Manor Houses, Minor Chateaux, and Small Churches published in 1917. (Google Books)](image)

Eberlein introduces his discussion of Norman architecture by saying, “The old domestic architecture of Normandy and Brittany, but especially Normandy, is a veritable mine of inspiration whence motifs may be drawn and turned to good account.”

McGoodwin took this sentiment to mind in his design of the French Village enclave. The stylistic details ornamenting the French Village houses give them the character of native French Norman architecture, but often exhibit the romanticized and exaggerated features common in revival designs. The arrangement of the doors and windows in the Norman examples is typically regular, but employs a great variation of sizes and shapes. This is also true of the houses in French Village, although they sometimes appear with more eclectic asymmetry. Windows are generally casement style and French doors are used as larger openings with entrances onto terraces. Front entrances are often recessed inside alcoves or porticos. Like in French Village, dormers are present on many of the roofs of the Norman buildings, also in a variety of shapes and styles.

29 Eberlein, 1926, 56.
The cylindrical, octagonal, and square towers built close to the façades of the houses suggest a Norman origin (Figure 31). These have roots in the colombiers (dove cotes) of French farmsteads and stair towers30 of French manor houses. Multiple tall chimneys reach out of the rooflines of the French Village houses, an exaggerated detail, which does not appear in the Norman examples. Along with these important architectural details, smaller ornaments, such as dressed stone lintels, loggias, semi-circular arches, and exterior staircases garnish the French Village houses. These whimsical details can be found sparingly in the Norman farmsteads and manor houses, but really represent an embellishment of the original architectural style.

Figure 31: The tower abutting the façade of 411 Gate Lane alludes to the design of a French Norman manor house. (Philadelphia Historical Commission)

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30 Indeed, most of the towers shown in McGoodwin’s drawings are used for stair towers; see McGoodwin, Richard Rhodes. The Work of Robert R. McGoodwin. Philadelphia: William F. Fell, 1942, plates 66, 70, 72, 74, 78 & 81.
7. Bibliography


Bozorgi, Khosrow. The Chestnut Hill country house of the 1920s: A unique architectural 'type'. Ph.D. diss., http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:2082


“Gate Homes Achieve a Medieval Tone.” House and Garden. July 1929, 67-69.

George Woodward Company website: http://www.georgewoodwardco.com/history.htm


Historic Property Files. Philadelphia Historical Commission.


Address: 325 West Allens Lane

Survey Date: July 30, 2009

OPA Number 092119300

Classification: Contributing

Other Known Address

Year Built: 1927-28

Original Woodward Rental Property: Yes

Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin

Original Occupant/Owner: Preston Blair Lee

Developer: George Woodward

Builder: Townsend Schroeder & Wood

Physical Description: 2 ½-story stone gatehouse residence composed of an assembly of masses at various heights and with various steep slate rooflines. The main volume has a hipped roof with two ridge heights, which is accentuated by segmental and hipped dormers. Smaller volumes add to the plan, including a 1 ½ story gabled ell with a large semi-circular arched window and an octagonal turret with a stair tower inside. The fenestration is a mix of regular and irregular layouts with casement windows of various sizes and French doors. A catslide roof sweeps over the front entrance portico. A detached garage with gabled dormers is connected to the house via a loggia. The building is sited with a terrace and garden inside a garden wall.

Resource: Detached dwelling

Walls: Stone

Foundation: Stone

Style: Norman/French

Function: Private Residence

Stories: 2.5

Roof: Slate

Ancillary: Garage

Biography of original owner(s): Preston Blair Lee was a member of the prominent Blair family of Washington, D.C. He attended Princeton and served in the U.S. Army in WWI. Mr. Lee was a vice president of the First National Bank of Philadelphia at the time of his move into the French Village in 1929. He later became a partner in the banking firm of Brown Brothers, Harriman & Company, and then became president of the Western Savings Fund Society of Philadelphia. P. Blair Lee was married to Elizabeth Wayne in 1926. Mr. Lee died after a stroke in 1983, at the age of 87. Woodward's company sold the property in 1962 to Robert Yarnall, Jr.

Address: 333 West Allens Lane  
Survey Date: July 30, 2009  

OPA Number: 092119400  
Classification: Contributing  

Other Known Address: 341 West Allens Lane  
Year Built: 1927  

Original Woodward Rental Property: Yes  
Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin  

Original Occupant/Owner: George J. Lincoln*  
Developer: George Woodward  
Builder: Townsend, Schroeder & Wood  

Physical Description: 2 ½-story stone gatehouse built as part of a designed pair at the entrance of the French Village neighborhood. The building is anchored by a main mass with a center entrance, covered by a steep slate hipped roof with a tall chimney at either end. Segmental dormer windows and various configurations of casement windows are apparent. The design is made asymmetrical with a bumped out gable end and an octagonal turret on the front façade. A detached garage is sited across a terraced yard next to the house. A stone wall is built out from the turret and opens in an elliptical arch over the sidewalk. This house is the reverse design from of Gate House A across Emlen Street.  

Resource: Detached dwelling  
Walls: Stone  
Foundation: Stone  
Style: Norman/French  

Function: Private Residence  
Stories: 2.5  
Roof: Slate  
Ancillary: Garage  

Biography of original owner(s): George J. Lincoln is listed as a candy manufacturer in the 1930 census. He married wife, Helen, in 1926. In 1942, he was acting as the executive secretary of the Milk Cap Statistical Bureau of Philadelphia. He later appears as the secretary of the American Waxed Paper Association, perhaps involved with candy wrapper manufacture. In both positions, Mr. Lincoln was involved in Federal Trade Commission suits for a price fixing conspiracy. (New York Times 5/17/1944, 1/8/1942) Woodward's company sold the property in 1962 to Paul and Henriette Ecker.  

*The 1930 U.S, Census does not make clear the address for this tenant, but the listing situates the Lincoln household in this location by process of elimination.  

**Address:** 401 West Allens Lane  
**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009

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<tr>
<th>Original Occupant/Owner:</th>
<th>William &amp; Isobelle Fleming*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year Built:</td>
<td>1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developer:</td>
<td>George Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Builder:</td>
<td>Townsend Schroeder &amp; Wood</td>
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**Physical Description:** 2 ½-story stone gatehouse built as part of a designed pair at the entrance of the French Village neighborhood. The building's plan is a regular main mass with a center entrance, covered by a steep slate hipped roof with a tall chimney at either end. Segmental dormer windows and various configurations of casement windows are apparent. The design is made asymmetrical with a projecting gable end and an octagonal turret on the front façade. Includes a detached garage. A stone wall, serving as a gate, extends out from the turret and arches over the sidewalk. A carved stone stating "Defense d'afficher" (post no bills) is inset in the stone wall along Allens Ln. This house is a mirror image of Gate House B across Emlen Street.

<table>
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<th>Resource:</th>
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<td>Function:</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ancillary:</td>
<td>Garage</td>
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**Biography of original owner(s):** William Fleming was a banker working with stocks and bonds.

*the 1930 U.S, Census does not make clear the address for this tenant – but the listing situates the Fleming household in this location by process of elimination.

<table>
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<td>Architect:</td>
<td>Robert R. McGoodwin</td>
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<td>Original Occupant/Owner:</td>
<td>Joseph Priestly Button</td>
<td>Developer:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Builder:</td>
<td>George S. Roth &amp; Sons</td>
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### Physical Description:

2 ½-story stone villa in L-shaped configuration. The asymmetrical shape is composed of several smaller square masses, each with distinct steep hipped roof, some with gable and eyebrow dormers. At the rear, an attached garage terminates the ell. An arched loggia and cylindrical stair tower with a conical roof complete the massing. French doors and variously sized casement windows are throughout. A walled terrace and lawn are sited in front of the house. A 1-story stone addition was constructed in 1928 by contractor George S. Roth & Sons, the same company that built the house. No architect was listed on the permit for the addition.

### Resource:
- Detached dwelling

### Walls:
- Stone

### Foundation:
- Stone

### Roof:
- Slate

### Style:
- Norman/French

### Function:
- Private Residence

### Stories:
- 2.5

### Ancillary:
- Garage

### Biography of original owner(s):

Born on News Year Day, 1864, Joseph P. Button grew up in Germantown and, after studying painting in England at the Cauldron School of Art and Design, returned to his father's business, Conyers Button & Company. When he and his father gave up the firm in 1899, J.P. Button devoted his interests to many cultural activities. He was a founder of the Philadelphia Country Club, a member of the Union League, a member of the First Unitarian Church of Germantown and a brother in the Society of Saint Andrews. Prior to his move into the French Village, he resided at the Pelham Court Apartments in the Pelham section of West Mount Airy. He is listed in several city directories as a special partner of Parsley Brothers & Company, an investment banking house in which his son, Conyers Button, II held partnership. J.P. Button was married to Amelia Hutchinson Button. Both of his children, Conyers Button II, and Mrs. Temple S. Fay, joined him in residing in French Village at 7311 & 7304 Elbow Lane respectively. J.P. Button died in 1931. (Bulletin 12/24/1931, 12/7/32)

### Additional References:

7307 ELBOW LANE
Address: 7311 Elbow Lane

OPA Number 092324800

Other Known Address

Original Woodward Rental Property: No

Original Occupant/Owner: Conyers Button, II

Survey Date: July 30, 2009

Classification: Contributing

Year Built: 1925

Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin

Developer: George Woodward

Builder: Frederick Elvidge & Son

Physical Description: 2 ½-story villa with steep hipped roof. This house has a particularly regular rectangular plan, with a round turret on the front façade, next to a catslide roof over a portico which hides the recessed front entrance. Two eyebrow dormers on the roof flank the tower. Two tall chimneys sit at opposing ends of the house. A detached garage in same design is at the rear of the house. A pool was added in 1960.

Resource: Detached dwelling

Walls: Stone

Foundation: Stone

Style: Norman/French

Function: Private Residence

Stories: 2.5

Roof: Slate

Ancillary: Garage

Biography of original owner(s): Born 8 December 1898, Conyers Button, II, was the second child of Joseph P. Button. He served as a partner in the investment banking firm of Parsley Brothers & Company at the time of his move into French Village from 6812 Lincoln Drive, in West Mount Airy. Conyers Button constructed his own house nextdoor to his parents, Joseph Priestly and Amelia Hutchinson Button, who lived at 7307 Elbow Lane.

Additional References: Philadelphia Historical Commission files; Deed: George Woodward to Conyers Button, 1925, JMH, Book 2011, Page 428; Permit #4242 (1925) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #4243 (1925) for 1-story stone garage.
Address: 7315 Elbow Lane

Survey Date: July 30, 2009

OPA Number: 092324900

Classification: Contributing

Other Known Address

Year Built: 1924-25

Original Woodward Rental Property: Yes

Architect: Willing, Sims & Talbutt

Original Occupant/Owner: Mrs. Bayard A. Borie, James A. and Idella G.

Developer: George Woodward

Builder: George S. Roth & Sons

Biography of original owner(s):
Mrs. Bayard Borie rented the property from George Woodward, Inc. for two years. The McCurdys then purchased the house from George Woodward, Inc in 1927. James Aubrey McCurdy was the director of the American Meter Company, having worked in real estate earlier in his career. McCurdy was a member of the Philadelphia Cricket Club. He married Idella Louise Gribble in 1818 and was buried in West Laurel Hill Cemetery. (Bulletin 3/3/1818)

Physical Description:
2 ½-story stone villa with asymmetrical plan, including several square wings at different levels and an attached garage. The main volume has a slate hipped roof with dormers, the other masses have separate hipped roofs, most also having dormers with varying shaped gables. Double and triple casement windows appear mixed with French doors. A loggia opens into a walled terrace in the front yard including a belvedere with view back at the house. A sunken greenhouse was added in 1925. Gardens and hardscaping were added in 1927. A rear garage was built 1931. Willing, Sims & Talbutt was listed as the architect for all additions through 1931.

Resource: Detached dwelling

Function: Private Residence

Walls: Stone

Stories: 2.5

Foundation: Stone

Roof: Slate

Style: Norman/French

Ancillary: Garage

Additional References:
Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey, Philadelphia Historical Commission; Mertz Collection: MTZ*084: Willing, Sims & Talbutt Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia; Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Cortlandt Van Dyke Hubbard, The Practical Book of Garden Structure and Design, Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1937, figs 10-12.; Permit #10933 (1924) for 3-story stone & brick dwelling; Permit #10934 (1924) for 1-story stone garage; Permit #10218 (1924) for greenhouse; Permit #6701 (1927) for porch roof, garden walls and steps; Permit #5472 (1931) for rear garage.
Address: 7319 Elbow Lane  
OPA Number 092325000  
Survey Date: July 30, 2009  
Classification: Contributing  
Other Known Address:  
Year Built: 1927-28  
Original Woodward Rental Property: No  
Original Occupant/Owner: Herbert Stanley & Lavinia B. Welsh  
Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin  
Developer: George Woodward  
Builder: Townsend Schroeder & Wood

### Physical Description:
2 ½-story stone villa with slate hipped roof. A brick soldier course divides the ground floor from the second floor. The plan is rectangular, but asymmetrical, with irregular bays marked by double casement windows in a variety of sizes windows. An attached garage has a distinct roof, also hipped. A cylindrical tower with conical roof stands next to an entrance porch on the front elevation. An attached garage with distinct hipped roof is next to the main house. A terrace is centered at the rear of the house.

### Resource: Detached dwelling  
Walls: Stone  
Foundation: Stone  
Roof: Slate  
Style: Norman/French  
Stories: 2.5  
Function: Private Residence  
Ancillary:  

### Biography of original owner(s):
Herbert Stanley Welsh was a partner in the firm of Welsh Brothers, investment bankers, with his brother, Robert F. Welsh, during the 1920s and 1930s. He also shared an interest with his father, Herbert Welsh, in Indian affairs and rights, serving as treasurer of the Indian Rights Association, an organization founded and headed by the elder Welsh. He married Lavinia Borden Welsh. Welsh lived in Gwynedd Valley, Montgomery County, prior to his move into the French Village. Herbert S. Welsh died 11/5/1950 after a heart attack, at the age of 68. (New York Times, 11/6/1950, p. 27)

### Additional References:
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<td>Yes</td>
<td><strong>Architect:</strong></td>
<td>Willing, Sims &amp; Talbutt</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Original Occupant/Owner:</strong></td>
<td>Charles C. and Magaret C. Walbridge</td>
<td><strong>Developer:</strong></td>
<td>George Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Builder:</strong></td>
<td>George S. Roth &amp; Sons</td>
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</table>

| **Physical Description:** | 2 ½-story stone villa in asymmetrical plan with two volumes connected at a corner, one set back further than the other, each with a separate steep slate hipped roof. The forward wing has three large through dormer windows placed though the cornice with carved, shaped gables. An attached garage has another individual steep hipped roof with dormer windows. The front door is covered by a portico with a semi-circular stilted arch entrance. The windows are double and single casement style, as well as narrow vertical four light strips. French doors are also found opening to the walled front terrace. A stone staircase from the front of the lot also accesses the enclosed garden. A pool was added in 1961. |
| **Resource:** | Detached dwelling |
| **Function:** | Private Residence |
| **Walls:** | Stone |
| **Foundation:** | Stone |
| **Roof:** | Slate |
| **Style:** | Norman/French |
| **Stories:** | 2.5 |
| **Ancillary:** | |

| **Biography of original owner(s):** | Charles C. Walbridge, a general partner and floor manager at his family's investment banking firm, West & Company. He was responsible for opening the Philadelphia branch of the same company. Walbridge graduated from Yale in 1919. He married Margaret Cope Buffum in 1911. They moved to the French Village from 8208 Seminole Avenue, Chestnut Hill in 1926. Mrs. Walbridge was a tennis player at the Philadelphia Cricket Club and Mr. Walbridge was a member of the University Club of New York, the Societies of the War of 1812 and Colonial Wars as well as a member of the Military Order of Foreign Wars. Charles C. Walbridge died suddenly on 6/28/1929 at the age of 40. (Bulletin, 12/9/1919, 1/1/1929, 6/28/1929, 6/29/1929, 12/30/1929, 1/5/1930) |

7321 ELBOW LANE
**Address:** 7304 Elbow Lane  
**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009

**OPA Number** 092325400  
**Classification:** Contributing

**Other Known Address**  
**Year Built:** 1925-26

**Original Woodward Rental Property:** No  
**Original Occupant/Owner:** Dr. Temple Sedgwick & Marion Button Fay  
**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin  
**Developer:** George Woodward  
**Builder:** George S. Roth & Sons

### Biography of original owner(s):

Born 9 January 1895 in Seattle, Washington, Dr. Temple Sedgwick Fay came to Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and remained to become one of Philadelphia’s foremost neurosurgeons and medical educators at the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University. He enlisted to serve in the Medical reserve corps in WWI. He married Marion Hutchinson Button, first child of Joseph P. Button (who also lived in French Village) in 1923. They lived at 409 Westview Street in West Mount Airy before relocating in French Village. In 1939, Fay pioneered the “frozen sleep” therapy for cancer patients. Dr. Fay was a very accomplished neuroscientist with many publications to his name, eventually also holding positions on several medical philanthropic boards, including; the Red Cross, the research council of the United Cerebral Palsy Association and the International League Against Epilepsy. Temple Fay died in 1963 at age 68. (Bulletin 10/7/1929, 6/7/1937, 10/25/1939, 4/16/1948, 5/1/1950, 10/20/1950; Who’s Who in Philadelphia 1925)

### Additional References:

Philadelphia Historical Commission files; Permit #12914 (1925) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #12915 (1925) for 1-story stone garage; Permit #2177 (1937) for 2 ½-story stone addition.

### Physical Description:

2 ½-story stone residence with main volume, and two square wings, one set forward and another to the side. Each of these has an individual steep slate hipped roof, with dormer windows. The first story of the side wing is a sunroom, with rounded arch French doors on the three outward elevations. A detached garage, also with a hipped roof sits to the south of the house. The fenestration is irregular and the window shapes and sizes are widely varied. The full glass front door is divided into 24 lights with muntins and flanked by side lights and topped with a transom. This property has a large lawn to the northwest of the buildings. An addition was built in 1937; no architect was provided on the permit.

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<td>Garage</td>
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### Additional Notes:

- **Roof:** Slate
- **Walls:** Stone
- **Stories:** 2.5
- **Foundation:** Stone
- **Style:** Norman/French
- **Ancillary:** Garage

**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin  
**Developer:** George Woodward  
**Builder:** George S. Roth & Sons
## Address Information

- **Address:** 7308 Elbow Lane  
- **Survey Date:** July 30, 2009
- **OPA Number:** 092325500
- **Classification:** Contributing

## General Information

- **Other Known Address:**
- **Original Woodward Rental Property:** No
- **Year Built:** 1928
- **Original Occupant/Owner:** Richard H. Oller
- **Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin
- **Developer:** George Woodward
- **Builder:** Charles Bowman

## Physical Description

- **Description:** 2 ½-story stone villa with multiple slate hipped roofs. Dormer windows interrupt the steep roof slope. Vertical masses in the form of two tall chimneys and a large square stair tower distinguish the line of the front elevation. The front double door has a semi-circular fanlight above. An external masonry stair rises from a front terrace to a second floor landing and entrance. The casement windows are generally in double configurations, though some variation in style and shape is represented. A detached garage in the same design is located south of the house. A one-story stone addition, located at the northwest end of the building, was designed by W.F.B. Koelle and constructed in 1942.

## Resource Information

- **Resource:** Detached dwelling
- **Walls:** Stone
- **Foundation:** Stone
- **Style:** Norman/French
- **Function:** Private Residence
- **Roof:** Slate
- **Ancillary:** Garage
- **Stories:** 2.5

## Biography of Original Owner(s)

Oller served in both World Wars, the latter on the staff of Admiral Nimitz. Richard H. Oller served as vice-president of the Oller Engineering Company, a mechanical engineering concern, in 1924. By the time of his move to French Village, he is listed as a statistician for Parsley Brother & Company, a firm related to neighbors J.P. and Conyers Button. He died in 1950 at the age of 46. (New York Times 7-31-1946)

## Additional References

- Philadelphia Historical Commission files; Permit #1973 (1928) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #1974 (1928) for stone garage; Permit #2348 (1942) for 1-story stone front addition. Deed: George Woodward Incorporated to Richard Harley Oller, 1928, JMH, Book 2711, Page 579.
Address: 7312 Elbow Lane  
Survey Date: July 30, 2009  

OPA Number: 092325600  
Classification: Contributing  

Other Known Address:  
Year Built: 1927  

Original Woodward Rental Property: No  
Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin  

Original Occupant/Owner: Wilson S. & Dorothy D. Yerger  
Developer: George Woodward  

Builder: Charles Bowman  

Physical Description: 2 ½-story stone villa sited facing away from the street in a raised terrace. A large volume with a slate hipped roof makes up the main body of the house, while prominent cross-gabled volumes terminate in asymmetrical rooflines including cat slides and pent roofs on the street façade. The fenestration is somewhat regular, with casement windows in vertical bays, though of varied shapes and styles. A detached three-car garage fronts on Elbow Lane. A tool house was built in 1934 and a brick addition in 1936. McGoodwin was listed on the permits as architect for the tool house and brick addition. A pool was added in 1954. The house was designed to mirror 7304 Elbow Lane.  

Resource: Detached dwelling  
Walls: Stone  
Foundation: Stone  
Style: Norman/French  

Function: Private Residence  
Stories: 2.5  
Roof: Slate  
Ancillary: Garage  

Biography of original owner(s): Wilson S. Yerger, a Philadelphia native and 1909 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in chemical engineering, founded the Imperial Type Metal Company shortly before the outbreak of World War I, eventually becoming its president and sole owner. He also served as a director of the First National Bank and the Broad Street Hospital. He and his wife, Dorothy D. Yerger, lived at 7209 Cresheim Road, opposite the Allen's Lane Station on the Pennsylvania Railroad, prior to moving onto Elbow Lane. He was a member of both the Union League and the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Yerger died suddenly at the age of 56 in 1942 "while walking with a group of friends on Emlen Street." (New York Times 11/23/1942, P. .23)  

Additional References: Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey, Philadelphia Historical Commission; Deed: George Woodward Incorporated to Wilson S. Yerger, 1926, JMH, Book 2285, Page 344; Permit #3595 (1927) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #3596 (1927) for garage; Permit #1340 (1934) for tool house; Permit #1140 (1936) for 1-story brick addition.
Address: 7316 Elbow Lane

Survey Date: July 30, 2009

OPA Number: 092325700

Classification: Contributing

Other Known Address

Year Built: 1928

Original Woodward Rental Property: Yes

Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin

Original Occupant/Owner: Sidney P. Clark & Isabella Lee Mumford

Developer: George Woodward

Builder: John E. Walt

Physical Description: 3-story stone villa composed of several vertical volumes in an asymmetrical layout with individual steep gable and hipped rooflines at varying heights. The fenestration of some of these volumes is regular, in two and three bays of casement windows, resembling colonial design. Others have irregular variation of windows and doors, including a large semi-circular arched window. The building is sited on a terrace above the street, reached by one of two stone staircases integrated into the stone wall surrounding the property.

Biography of Original Owner(s):

Sidney P. Clark was educated at Harvard and served in the Navy in WWII. He became a banker holding positions at the Seaman’s Church Institute, becoming a partner at E.W. Clark and Company Investments and then the president of the Pennsylvania Hospital. He also was involved in the Bond Club of Philadelphia. Clark was active in recreational society, playing squash through the Penn Athletic Club and won the Pennsylvania state singles squash racquets championship in 1928. Clark also played hockey through the Philadelphia Cricket Club. His wife, Isabella Clark was a former member of the New England Sears Cup championship cricket team. Sidney P. Clark died at age 76 in 1967. (Bulletin 2/4/1928, 12/16/1930, 1/18/1937, 7/5/1949, 7/24/1950, 6/15/1967). In 1962, the George Woodward Company sold the property to David Wallace, a founding member of renowned Philadelphia design firm Wallace, McHarg, Roberts and Todd.

### Address: 7303 Emlen Street

**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009

**Classification:** Contributing

**Physical Description:** Large 2 1/2-story stone residence in rectangular plan with asymmetrical projecting wings. The main volume of the house has a slate hipped roof intersected by the gable roofs of three projections. A fourth projection has a half hipped roof, running into the side of the main volume. Fenestration is not regular, showing a variety of sizes of casement windows at unusual intervals. A chimney rises from either side of the structure. A detached garage was built to match the house, constructed of stone with a hipped roof and topped with a pyramidal cupola. Two single-story additions were made to the house 1935 and 1936. No architect was listed on the permit.

**Resource:** Detached dwelling  
**Function:** Private Residence  
**Stories:** 2.5  
**Walls:** Stone  
**Foundation:** Stone  
**Roof:** Slate  
**Style:** Norman/French  
**Ancillary:** Garage

### Biography of original owner(s):

Not much information exists on Harold Shirley and his wife, Carrie. Newspapers report the couple as well-to-do, holding dinner parties, traveling through New England, and going on extended stays to Cape May. The couple moved frequently for the time, living in numerous residences in Germantown, Mount Airy, and Chestnut Hill. While the Shirleys built the house at 7303 Emlen Street between 1929 and 1930, newspapers note that the couple sold the house just a few years later in 1934 ("Residence at 7303 Emlen Street, Held at $50,000, Reported Sold," Philadelphia Inquirer [28 December 1934], newspapers.com, accessed 24 January 2020).

### Additional References:

Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey, Philadelphia Historical Commission; Deed: George Woodward Incorporated to Harold R. Shirley, 1929, JMH, Book 3002, Page 269; Permit #8285 (1929) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #8286 (1929) for 1-story stone garage; Permit #3128 (1935) for 1-story library addition; Permit #4897 (1936) for 1-story stone addition.
**Address:** 7305 Emlen Street  
**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009  
**OPA Number:** 092319700  
**Classification:** Contributing  
**Other Known Address**  
**Original Woodward Rental Property:** No  
**Original Occupant/Owner:** Francis J. Rue  
**Year Built:** 1929-30  
**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin  
**Developer:** George Woodward  
**Builder:** Charles Bowman  

### Physical Description

2 ½-story stone villa in a L-shaped plan with asymmetrical projecting wings. The main corner volume has a slate hipped roof. This is joined to several wings with gabled roofs and having gable ends facing outward to various elevations. The windows are set in irregular bays and are primarily of the casement type. A serpentine driveway leads through the large lot to a detached garage behind the house.

### Resource

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Walls</th>
<th>Foundation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private Residence</td>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>Norman/French</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional References:

- Permit #4865 (1929) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #4866 (1929) for garage; Philadelphia Historical Commission files; Deed: George Woodward Incorporated to Francis Jamison Rue, 1929, JMH, Book 2953, Page 391; Deed: George Woodward Incorporated to Francis Jamison Rue, 1931, JMH, Book 3386, Page 240.

### Biography of original owner(s):

Francis J. Rue was born in 1896, the son of Levi J. Rue, an important Philadelphia banker who headed the Philadelphia National Bank. He graduated from Princeton in 1918 and served in the U.S. Navy. At the PNB, he was promoted to a vice presidency in 1928, a post he held for many years. In 1937, Rue was appointed to the state banking board. He eventually became a vice president of Bankers Trust Company, the position from which he retired. Rue’s first wife, Virgina Randolph Peltzer, died and he was remarried to Mrs. Eleanor Huntington Francke Remick in 1964. Rue was a member of the Rittenhouse Club, the Princeton Club of Philadelphia, the Penn Charter Commission and the Sunny brook Golf Club. He died in 1976 at the age of 79. (New York Times 9/23/1931, 11/22/1964, 1/26/1976, Bulletin10/66/37, 11/2/1938)
7305 EMLEN STREET
**Address:** 7309 Emlen Street  
**Survey Date:** October 2, 2018

**OPA Number:** 092319830  
**Classification:** Contributing

**Other Known Address:** 7309 Huron Street  
**Year Built:** 1936

**Original Woodward Rental Property:** No  
**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin

**Original Occupant/Owner:** James M. Skinner  
**Developer:** George Woodward

**Builder:** Horace H. Burrell & Son

### Physical Description:
3-story stone villa in L-shaped configuration. The east wall of the main volume is interrupted by three cross gables and a single dormer at the north. The garage is attached at the northeast. The main volume and garage feature steeply sloped slate roofs. Large chimneys project through the roof of the main volume at the north and south ends. A stone retaining wall surrounds the drive at the north and west.

### Resource:
- **Type:** Detached dwelling  
- **Walls:** Stone  
- **Foundation:** Stone  
- **Style:** Norman/French

### Function:
- **Type:** Private Residence  
- **Stories:** 3  
- **Roof:** Slate  
- **Ancillary:** Garage

### Biography of original owner(s):
James M. Skinner graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1911 and went to work for the Philadelphia Storage Battery Company, eventually becoming its president. In 1930, he converted the firm's function to the manufacture of radios, changing the company's name to the Philco Corporation. He also served as the board chairman of the firm. In other fields, he became vice chairman and executive committee chairman of the Community Chest of Philadelphia, secretary of the Associated Hospital Service of Philadelphia and director of the Pennsylvania Company for Banking & Trusts, Baldwin Locomotive Company, the Chamber of Commerce, American Stores (Acme), and Germantown Hospital, as well as a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania. For his contributions to Philadelphia, he received the Philadelphia Award in 1944. He died in February 1953 at the age of 64 (New York Times 2/15/1953).

### Additional References:
"Designated as C on a Plan of a Survey made for George Woodward, Inc. by Jacob Orie Clarke, Civil Engineer dated 1/18/1929 with additions thereto made 1/13/1936"; "Application for Permit for Erection of Dwellings," April 24, 1936, City Archives, City of Philadelphia; Deed: George Woodward Incorporated to James M. Skinner, 1936, DWH, Book 73, Page 148; Permit #1251 (1936) for 3-story stone dwelling.
**Address:** 7311 Emlen Street

**Survey Date:** October 2, 2018

**OPA Number:** 092319900

**Classification:** Contributing

**Other Known Address:** 7360 Huron Street

**Year Built:** 1931

**Original Woodward Rental Property:** No

**Architect:** Mellor & Meigs

**Original Occupant/Owner:** Dr. Francis Adler

**Developer:** George Woodward

**Builder:** Hamilton Vodges

**Physical Description:**

3-story stone villa in L-shaped configuration. The west wall of the main volume is interrupted by three cross gables. The garage is attached at the northeast. The main volume, southern addition, and garage feature steeply sloped slate roofs. Large chimneys project through the roof of the main volume and addition. The main house was constructed in 1931. A 2 ½-story stone addition, designed by Mellor & Meigs, was constructed in 1939.

**Resource:** Detached dwelling

**Walls:** Stone

**Foundation:** Stone

**Style:** Norman/French

**Function:** Private Residence

**Stories:** 3

**Roof:** Slate

**Ancillary:** Garage

**Biography of original owner(s):**

All that city directories mention of Francis H. Adler was that he practiced as a physician and lived at 5922 Greene Street in the heart of Germantown. More information is provided in his wife's obituary (New York Times 8/2/1968). This mentions that Martha Converse Adler was the wife of Dr. Francis Heed Adler, an ophthalmologist and a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Martha Converse did achieve some fame of her own, acting as one of the founders of the Philadelphia branch of the Americans for Democratic Action. She was survived by her husband and one child, Lynn.

**Additional References:**

Application for Permit for Erection of Dwellings, May 15, 1931, City Archives, City of Philadelphia;

Application for Permit for Additions, Alterations, Repairs, June 30, 1939, City Archives, City of Philadelphia;

**Address:** 7306 Emlen Street  
**Survey Date:** October 2, 2018

**OPA Number:** 092320700  
**Classification:** Contributing

**Other Known Address**  
**Year Built:** 1925

**Original Woodward Rental Property:** Yes  
**Architect:** Willing, Sims & Talbutt

**Original Occupant/Owner:** Unknown  
**Developer:** George Woodward

**Builder:** Ralph C. Borthwick  
**Resource:** Detached dwelling  
**Walls:** Stone  
**Foundation:** Stone  
**Style:** Norman/French

**Function:** Private Residence  
**Stories:** 2.5  
**Roof:** Slate  
**Ancillary:** Garage

**Physical Description:** 2½-story stone house with 1½-story stone garage and 2½-story stone addition. Steep sloped slate roofs. Multi-pane casement windows in a regular configuration at the main volume and irregular configuration at the north addition. Freestanding stone walls connect the main volume to the garage at south.

**Classification:** Contributing

**Biography of original owner(s):** Woodward held this property as a rental for decades before selling it to longtime tenant Audrey P. S. Saylor in 1972. Ms. Saylor rented the property with her husband, Colonel George F. Shaw, until his death in 1954. She remained at the property and married Judge Harold Saylor the following year. During the Saylors' tenancy from 1955 to 1972, newspapers reported on a controversial purchase of two acres of land adjacent to 7306 Emlen Street by the Fairmount Park Commission. Mr. Saylor served as the organization's treasurer, and reports implied that the purchase ultimately increased the judge's land at the taxpayer's expense. The land, identified as 7310 Emlen Street, remains city-owned.

**Additional References:** Deed: Audrey P. S. Saylor to Peggy L. and Mark P. Curchack, 1982, Department of Records, City of Philadelphia; Deed: George Woodward Inc. to Audrey P. S. Saylor, 1972, DCC Book 207, Page 134, Department of Records, City of Philadelphia; Permit #7341 (1925) for 2-story stone garage; Permit #7342 (1925) for 2-story stone dwelling; Permit #6417 (1928) for 3-story stone addition; "Park Lot Adds to Official's Home," Philadelphia Daily News, 19 July 1977, newspapers.com, accessed 1 March 2019; Various newspaper articles on Audrey Saylor, newspapers.com, accessed 1 March, 2019.
Address: 7312 Emlen Street  
Survey Date: October 2, 2018  

OPA Number 092320820  
Classification: Contributing  

Other Known Address  
Year Built: 1929  

Original Woodward Rental Property: No  
Architect: Robert R. McGoodwin  

Original Occupant/Owner: Henry Doerr Boenning  
Developer: George Woodward  

Builder: W.J. Gruhler Company  

Physical Description: 2½-story stone residence with main volume, attached garage, and several additions. A greenhouse addition is at the rear, and a sunroom addition is located to the southeast of the main volume. Stone retaining wall spanning Emlen Street constructed in 1929 by Nicholas DiTommaso. Each volume has a steep slate roof. The main volume includes two cross gables and several dormer windows at the roofline.

Biography of original owner(s): Born September 11, 1889, Henry D. Boenning graduated from Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1914, he organized his investment banking firm, Boenning & Company, which underwent several changes during the ensuing ten years. He lived at 3122 W. Penn Street in the Queen Lane/East Falls section of Northwest Philadelphia, a middle- and upper-class residential development of the early twentieth century. He died on June 7, 1943 (New York Times 6/8/1943).

Additional References: Permit #1065 (1929) for 3-story stone dwelling; permit #3777 (1929) for stone retaining wall; Deed JMH Book 2442 Page 493 (1927) George Woodward Incorporated to Henry D. Boenning.
7312 EMLEN STREET
### Address:

**403 Gate Lane**

Survey Date: **July 30, 2009**

### OPA Number

**092122900**

### Other Known Address

**#1 Gate Lane**

### Original Woodward Rental Property: **Yes**

### Original Occupant/Owner: **Garfield Scott**

Year Built: **1925**

Architect: **Robert R. McGoodwin**

Developer: **George Woodward**

Builder: **John E. Walt**

### Physical Description:

2 ½-story stone house with no setback from the street. The front is divided into 3 vertical sections with the center section’s façade rising above the bottom of the roof. The side roof lines are stepped and culminate in a chimney on each side. There is an attached garage and a garden wall connects 403 to 407 Gate Lane, its nearest neighbor.

### Resource:

Detached dwelling

### Walls:

Stone

### Foundation:

Stone

### Roof:

Slate

### Style:

Norman/French

### Function:

Private Residence

### Stories:

2.5

### Ancillary:

Garage

### Biography of original owner(s):

Garfield Scott served two roles during his lifetime: as a vice president and director in the family business of Allen, Lane and Scott, a printing house of some repute; and as general counsel for the United Gas Improvement Company, a post he retained until 1955. A native of Germantown, he attended Germantown Academy and graduated from Princeton in 1903 and the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1906. Garfield Scott was married to Grace L. Nevin. Scott was a member of the Union Leauge, the Philadelphia Cricket Club and the Scotch-Irish Society. He died in 1955 at his home in Mount Airy, presumably the Gate Lane residence. (New York Times 6/19/1955, Bulliten 6/23/55)

### Additional References:

### Address:
407 Gate Lane

### Survey Date:
July 30, 2009

### OPA Number
092123000

### Classification:
Contributing

### Other Known Address
#2 Gate Lane

### Year Built:
1925

### Original Woodward Rental Property:
No

### Architect:
Robert R. McGoodwin

### Original Occupant/Owner:
William P. & Edith Newhall

### Developer:
George Woodward

### Builder:

### Physical Description:
2 ½-story stone house with no setback from the street. There are three segmental dormer windows. Bottom front façade windows are 8 over 8, window directly above the front entry resembles a French door with a wrought iron low balcony gate nearly flush with the exterior stone. Detached garage, iron gate at driveway entrance. Doorway flanked by two vertical windows 1 pane wide, 3 panes high. The doorway is set in a stone segmental arch. There are two chimneys, one on each lateral end.

### Resource:
Detached dwelling

### Walls:
Stone

### Foundation:
Stone

### Style:
Norman/French

### Function:
Private Residence

### Stories:
2.5

### Roof:
Slate

### Ancillary:
Garage

### Biography of original owner(s):
William P. Newhall served the Pennsylvania Company for Banking and Trusts for many years, eventually becoming its president by 1929. He was a cricket player, touring the British Isles with the Germantown Cricket Club 'Pilgrims' He married Edith Kurtz, a prominent amateur tennis player with the Germantown Cricket Club. They moved to 407 Gate Lane in 1926. They never moved from the Gate Lane house. Mr. Newhall died at home in 1950 and Mrs. Newhall died in 1974. (New York Times 1/4/1950; Philadelphia Inquirer, 1/10/1974; Bulletin 1/4/1950)

### Additional References:
**Address:** 411 Gate Lane  
**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009  
**OPA Number:** 092123100  
**Classification:** Contributing  
**Other Known Address:** #3 Gate Lane  
**Year Built:** c. 1925  
**Original Woodward Rental Property:** Yes  
**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin  
**Original Occupant/Owner:** Joseph Ferguson & Louise Mohr  
**Developer:** George Woodward  
**Builder:** John E. Walt

**Physical Description:** 2 ½-story stone house with no setback from the street. The front façade is dominated by a turret and pitched roof with a catslide over the front door. There are two segmental dormer windows that open vertically, one on each side of the turret. There is a single, detached garage and the house is connected to its neighbor by the garden wall uniting each property on Gate Lane. There turret has two narrow vertical windows. The George Woodward Company held this property as a rental until 2014.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Function</td>
<td>Private Residence</td>
<td>Stories: 2.5</td>
<td>Roof: Slate</td>
<td>Ancillary: Garage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Biography of original owner(s):** Joseph Ferguson Mohr was the son of Gloss K. Mohr of the J.J. Mohr & Company. J. Ferguson Mohr was an All-American Soccer player. He attended the University of Pennsylvania, where he was active in the Mask & Wig Club and graduated in 1917. He worked in the electrical supplies business during the 1920s before becoming an insurance broker with Marsh & McLennan, Inc. He married Louise Dixon in 1927, a graduate of Wellesley who had been the national girls champion in tennis in 1920. She was active in golf at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Mr. Mohr served in the U.S. Army in WWII. He died in 1972 at the age of 76. (Philadelphia Record 5/27/1927, 2/7/1972).

**Address:** 415 Gate Lane  
**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009

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<td>#4 Gate Lane</td>
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<td>Original Woodward Rental Property:</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Occupant/Owner:</td>
<td>Richardson Dilworth</td>
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</table>

**Classification:** Contributing

**Year Built:** 1926

**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin

**Developer:** George Woodward

**Builder:** John E. Walt

**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009

**Classification:** Contributing

**Stories:** 2.5

**Roof:** Slate

**Style:** Norman/French

**Ancillary:** Garage

**Resource:** Detached dwelling

**Walls:** Stone

**Foundation:** Stone

**Function:** Private Residence

**Physical Description:** 2 ½-story house with no setback from the street. The most prominent façade feature is the external stair leading to a doorway located directly above the ground floor doorway. This doorway is under a small portico framed by a segmental arch. The central portion of the house has mansard roof with an eyebrow window, the vertical massing has a saddleback roof that extends in a catslide over the rear side. There are two segmental dormers over the side drive. The second floor windows have X-shaped iron gates over the bottom half.

**Biography of original owner(s):** After graduating from Yale Law School in 1926, Richardson Dilworth secured a position with the law firm of Evans, Bayard & Frick, and moved directly into French Village. In 1928 and 1929, he also served as an assistant city solicitor. By 1935, he had moved from French Village to a larger Woodward house on Mermaid Lane in Chestnut Hill. Richardson Dilworth acted as one of Philadelphia’s most prominent men during the mid 20th century, leading the reform movement which culminated in the passage of the Home Rule Charter of 1951 and serving as mayor of the city from 1955 to 1962. (New York Times, 1/24/1974)

**Address:** 419 Gate Lane  
**Survey Date:** July 30, 2009

**OPA Number:** 092123300  
**Classification:** Contributing

**Other Known Address:** 7305 Elbow Lane; #5 Gate Lane  
**Year Built:** 1925-26

**Original Woodward Rental Property:** Yes  
**Architect:** Robert R. McGoodwin

**Original Occupant/Owner:** Loring & Cornelia Dam  
**Developer:** George Woodward

**Builder:** John E. Walt

**Biography of original owner(s):** Loring Dam spent much of his life working for Eastman, Dillon, Union Securities Company, an investment banking house. At the time of his move into French Village, he held the position of manager in the firm, eventually achieving a post as a limited partner. Dam was educated locally at Haverford Collage and served as a naval lieutenant in WWI. In the community, Dam was active at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a member of the Racquet, Sedgley, Bond and Men's Garden Clubs. Dam's philanthropy led him to be a board member for the National Society of Crippled Children and served as chairman of the Civil Service Committee on the Philadelphia Committee of Seventy. In 1945, Loring Dam suffered and survived Typhoid fever. He married his wife, Cornelia Hyman, in 1921. She was an educated woman, attending Bryn Mawr, to graduate in 1919 with a degree in classical archeology. Mrs. Dam was head docent and curator of the education department at the University of Pennsylvania University Museum. She published scholarly articles in the Scientific American and American Mercury. The city directories do not carry a listing for Loring Dam prior to his move into the French Village in 1926. He died 31 July 1970, at the age of 74. (Sunday Bulletin 8/2/1970)

**Resource:** Detached dwelling  
**Walls:** Stone  
**Foundation:** Stone  
**Style:** Norman/French

**Function:** Private Residence  
**Stories:** 2.5  
**Roof:** Slate  
**Ancillary:** Garage

**Physical Description:** 2 ½-story stone gatehouse with steep bell-cast hipped roof with gable and eyebrow dormer windows. Several small asymmetrical wings articulate the main volume, including an octagonal stair tower and an attached garage. The front entrance is recessed under a semi-circular stilted arch. Casement style windows are used in various configurations. A garden wall encloses terrace and lawn. This house is located at the corner of Gate Lane and Elbow Lane and marks the entrance into Gate Lane with a stone elliptical arch flanked by two semi-circular stilted arch door openings.

Address: 7301 Huron Street  
Survey Date: July 30, 2009

OPA Number 092318900  
Classification: Contributing

Other Known Address  
Year Built: 1929-30

Original Woodward Rental Property: Yes  
Architect: Tilden, Register & Pepper

Original Occupant/Owner: Morris Cheston  
Developer: George Woodward, Inc.

Builder: Townsend Schroeder & Wood

Physical Description: 3-story stone villa with large asymmetrical plan including central volume with several wings and ells. The steeply pitched slate roof is both hipped and gabled. Several tall chimneys rise above the rooflines. The casement windows are in irregular sizes and shapes. This house has unusual decorative brickwork on chimneys and gable peaks. This house is obscured by vegetation and a garden wall so little further description is possible.

Resource: Detached dwelling  
Walls: Stone  
Foundation: Stone  
Style: Norman/French

Function: Private Residence  
Stories: 3  
Roof: Slate  
Ancillary: 

Biography of original owner(s): Morris Cheston was a prominent corporate lawyer in Philadelphia. He was married to Caroline M. Ashton in 1927. He reached the position of partner at the firm of Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersal and was then elected director at Smith, Kline & French Labs. He was also on the board of managers at the Pennsylvania Hospital. In 1955, he was the victim of death threats and extortion by criminal J.H. Buckland. (Bulletin, 4/1927, 5/18/50, 9/1955, 7/29/1957)

Additional References: Permit #4207 (1929) for 3-story stone dwelling; Permit #766 (1933) for new bathroom and bedroom in 3rd floor unfinished loft, new dormer window in rear sloping roof.
7301 HURON STREET
Address: 7319/7321 Elbow Ln prop line

Survey Date: October 2, 2018

OPA Number

Classification: Contributing

Other Known Address

Year Built: c. 1925

Original Woodward Rental Property: 

Architect:

Original Occupant/Owner: George Woodward

Developer: 

Builder:

Physical Description: Gas street lamp on north side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7319 and 7321 Elbow Lane.

Resource: Object

Walls:

Foundation

Style:

Function: Utility

Stories:

Roof:

Ancillary:

Biography of original owner(s):

Additional References:

[Image of street lamp]

[Image of aerial view of property]
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<th>Address: 7308/7312 Elbow Ln prop line</th>
<th>Survey Date: October 2, 2018</th>
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<td>OPA Number</td>
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<td>Other Known Address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Woodward Rental Property:</td>
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<td>Original Occupant/Owner:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Developer: George Woodward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Builder:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Physical Description:**
Gas street lamp on south side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7308 and 7312 Elbow Lane.

**Resource:**
- Object
- Walls:
- Foundation

**Function:**
- Utility
- Stories:
- Roof:

**Ancillary:**

**Biography of original owner(s):**

**Additional References:**
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<tr>
<th><strong>Address:</strong></th>
<th>7311/7315 Elbow Ln prop line</th>
<th><strong>Survey Date:</strong></th>
<th>October 2, 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OPA Number:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Classification:</strong></td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Known Address:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Year Built:</strong></td>
<td>c. 1925</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Original Woodward Rental Property:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Architect:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Original Occupant/Owner:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Developer:</strong></td>
<td>George Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Builder:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Physical Description:**
Gas street lamp on north side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7311 and 7315 Elbow Lane.

**Resource:**
Object

**Function:**
Utility

**Biography of original owner(s):**

**Additional References:**

**Roof:**

**Walls:**

**Foundation:**

**Style:**

**Stories:**

**Roof:**

**Ancillary:**
Address: 7304/7308 Gate Ln prop line  
Survey Date: October 2, 2018  
OPA Number:  
Classification: Contributing  
Other Known Address:  
Year Built: c. 1925  
Original Woodward Rental Property:  
Architect:  
Original Occupant/Owner: George Woodward  
Developer:  
Builder:  
Physical Description: Gas street lamp on south side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7304 and 7308 Elbow Lane.  
Resource: Object  
Walls:  
Foundation:  
Style:  
Function: Utility  
Stories:  
Roof:  
Ancillary:  
Biography of original owner(s):  
Additional References: 

Resource: Object  
Walls:  
Foundation:  
Style:  
Function: Utility  
Stories:  
Roof:  
Ancillary:  
Biography of original owner(s):  
Additional References: 

Image 1: Gas street lamp on south side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7304 and 7308 Elbow Lane. 
Image 2: Aerial view of the property with a red circle highlighting the location of the gas street lamp.
Address: 7307 Elbow/419 Gate Ln prop line

Survey Date: October 2, 2018

OPA Number

Classification: Contributing

Other Known Address

Year Built: c. 1925

Original Woodward Rental Property:

Architect:

Original Occupant/Owner: George Woodward

Builder:

Physical Description:

Gas street lamp on north side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7304 and 7308 Elbow Lane.

Resource: Object

Walls:

Foundation

Style:

Function: Utility

Stories:

Roof:

Ancillary:

Biography of original owner(s):

Additional References:
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<tr>
<th>Address: 7304 Elbow Lane at Gate Lane</th>
<th>Survey Date: October 2, 2018</th>
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</thead>
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<td>OPA Number</td>
<td>Classification: Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Known Address</td>
<td>Year Built: c. 1925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Original Woodward Rental Property:</td>
<td>Architect:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original Occupant/Owner:</td>
<td>Developer: George Woodward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Builder:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Physical Description:**
Gas street lamp on south side of Elbow Lane at property line of 7304 Elbow Lane, across from Gate Lane.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource: Object</th>
<th>Walls:</th>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>Style:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function: Utility</th>
<th>Stories:</th>
<th>Roof:</th>
<th>Ancillary:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Biography of original owner(s):**

**Additional References:**

![Image of gas street lamp](image1.jpg)

![Aerial view of property](image2.jpg)