

**ADDRESS: 8224 GERMANTOWN AVE**

Name of Resource: Harriett Detweiler and Caroline Detweiler Hammond House

Proposed Action: Designation

Property Owner: Jeanne & Stanley Baum

Nominator: Chestnut Hill Conservancy

Staff Contact: Meredith Keller, [meredith.keller@phila.gov](mailto:meredith.keller@phila.gov)

**OVERVIEW:** This nomination proposes to designate the Harriett Detweiler and Caroline Detweiler Hammond House at 8224 Germantown Avenue and list it on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination contends that the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A, H, and J.

Under Criterion A, the nomination argues that the property has significant character and value as part of the development of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood. Under Criterion H, the nomination contends that the property is significant for its prominent location along Germantown Avenue, the main thoroughfare running through Northwest Philadelphia. The nomination further argues that the property satisfies Criterion J for its association with the Detweilers, an early settler family, and that it serves as a reflection of the early mid-nineteenth-century character of the emerging Chestnut Hill suburb.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** The staff recommends that the nomination demonstrates that the property at 8224 Germantown Avenue satisfies Criteria for Designation A and J. However, the staff contends that, while the building contributes to the streetscape, it does not stand out from the adjacent buildings as an established and familiar visual feature and does not satisfy Criterion H.



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

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

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

Street address: 8224 Germantown Avenue

Postal code: 19118

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: Harriett Detweiler and Caroline Detweiler Hammond House

Current/Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

☒ Building

☐ Structure

☐ Site

☐ Object

**4. PROPERTY INFORMATION**

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

Occupancy: ☒ occupied ☐ vacant ☐ under construction ☐ unknown

Current use: Residential

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

**6. DESCRIPTION**

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

**7. SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Period of Significance (from year to year): from c.1885 to 1902

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: c. 1885, 1922, 1931, 1932, 1972

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Unknown

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: Unknown

Original owner: Harriet Detweiler (1826-1902) & Caroline Detweiler Hammond (1822-1897)

Other significant persons: John Landis Mason (1832-1902)

**CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:**

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

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

**8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Please attach a bibliography.*

**9. NOMINATOR**

Organization Chestnut Hill Conservancy Date June 8, 2021

Name with Title Amy Lambert, RA, MSHP Email maryamelialambert@gmail.com

Street Address 8708 Germantown Avenue Telephone 215-247-9329

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19118

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

**PHC USE ONLY**

Date of Receipt: 9 June 2021

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 17 June 2021

Date of Notice Issuance: 21 June 2021

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Stanley and Jeanne Baum

Address: 401 W. Moreland Ave.

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19118

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

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Action: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Designated ☐ Rejected

12/7/18

## 5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

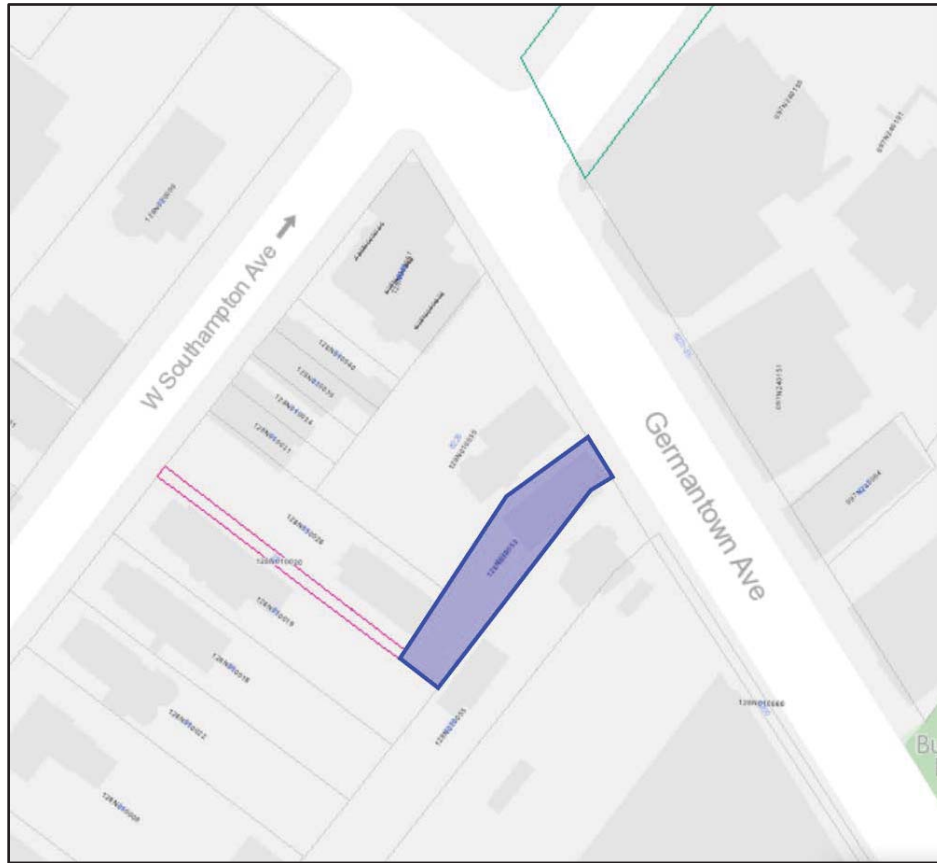


Fig. 1. Parcel map of subject property. Source: Atlas, City of Philadelphia.

The dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue is in the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia. The boundary of the dwelling site encompasses a long, rectangular shaped lot with a slight bend at its northern edge, in the middle of a residential block, with frontage on historic Germantown Avenue in the Chestnut Hill National Register Historic District of northwest Philadelphia. Situate in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of the City of Philadelphia, Beginning at a point on the southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) part open and part not legally open State Highway Route #67026, measured South 28 degrees, 2 minutes, 00 seconds East along the said Southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue the distance of 165 feet 10-7/8 inches from a point of intersection formed by the said Southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) and the Southeasterly side of Southampton Avenue (50 feet wide); thence extending North 54 degrees, 8 minutes, 00 seconds East crossing the Southwesterly not legally open part of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) passing through a stone wall the distance of 5 feet ½ inches to a point on the Southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue (60 feet wide) legally open within the bed of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) part open and part not open; thence South 28 degrees, 2 minutes, 00 seconds East along the Southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue (60 feet wide) legally open within the bed of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) part open and part not open 23 feet 6-3/8 inches to a point; thence South 54 degrees, 45 minutes, 55 seconds West recrossing



the Southwesterly not legally open part of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) part open and part not open 5 feet ½ inches to a point on the Southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) part open and part not open; thence South 54 degrees 45 minutes 55 seconds, West 12 feet 0 inches to an angle point; thence South 42 degrees, 10 minutes, 29 seconds West passing through a frame structure 126 feet 1/8 inches to a point; thence North 48 degrees, 1 minute, 50 seconds West 25 feet 0 inches to a point; thence North 38 degrees, 45 minutes, 53 seconds East passing partly through a stone wall 93 feet 6-5/8 inches to an angle point; thence North 54 degrees, 8 minutes, 00 seconds East passing partly through a wall 53 feet 6-1/2 inches to a point on the Southwesterly side of Germantown Avenue (70 feet wide) part open and part not open being the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

The property is known as Parcel No. 128N010053, Office of Property Assessment Account No. 092245100.



Fig. 2. The Harriett Detweiler and Caroline Detweiler Hammond House at 8224 Germantown Avenue.



Fig. 3. Perspective of 8224 Germantown Avenue from north. Source: Google Maps.



Fig. 4. Perspective of 8224 Germantown Avenue from the south. Source: Google Maps.



## 6. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION



Fig. 5. A recent photograph showing the house and an altered porch construction and without its shutters intact.

*\*\*All photographs of the site were taken by the author on Wednesday, June 2, 2021.*

The dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue, built between 1885 and 1889 for Harriett Detweiler and her sister Caroline Detweiler Hammond, is a folk Gothic Revival-style dwelling clad in painted, smooth-coat stucco and has a rectangular footprint with a hipped roof. 8224 Germantown Avenue is described in the Chestnut Hill National Register Historic District inventory as a "2 ½ story, 3-rank, stuccoed dwelling with hipped roof, shed ground floor porch wood cornice and framed openings. Additions and alterations occurred in 1922, 1931, 1932, and 1972."

The dwelling fronts Germantown Avenue and contains a 1-story, full-width, shed-roofed, wood porch with perimeter railing at the primary elevation of the building. The porch railing and floor are elevated above the sidewalk level by several steps and a Wissahickon schist retaining wall that acts as a planting bed. There is an asphalt driveway to the south of the property from Germantown Avenue to the rear of the property and accessible to (and possibly shared by) the building at 8220. In the rear of the subject property is a green space with overgrown plantings and a couple of tall trees including a very large specimen in the middle of the grass lawn.



Fig. 6. The primary elevation of the dwelling showing the hipped roof, front porch construction, two bay upper floor and front door to the north of two ground floor windows, all elevated above sidewalk and street level with shared driveway with building to the south.

The building is sited approximately in the middle of the block within a typical narrow lot fronting the main avenue of the neighborhood. Historically, lots fronting Germantown Avenue had this seigneurial format with deep lots and narrow frontage allowing density along the main thoroughfare. It is clad at all elevations (that can be detected since there is a large growth of ivy obscuring the north elevation) in a butter-colored, smooth-coat stucco.

The primary elevation has two window openings at the ground level of the house to the south of the entry door in a picturesque asymmetrical style. These three openings are under the wood porch overhang with seamed metal roof. The overhang is nearly the entire width of the building but is cut just shy of the south corner of the house and at an angle that seems perpendicular with the Avenue. This porch has been modified from its original version as seen in Fig. 14 where it exhibits a bit of Italianate flair with its period brackets creating arched openings between structural columns. However, modest Italianate touches such as the hipped roof and the cornice brackets at the roof eave remain intact.

The south elevation of the house can be seen from the existing driveway that is shared with the adjacent property. This elevation is of painted stucco and has four window openings at each



level perfectly aligned with each other in the vertical axis. All window openings are the same size except for the rear opening at the first level which may indicate a kitchen or other area with plumbing; there is a water spigot present in the wall under this window further adding to that theory. The windows at the first and second levels seem to have historically been 2/2 and many have contemporary storms. There are three basement windows toward the east side of this elevation, taking advantage of the lower elevation closer to the sidewalk. All windows have simple trim without girth or profile; the sills are painted wood. The roof is indicated by a modest cornice incorporating a gutter; a downspout falls before the final window pairing to the west. There is a stucco chimney penetrating the roof at the south wall toward the front of the house indicating the main parlor likely has a fireplace or stove as a heating element.



Fig. 7. The rear and south elevations of the dwelling with Germantown Avenue in the background.



Fig. 8. The lawn in the rear, or far west, of the property.



Fig. 9. The west or rear elevation of the property showing the back door and ivy overgrowth. The north lot line is immediately adjacent to the property.



Fig. 10. The north elevation obscured by ivy and showing the front steps of the adjacent property.



The rear or west elevation is partially obscured by overgrowth of ivy from the north side of the property. At the first level, there is a back door with insect screen door centered in the wall and within what might be a slight protrusion from the main wall plane that seems to extend to the cornice. To the north of this door is a window opening with an air conditioning unit installed. At the upper level, only the window to the south is visible but it would be expected that there is at least another window at the second level.



Fig. 11. The front door at the east elevation with the solid, paneled entry door closed and the outer door with glazing in the upper portion open. The floor of the porch is wood, but the steps leading up seem to be of slate while the cheek walls are of schist. The handrail is contemporary.



## 7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



Fig. 12. A 1924 photograph of the 8200 block of Germantown Avenue with the subject property to the left. Source: Chestnut Hill Conservancy.

The dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue is a significant historic resource in Philadelphia and meets Criteria A, H, and J for designation on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia zoning code. The dwelling meets Criterion A as having significant character and value as part of the development of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia; Criterion H owing to its prominent location along Germantown Avenue, the main thoroughfare of northwest Philadelphia, in its unique eighteenth century configuration; and Criterion J as a reflection of the early mid-nineteenth century character of the emerging suburb of Chestnut Hill and as a residential property associated with an early settler family, the Detweilers.

**Criterion (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 the person significant in the past.**

**Criterion (h): Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City.**

**Criterion (j): Exemplify the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.**

The detached dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue was built between 1885 and 1889 by Detweiler (alternatively spelled Detwiler) sisters Harriett and Caroline, ux. Hammond. The two women were born and raised in Chestnut Hill by a family counted among the area's earliest settlers. The modest house reflects a vernacular expression derived from the period's popular picturesque architectural design as exemplified at the highest levels by A.J. Downing that would come to define the early architectural character of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood. After the 1854 Act of Consolidation and the opening of the Germantown Railroad, Chestnut Hill developed into a fashionable nineteenth century suburb. This house and those like it scattered throughout the neighborhood evolved into the defining style of the built environment of Chestnut Hill: sturdily constructed but not overwhelmingly large houses on relatively small lots that have an important visual connection both to the street and to their neighbors.<sup>1</sup>



Fig. 13. An undated photograph from the twentieth century showing the house and an altered porch construction but with its shutters intact. Source: Chestnut Hill Conservancy.

---

<sup>1</sup> In the 1848 *Map of the Township of Germantown* by J.C. Sidney indicates the elevated placement and prominent views along the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike (now Germantown Avenue). See Fig. 18.

## The residential design

For the dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue, the unknown builder incorporated the picturesque forms and detailing of a folk Gothic Revival cottage by using the local palette of Wissahickon schist, front porch with turned spindles, and schist retaining walls. As popularized by Andrew Jackson Downing, the Gothic Revival cottage was well suited to the suburban development of Chestnut Hill and indeed proliferated as the neighborhood grew. The picturesque plan and fenestration of the house and its siting in the middle of the lot speaks to Downing's popular approach to landscape and cottage design, and one that was well-suited to suburban development in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The fact that the house is close to the right of way of Germantown Avenue is indicative of the street's prominence as a main thoroughfare. The long, narrow lot shape is indicative of the early division of land in the former Germantown Township along the main street with narrow frontage and deep lots. The use of local building materials positions the house within the origin story of Chestnut Hill as a prominent local community. Its location adjacent to other properties in the Detweiler, Stallman, and Schwenk families speaks to the organic growth patterns of the area with families living near each other who are related by marriage and kinship. 8224 is set back to reference the existing 18th century architecture on either side, complimentary in design and siting so as not to overwhelm. While its porch projects further, 8224 allows for its older neighbors to remain more prominent on the Avenue.

A.J. Downing's 1850 treatise *The Architecture of Country Houses* is a culmination of his views on domestic architecture and the social and moral influences of such designs, asserting that a properly designed home was "a powerful means of civilization." Certainly, nineteenth century Philadelphia benefited from the popularity of Downing's picturesque cottage designs notably in the suburban developments that sprang up all along Germantown Avenue, many of which are clustered in Chestnut Hill.

Nancy Holst has argued that pattern books such as Downing's are crucial to understanding a period's architectural taste.

The new suburban houses of Germantown struck a balance between the implied reserve and older values of tradition-bound forms and the application of numerous superficial Italianate and bracketed details that not only lay claim to current fashion, but establish unmistakable relationship to rural ideas and provided a measure of individual character that seldom transgressed accepted boundaries.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Nancy A. Holst. "Pattern Books and the Suburbanization of Germantown, Pennsylvania, in the Mid-Nineteenth Century," (dissertation, University of Delaware, 2008), 291.



Such a view, intertwined with Downing's idea that a house helps influence its occupants' moral character, may have been an attractive philosophy to unknown builders whose residential commissions mirrored the form, massing and character-defining features of the architect's designs to appeal to home buyers of more modest means.

### **Chestnut Hill, Germantown Township, Philadelphia**

The dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue is sited along the south side of Germantown Avenue in the geographic and mercantile heart of the Chestnut Hill neighborhood of Philadelphia. The dwelling is also sited within the Chestnut Hill Historic District, a National Register of Historic Places designation. The property's shorter boundary runs alongside this historic thoroughfare, with the house itself set close to and elevated above the sidewalk, fully in view of all pedestrian and vehicular traffic on Germantown Avenue. This location next to the dwelling at 8220 (now a cat clinic) just north of the driveway to the Fresh Market grocery store and south of 8226 Germantown Avenue make the location of 8224 a prominent one as well as a prime visual landmark of the neighborhood and indicative of the neighborhood's architectural character.

From its beginnings, Chestnut Hill has cultivated a distinct identity. Bounded by the Wissahickon and Cresheim Creeks, Stenton and Northwestern Avenues, the neighborhood is demarcated by its steady elevation from Wayne Junction and peaking at Summit Street, a block away from the subject property. Originally part of the Germantown Township, the area now known as "Chestnut Hill" was recorded as such as early as 1711 in recorded land transfers. For the first half of the nineteenth century, the colonial period settlement patterns remained unchanged. The area was known for its advantageous topography and climate, elevated above and away from the dense and dirty city of Philadelphia seven miles to the southeast.

Germantown Avenue was developed along an ancient Leni Lenape trail and has historically carried people and goods between Philadelphia and points beyond to the northwest. In 1801, it became the Germantown and Perkiomen Turnpike which allowed the road to be improved and paved. By the mid-nineteenth century, new transit options affected the development of the hill. The establishment of the Reading Railroad (now the SEPTA Chestnut Hill East line) in 1854 had a great effect on the residential development of Chestnut Hill, and the street car line along the road had an immediate and lasting effect upon the commercial nature of the Avenue when it arrived in 1859. The turnpike company was abolished in 1874 when the city assumed responsibility for the street and the road bed was replaced with rubble stone until the 1920s when the current Belgian Block was installed.<sup>3</sup>

According to the Boundary Justification portion of the Chestnut Hill Historic District nomination form, residents of Chestnut Hill are united in sharing an outstanding physical environment that is well defined and that the generational continuation of residents of the neighborhood enhances the inhabitants bonds to the community.<sup>4</sup> Germantown Township has an unbroken

---

<sup>3</sup> National Register of Historic Places. Chestnut Hill Historic District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

300 year heritage of residential use. The development of Chestnut Hill, in particular, is one of different groupings of families, united by bonds of marriage and kinship, organically forming clusters of home ownership or occupation near each other. This can be seen in the case of the Detweilers who lived in the enclave in and around the subject property for generations and near those with whom they intermarried such as the Stallman family as seen on the 1848 J.C. Sidney map (Fig. 18).

In their comprehensive survey of the former Germantown Township, *Historic Germantown*, Harry and Margaret Tinkcom and Grant Simon describe the importance of the layers of history in the neighborhood as such

Almost two hundred and seventy years ago Francis Daniel Pastorius, in describing what is now the Twenty-second Ward of Philadelphia, wrote, “all is forest.” To the person who glances casually at a city map, Germantown is just another section of a great metropolis, perhaps only a shopping center, but to the person familiar with its history and architecture it is much more than that; it is a distinct entity in itself, made so by the past and the remains of the past.

Germantown Avenue’s role as an important regional thoroughfare evolved in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the neighborhood’s Main Street, with the road serving as the center for all community activities. Housed along the road were hotels, inns, taverns, churches, stores, graveyards, and houses. Unlike many Main Streets, Germantown Avenue has continued to retain a fair amount of mixed usage. The chief importance of the road lies in its role as a commercial artery. Throughout the history of northwest Philadelphia, the road has served as a unifying force in a commercial and an historical sense for Chestnut Hill and the two neighborhoods to the south, Mt. Airy and Germantown.



Fig. 14. A photograph (image reversed) from 1900 showing the Harriett and Caroline Detweiler House with its original Italianate porch detailing. Source: Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

## The Detweiler Family

The two-and-a-half story house at 8224 Germantown Avenue was purpose built for sisters Harriett Detweiler and Caroline Detweiler Hammond between 1855 and 1889. Both born in Philadelphia, Caroline's lived 1822 to 1897 while her younger sister Harriett lived 1826 to 1902. Their parents were Frederick and Mary Detweiler who were parents of three other children: Mary Cope; Charlotte; and Cyrus. Harriett was not known to have ever married or had issue; she was referred to by Caroline's children as "Aunt Had."

The Detweiler family arrived in the Chestnut Hill area of Philadelphia in the mid-eighteenth century from Switzerland. Felix Duttweiler is the immigrant ancestor of the family associated with the subject property. He was born in 1728 in Oberweningen, Canton of Zurich, Switzerland, and arrived in Philadelphia on the *Halifax* on September 22, 1752 along with a friend, Johann. Felix emigrated to America on the heels of an uncle who had settled in the Skappack region. Felix and John (his anglicized name) courted and ultimately married two daughters from Chestnut Hill's Schwenk family and the two couples were given the house at 8220 Germantown Avenue as a first home; it was sold a year later. Felix settled in Flourtown up Bethlehem Pike in a house at the corner with what is now Franklin Avenue. He was a farmer and a shoemaker. He and his wife Elizabeth had ten children including John who deleted one of the letters t in his surname and was known as Dutweiler.<sup>5</sup>

John was born in 1754 at the family homestead in Flourtown. John learned to farm from his father Felix and was a veteran of the Battles of Germantown and Brandywine. After the war he met and married Barbara Ruff, daughter of the people who bought 8220 Germantown Avenue from his parents Felix and Elizabeth. John bought property all along the Avenue and raised eight children in 8226 Germantown Avenue. He died in 1822 and was buried in St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Mt. Airy.<sup>6</sup>

John's son Frederick was born in Philadelphia in 1789 and raised in 8226 Germantown Avenue. Not much is known about Frederick except that he was the quartermaster of the Captain John Huston, Jr. company of Chestnut Hill during the War of 1812 and has a death date of 1840. Otherwise, his marriage to Mary Stallman (1787-1873) of Philadelphia gave him five children including Caroline and Harriett.<sup>7</sup> Mary's family-owned property near the Detweiler houses.

---

<sup>5</sup> Stephen Brian Corson, "Felix Duttweiler," Geni.com

<sup>6</sup> Stephen Brian Corson, "John Dutweiler," Geni.com

<sup>7</sup> Stephen Brian Corson, "Frederick Detweiler," Geni.com





Fig. 15. Undated photographic portrait of Harriett Detweiler, affectionately known as “Aunt Had.”  
Source: Geni.com

Caroline married William Hammond and had three children: Emma, Elizabeth and Cyrus. Emma Lavinia (1850-1923) married firstly Maurice Deshong and had five children including John Laurence (born 1884) and Carol Hammond Deshong (1881-1975). After marrying secondly to tinsmith John Landis Mason (1832-1902), Emma moved from Philadelphia to the Mason family farm. Emma’s sons John and Carol stayed in Philadelphia and moved in with their grandmother Caroline and “Aunt Had” in the subject property. Born in Vineland, New Jersey, John Mason developed the 1858 patent for the metal screw-on lid for fruit jars that have come to be known as Mason jars; he also invented the first screw top salt shaker. His invention never made Mason rich, however, and he worked for many years as an accountant at Colonial Bond and Guaranty Company.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Stephen Brian Corson, “Emma Lavinia Deshong (Hammond),” Geni.com



Fig. 16. Undated photograph of Emma Lavinia Hammond Deshong, daughter of Caroline Detweiler Hammond and niece of Harriett Detweiler. Emma moved from Philadelphia to marry secondly John Landis Mason. In doing so, she left the care of two of her sons to her mother and aunt in Chestnut Hill at the subject property. Source: Geni.com



Fig. 17. Undated photograph of Carol Hammond Deshon, grandson of Caroline Detweiler Hammond and son of Emma Lavinia Hammond Deshong. Source: Geni.com

Aunt Had and her sister were instrumental in raising Caroline's grandsons John and Carol Deshong. Carol inherited the house at 8226 Germantown Avenue from his Uncle John Wood, son of Mary Detweiler Wood. Aunt Had and Caroline built 8224 Germantown Avenue and lived the rest of their lives there. Carol is said to have remembered his Aunt Had like a mother and spoke highly of her his entire life. While not much is known about his brother John, Carol eventually changed the spelling of his last name to Deshon. He married Louise May and had two children, Alice and Charles.<sup>9</sup>

## **Conclusion**

The significance of the picturesque folk dwelling at 8224 Germantown Avenue along the main thoroughfare of the neighborhood represents an important community landmark along the commercial and historical spine of Chestnut Hill; a vernacular Gothic Revival house that represents the Romantic origins of the mid-nineteenth century suburban development of Chestnut Hill, expressed in a palette of local materials; and a dwelling of an early and important Detweiler family of the neighborhood and the Philadelphia area. The former dwellings at 8220, 8224, and 8226 are all included as Significant resources in the National Register inventory for Chestnut Hill; all but the subject property are on the local register. The inclusion of 8224 Germantown Avenue on the local register would acknowledge the importance of this residential cluster in the development of Chestnut Hill by an early family.

---

<sup>9</sup> Stephen Brian Corson, "Harriett Detweiler," Geni.com

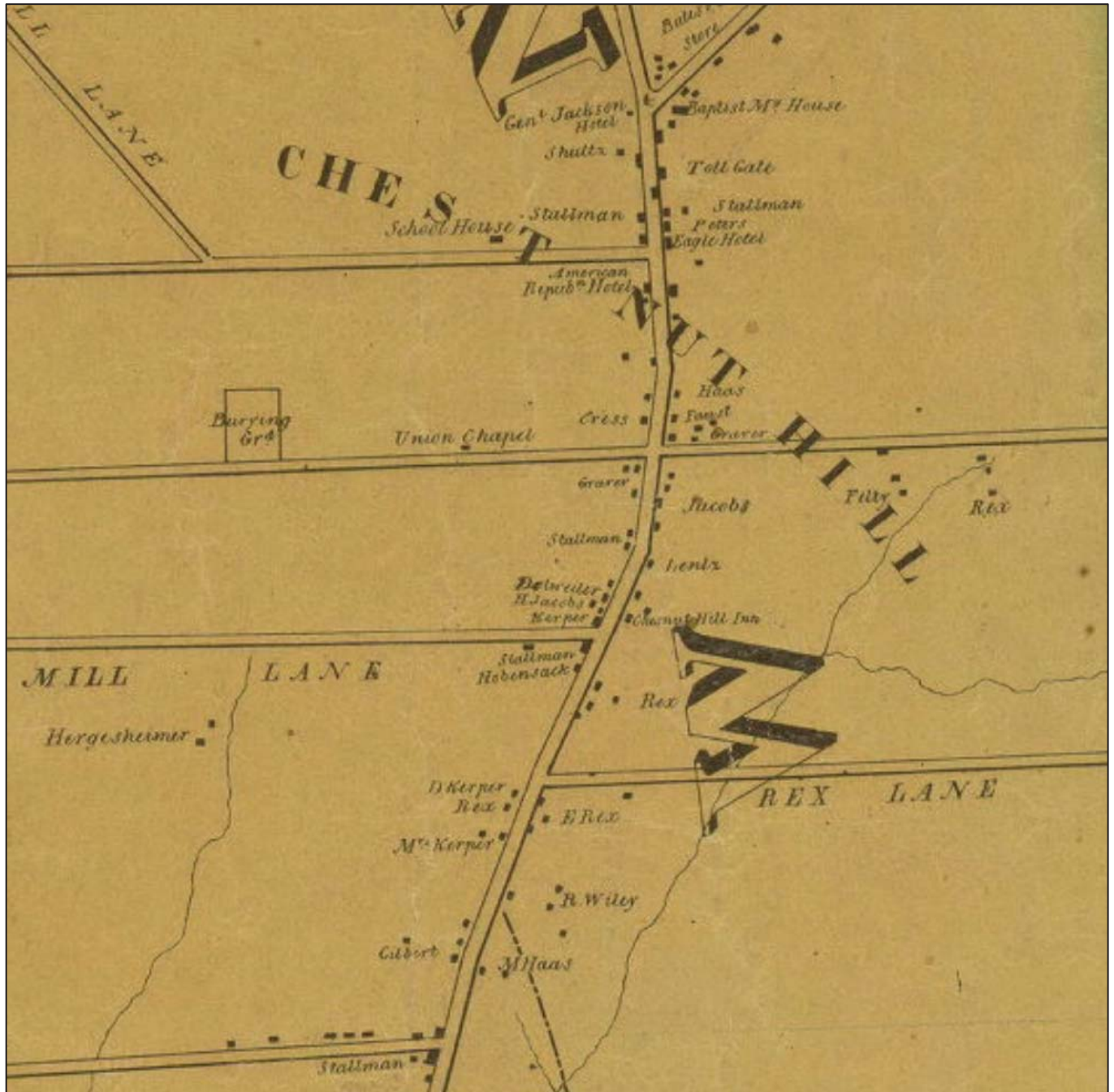


Fig. 18. Detail from the 1848 J.C. Sidney Map of the Township of Germantown showing the dense construction along Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill. Names related to the subject property such as Detweiler and Stallman can be seen.





Fig. 19. Detail from the 1888 Baist Atlas of the City of Philadelphia showing the site of the subject property as a contiguous massing seemingly to indicate family ownership.



Fig. 20. Detail from the 1895 Bromley Atlas of the City of Philadelphia showing the subject property with lot lines separating it from independent adjacent properties indicating occurrence of family subdivisions.

## 8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baist, George William. *Baist's Property Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Penna., complete in one volume*. Philadelphia: G.Wm. Baist, 1888.

Bromley, George W. & Walter S. *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley and Co., 1895.

Chestnut Hill Conservancy archives including the pastperfect online collection.

Geni.com

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Discovery online collection.

Holst, Nancy. *Pattern Books and the Suburbanization of Germantown, Pennsylvania, in the Mid-Nineteenth Century*. University of Delaware dissertation, 2008.

Philadelphia Department of Licenses & Inspections. Construction Unit. Building Permit Records.

Sidney, James Charles. *Map of the Township of Germantown With the Names of the Property Holders*. Philadelphia: Robert Pearsall Smith, c. 1848.

Tinkcom, Harry M., Tinkcom, Margaret, and Simon, Grant Miles. *Historic Germantown*. Philadelphia: The American Philosophical Society, 1955.