

**ADDRESS: 3816 THE OAK RD**

Name of Resource: The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

Proposed Action: Designation

Property Owner: Protestant Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

Nominator: Nancy Pontone

Staff Contact: Allyson Mehley, [allyson.mehley@phila.gov](mailto:allyson.mehley@phila.gov)

**OVERVIEW:** This nomination proposes to designate the property at 3816 The Oak Road as historic and list it on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination contends that the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd church and parish hall, opened in 1927, satisfies Criteria for Designation D and E. Under Criterion D, the nomination contends that the church and parish hall embody distinguishing characteristics of the Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles of architecture. Under Criterion E, the nomination argues that the church and parish hall are the work of Carl Augustus Ziegler, a prolific Philadelphia-based architect who was known for his accuracy with producing Colonial and Georgian Revival residences and special-purpose buildings in the 1920s.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** The staff recommends that the nomination demonstrates that the property at 3816 The Oak Road satisfies Criteria for Designation D and E.



**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: 3816 The Oak Road

Postal code: 19129

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

Current/Common Name: The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd

**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: Church and Pre K School

**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 1926 to 1927

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1926 to 1927

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Carl A. Zeigler

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: A. Raymond Raff Construction Company

Original owner: Protestant Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd of Queen Lane Manor

Other significant persons: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date 1/10/2021

Name with Title Nancy Pontone Email npontone@gmail.com

Street Address 3428 Midvale Ave. Telephone 215-843-9244

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19129

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

**PHC USE ONLY**

Date of Receipt: January 11, 2021

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: May 4, 2021

Date of Notice Issuance: June 21, 2021

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPARD

Address: 3816 THE OAK RD

City: PHILADELPHIA State: PA Postal Code: 19129

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

Beginning at the intersection of the center line of Coulter Street (of the width of sixty feet, as laid out in the City plan, but not open) with the Southeasterly line of The Oak Road (legally open as of the width of fifty feet) thence extending Northwesterly along the line of the said Southeasterly line of The Oak Road crossing the Westerly line of said Coulter Street, the total frontage of One Hundred fifty-nine feet eight and five-eighths inches (159'8-5/8") to a point at the corner of land heretofore conveyed to Henry D. Booth. Thence extending South fifty degrees fifteen minutes thirty-five seconds West, Two hundred and fourteen feet two and three-quarter inches (214'2-3/4") to a point in the line of land belonging to the Overseers of Penn Charter School. Thence extending in and along said line of land of the Overseers of Penn Charter School South thirty-nine degrees forty-four minutes twenty-five seconds East, One-hundred and sixty feet two and one-eighth inches (160'2-1/8") crossing the Westerly line of the said Coulter Street (noted above). Thence extending in and along the center line of Coulter Street North fifty degrees three minutes East Two hundred twenty-two feet two and seven-eighths inches (222'2-7/8") to the point of beginning.

The boundaries are the legally recorded lines in the City of Philadelphia Deed Book JMA, no. 2456, p.129, recorded December 17, 1926, that encompass the historic resources of the church and attached parish hall and define the city lot on which they are situated at 3816 The Oak Road, Philadelphia, PA 19129.



Figure 1: Parcel boundary of 3816 The Oak Road, O85N020031. Source: atlas.phila.gov.



Figure 2: Pictometry view of 3816 The Oak Road, looking north, atlas.phila.org.

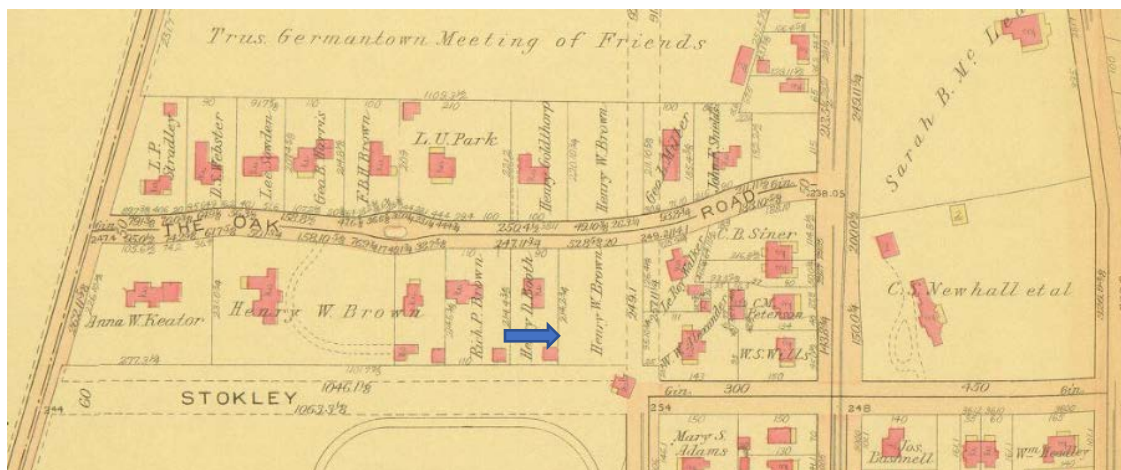


Figure 3: Bromley Atlas 1925 The Oak Road. Source: phila.geo.history.org



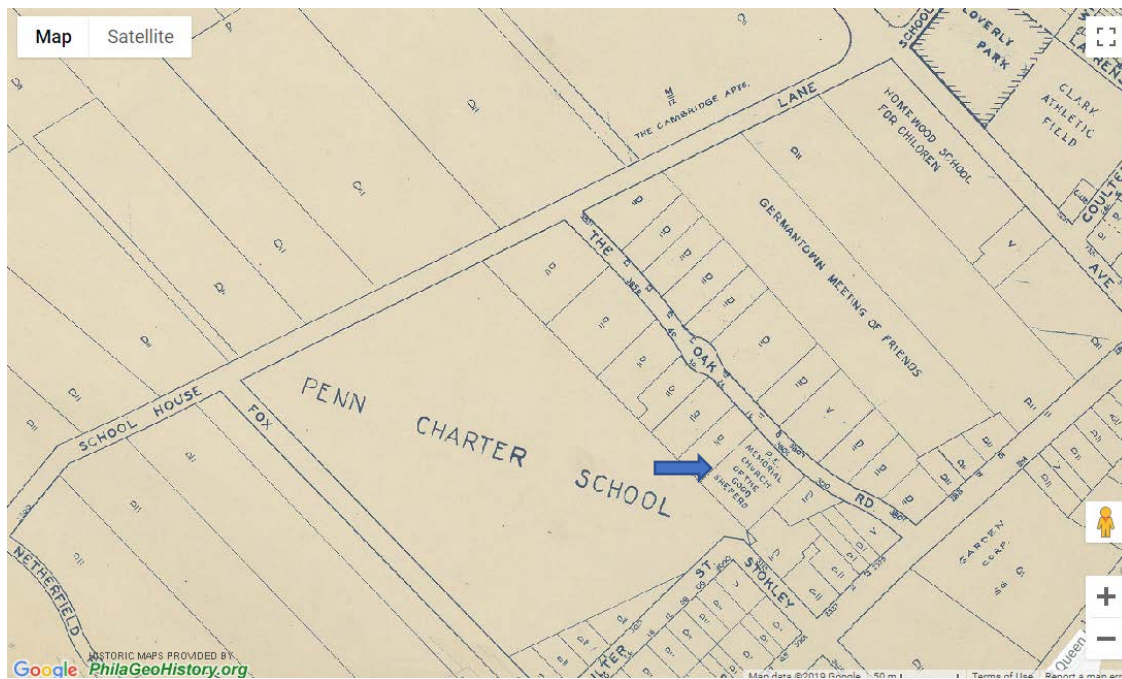


Figure 4: City of Philadelphia 1942 Land Use Map. Source: phila.geo.history.org.

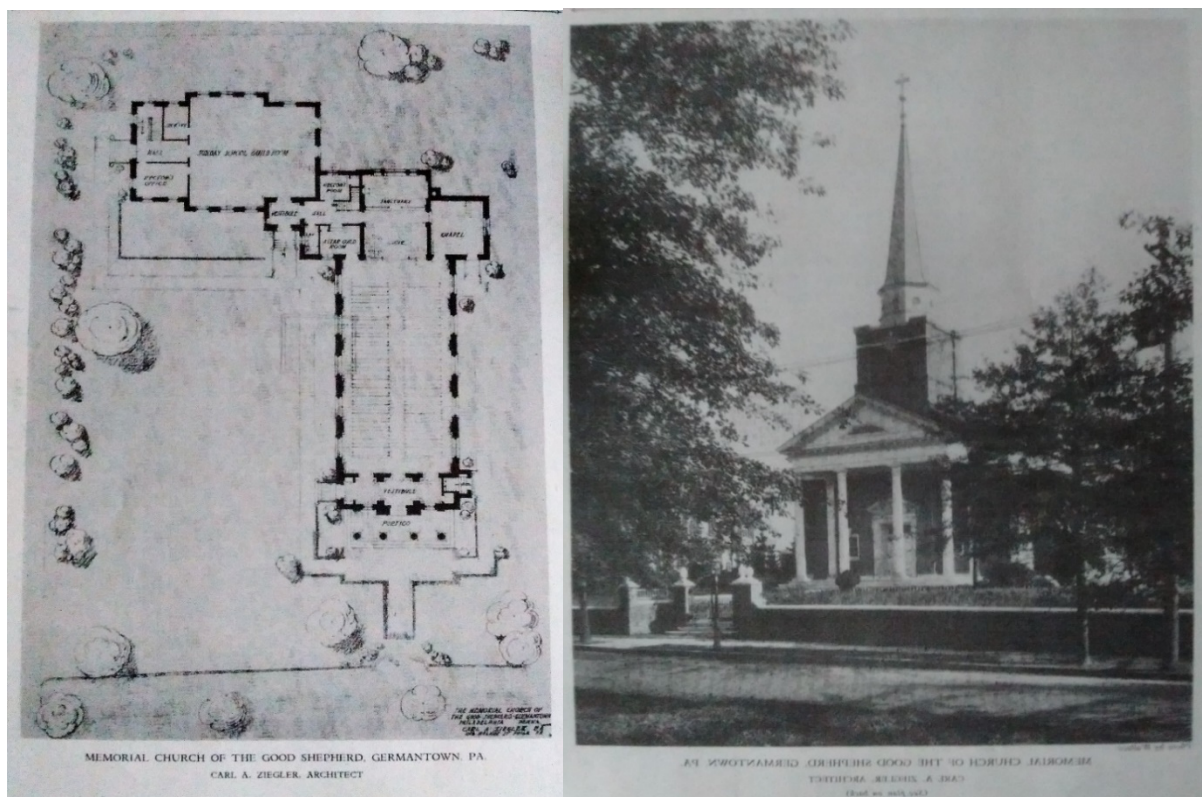


Figure 5: *The American Architect*, March 20, 1928, Architect's plan 1926. Left.

Figure 6: *The American Architect*, March 20, 1928, photograph. Right.



Figure 7: Philadelphia Record photo, Harold R. Stott, October 1927. Source: Historical Society of Pennsylvania V072472PE.

## 6. Description

### Summary Statement

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd is a Neo-Classical and Colonial Revival style brick church, designed by architect Carl A. Ziegler, with an attached two-story Parish Hall located at 3816 The Oak Road, Philadelphia, PA 19129 built in 1926-1927 for a Protestant Episcopal congregation. The almost 50' tall brick church measuring 40' by 100' including the portico has an end gabled roof. A 32' by 24' wide one-story gabled chancel extension at the back is cross gabled with a 64' by 23' wide roof over service areas on the southeast and a chapel on the northwest. A wooden spire extends about 100' above ground. The peaked roofs are shingled with slate on 2" by 12" rafters. The plastered vaulted ceiling is supported by I beams framed into steel girders on a reinforced concrete foundation. The 23" to 32" inch foundation walls are of hard stone on cement. The attached 64' by 44' Parish Hall on the southeast side is constructed with steel girders and posts with a peaked slate roof.<sup>1</sup> The exterior of the Parish Hall has less detailing than the church. A one-story masonry 16'5" by 21' 10" addition southeast of the church and northwest of the Parish Hall, designed by Grant M. Simon in 1958,

<sup>1</sup> City of Philadelphia, Building Permit No. 6111, 6/14/1926, Philadelphia City Archives.



accommodates service areas and resembles the earlier fabric and design but has less decoration.<sup>2</sup>



Figure 8: Church gate posts and front steps looking west. Nancy Pontone, January 2019.

The building sits up from the street behind a brick wall topped with marble and brick posts capped with carved marble finials on a parcel of land about 222' by 160'. An entrance with marble steps and wrought iron gates attributed to Samuel Yellen leads up to the entrance portico. (Figure 8) Brick paths wrap around sides of the building, and south of the Parish Hall, lead to streets that elbow behind the property. The residential

The Oak Road was developed on former estate properties prior to the church's construction. William Penn Charter School located on the southwest side of the property began building its campus in the 1920's.



Figure 9: 3/4 view of church looking west. Nancy Pontone, January 2019.

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<sup>2</sup> City of Philadelphia, Building Permit No. 4917, 7/14/1958, Philadelphia City Archives





Figure 10: Side door of church with steeple looking northwest. Nancy Pontone, March 2019.

A steeple straddles the front of the church on a gabled roof. A gold leafed cross and ball are atop a wooden clapboard-sided spire with a wooden octagonal base and circular vents. A brick bell tower with protruding brick corners supports the spire. Circular openings with marble key voussoirs and a centered belt course adorn each side of the bell tower. (Figures 9 & 10)



Figure 11: Front elevation of church looking southwest. Nancy Pontone, March 2019.

The portico is the most prominent Neo-Classical architectural feature of the church and defines its style. (Figure 11) The pediment with modillions, and dental-like cross hatched wooden moldings has a central segmental fan window with radiating glazing bars. Below is an entablature with a cornice, modillions and moldings, and a plain frieze and architrave. Four tapered columns with foliate shaped capitals are the underlying support. Two pilasters are flush with the Flemish bond brick exterior, and frame a symmetrical double wood paneled front door, with a five-light transom, eared architrave and segmental marble

pediment. Two 6/6 light windows on either side create a three-bay front. The windows are topped with brick flat arches with marble keystones. A brick floored porch has marble steps leading to a repaved brick patio and path.



Figure 12: 3/4 Church facade looking south. Nancy Pontone, March 2019.

The gable end of the church roof is evident behind the portico. The entablature with cornice and woodwork wraps around the sides of the portico and church building. (Figure 9 & 12) The southeast and northwest sides of the church have circular windows, with marble key voussoirs on four sides, above side entrance doors with similar architrave and pediment treatments as the front

door. The southeast entrance into the narthex has marble steps with wrought iron railings and lanterns. (Figure 10) The projecting entry way on the northwest side leads downstairs to the undercroft. (Figure 12) Five tall arched windows over 15/15 light double hung windows line each side of the church. They are adorned with brick arches; marble keystones, voussoirs and sills. A brick water-table wraps around the church. Below each window are window wells with 8/8 light windows that open into the undercroft of the church.



Figure 13: Church extension and Parish Hall entrance looking southwest. Nancy Pontone, March 2019.

The cross-gable extensions show less elaborate woodwork than the church but do include a cornice with modillions and cornice returns. A 3/6 light window over an 8/12 light window face northeast and a 3/6 light window over a 6/6 light window face southeast on the southeast extension, with flat arches and keystones on the first-floor windows. Organ blowers are vented in the second story room. The water-table wraps around the northeast side and returns on the southeast side. (Figure 13)





Figure 14: Parish Hall on southeast end of church. Nancy Pontone, March 2019.

The perpendicular Parish Hall extension from the back southeast of the church reveals a gabled central projection, with a fan window with marble keystone and cornice carried beneath the gable. (Figure 14) This delineates a one-story section with three 12/12 light windows. Beyond the projection a two-story section of the Parish Hall has two bays with four 8/8 light windows with brick flat arches on the first floor. A wide double door projecting entry way with a five light transom intersects on the interior with a hall from the church. The door has an eared architrave without a pediment. Marble steps with wrought iron railings descend to a brick patio and pathways. (Figure 13) Basement windows with 8/8 lights and 4 light transoms are exposed by shared window wells for the projection and two-story section below a water-table. (Figure 14). A sunken memorial garden/columbarium fronts the basement window wells with a serpentine brick wall built in 1984 on the opposite side. (Figure 15)

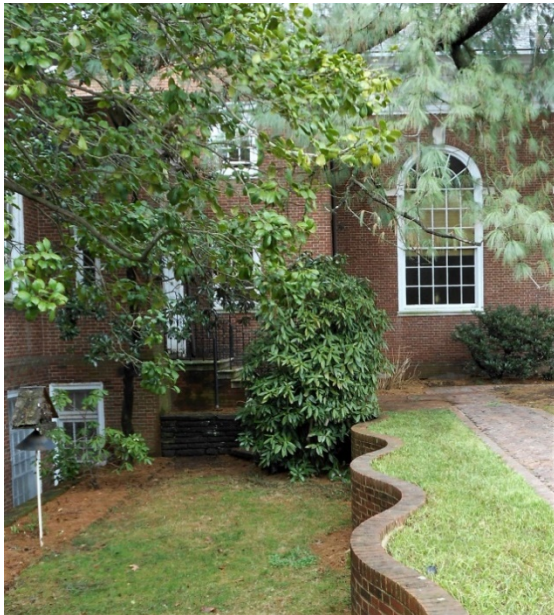


Figure 15: Sunken garden/columbarium in front of Parish Hall looking northwest. Nancy Pontone, March 2019 .





Figure 16: Gable end of Parish Hall looking northwest. Nancy Pontone, January 2019.

The southeast end of the Parish Hall carries a cornice beneath the side gable. A double door with a wooden lintel, and windows like the two-story section described above, create a three-bay surface. The gable end has a marble plaque carved with 1926. The southwest side of the Parish Hall also has a gabled central projection similar to the northeast side and a similar window pattern except for an 8/12 light window on the right, centered between two floors illuminating a stairwell, and a 12/12 light window on the left opposing the entrance doors on the northeast side. (Figures 16 & 17)



Figure 17: Rear view of Parish Hall looking northeast. Nancy Pontone, March, 2019.





Figure 18: Palladian window at rear of chancel & 1958 addition looking east. Nancy Pontone, January 2019.

A 1958 one-story addition at the northwest end of the Parish Hall increased service area in the cross gabled southeast extension of the church. The hipped roof section with a bathroom and robing room added another entrance to the Parish Hall. The slate roof, Flemish bond

brick, and flat brick arches on the windows reflect the style of the original structure and are non-detracting. (Figure 18)

A Palladian window on the southwest of the church illuminates the chancel. The central arched window above a 15/15 light window is flanked by 2/6 light side windows. Marble keystone, pediment, cornices, pilasters and brackets decorate the window. (Figure 18) A brick boiler stack is at this end of the building above the furnace and utility areas in the basement. The northwest cross gable extension has a window like the church windows opening into the chapel that can be entered from a doorway facing the northeast. (Figure 19)



Figure 19: Chapel gable end looking southeast. Nancy Pontone, September 2020.

A projection on the southwest side of the chapel appears to be an addition that was not on the original plan. No documentation was found about the change. See the Appendix (Figure 27) for an historic photo of the rear of the buildings without changes seen in Figures 18 & 19.

Three ground level air conditioning units have been added on the exterior of the building. A temporary handicap ramp rests on the side of the front porch partially hidden by plantings.

## 7. Statement of Significance

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Located in the Northwest Philadelphia East Falls neighborhood, the church was built with a donation from the estate of Henry W. Brown for a newly established neighborhood Episcopal congregation. In 1907, Henry W. Brown had built his own house, now historically designated, and established one block long The Oak Road where the church is located. The church and attached Parish Hall, the later built with funds from the congregation, have been in continuous use, with a Pre-K school in the basement level. The subject building satisfies the following two Criteria for Designation, as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

D. Embody distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen

E. Be 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

### Historic Context

The area of Northwest Philadelphia now known as East Falls was evolving in the early 20th century from an industrial hub on the Schuylkill River into a commuter community with access to Center City Philadelphia via the Pennsylvania Railroad, Chestnut Hill Branch, with a station at Queen Lane; and the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad with a station at Cresson Street. A trolley line ran up Midvale Avenue between these two stations.<sup>3</sup> In the 1890's, the family or estate of William G. Warden, a trustee of Standard Oil and one of the wealthiest men in Philadelphia, had purchased former estates in the area of East Falls uphill from the river between the two rail lines. The Warden family created land companies that engaged developers Wendell and Smith (Herman Wendell and William Bassett Smith) to develop "Queen Lane Manor" referred to at the time as part of Germantown.<sup>4</sup> (Figure 20) The mostly larger single-family or twin houses under development were on land adjacent to the property where the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd of Queen Lane Manor was eventually built.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Bandish, Kathy and Morrow, Judi, "Transportation", *East Falls: Three Hundred Years of History*, East Falls Bicentennial Committee, 1976, pp. 43-45.

<sup>4</sup> Peitzman, Steven, "Queen Lane Manor and William G. Warden", unpublished compilation, Philadelphia Historical Commission records, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Wendell & Smith Queen Lane Manor promotional map, Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd archives, date unknown.



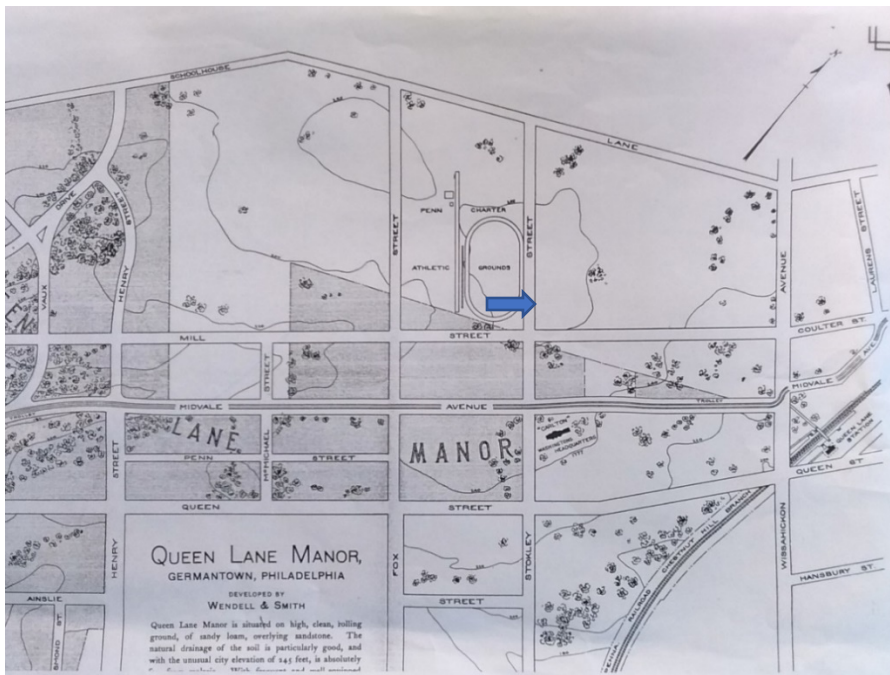


Figure 20: Queen Lane Manor promotional map. Source: Church records.

The history of the church congregation began in 1914 when the Rev. J.C. Mitchell, Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church, Germantown, organized a Sunday School for children in the rapidly growing Queen Lane Manor community. A farmhouse where the Sunday School met soon became too small for the rising attendance. The Manor Sunday School Association formed by neighborhood men undertook to erect a building for the school. At the time there was no place of worship in the vicinity, and as often happens, a Sunday School spurred the start of a new church. The Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church extended an invitation to the Association to become part of its parish. The name 'The Chapel of the Good Shepherd' was adopted for the new structure at the corner of Midvale Avenue and McMichael Street. The Bishop of the Diocese, the Right Reverend Philip M. Rhinelander, appointed the Reverend William Y. Edwards as the first minister, and the church subsequently became a parish in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.<sup>6</sup> The Charter of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd of Queen Lane Manor was recorded May 3, 1921 in Charter Book no. 70, p. 431 in the County of Philadelphia. The Queen Lane Manor community continued to grow as did the church congregation.

The current Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd edifice would not have been constructed without the resources of the Brown family. In 1906, Henry W. Brown (1847-1925) purchased two adjoining rectangular six-acre parcels on the south side of School House Lane, which runs north of and mostly parallel to Midvale Avenue and Queen Lane. One parcel had been Oakley, the estate of the Wright family, Quakers who ran a major Philadelphia shipping and import-export business. The family of Edward N. Wright, the late 19th Century family head who died in 1902, sold his estate to Henry W. Brown. The second parcel with Ivy Cottage, a large Gothic

<sup>6</sup> Coombs, Maurice, "The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd", *East Falls: Three Hundred Years of History*, East Falls Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 39.

style house, now on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, had been owned by the Johnson family since the 1840's.<sup>7</sup>

Henry W. Brown, who moved to Philadelphia in 1871, had been in the insurance business in New York City after serving in the Civil War. He started his own firm, Henry W. Brown & Company, specializing in fire and catastrophe insurance for manufacturers, later forming the Philadelphia Mutual Insurance Company of which he was the first president. He became a national figure in the insurance industry because of his special knowledge of fire protection. He had married Alice P. Driver on June 25, 1868 before arriving in Philadelphia. They had three sons, Reynolds Driver (1869-1952), Henry Ingersoll (1870-1955) and Theodore Edmonson (1878-1947).<sup>8</sup>

At the age of 60, Brown commissioned architect Clinton Gardner Harris to build a grand Georgian Revival home, now on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, on the western parcel he had recently purchased. Access had only been from School House Lane to the north so Brown opened The Oak Road between the two parcels that ended at Midvale Ave. The road follows the property lines but curves toward Midvale Ave. to accommodate an existing property. A piece of land had to be purchased from the Warden estate to reach Midvale Ave. The road is named after a legacy oak that was preserved in a traffic island in the road. Road access allowed the sale of lots and by the early 1920's several imposing homes primarily in Colonial Revival styles were built including two built by Brown's sons. Brown dedicated the road to the City of Philadelphia.<sup>9</sup>

Alice P. Brown died in June 1918. Her husband wanted to build a church in her memory, on account of her deep interest in church work, but his failing health prevented him. Upon his death on December 22, 1925, his three sons immediately decided to carry out his plan and under a discretionary power contained in his will, gave a parcel of land on The Oak Road and the funds to build a new building to the Church of the Good Shepherd congregation.<sup>10</sup> Henry I. Brown was a vestryman of the Church. The gift of the land was valued at \$50,000 and the church at \$175,000. The congregation accepted this generous offer, and then decided to sell its present church property and use the proceeds together with donations to add a parish hall on the grounds given by the Brown brothers. The parish hall was valued at \$50,000.<sup>11</sup> The name was changed to the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd.<sup>12</sup> The original church chapel at

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<sup>7</sup> Peitzman, Steven, "Nomination for Philadelphia Historic Designation, 3850 The Oak Road", [www.phila.gov/.../3850\\_The\\_Oak\\_Rd\\_Nomination.pdf](http://www.phila.gov/.../3850_The_Oak_Rd_Nomination.pdf), 2018, p.10-11.

<sup>8</sup> Biography of Henry Waterson Brown, typescript signed in original by all three sons, Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd archives, 1927.

<sup>9</sup> Peitzman, Steven, "Nomination for Philadelphia Historic Designation, 3850 The Oak Road", pp.13-16.

<sup>10</sup> Biography of Henry Waterson Brown, typescript signed in original by all three sons, Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd archives, 1927, and County of Philadelphia, Deed Book JMH, no. 2456, p. 129, indenture 17 December 1926 between Reynolds D. Brown et ux et al and Protestant Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd of Queen Lane Manor.

<sup>11</sup> "Three Sons of Henry W. Brown to Erect Church in His Memory", and "New Churches for Queen Lane Manor", Philadelphia Record, Philadelphia, February 1926, Germantown Historical Society, Philadelphia, PA scrapbook.

<sup>12</sup> Biography of Henry Waterson Brown, typescript signed in original by all three sons, Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd archives, 1927.

3625 McMichael Street (along with 3130 Midvale Avenue) is on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

The Brown brothers stipulated that the same architect be engaged for both buildings, and Carl A. Ziegler (1878-1952), a prominent Philadelphia architect, was chosen to design the two-part connected-structure.<sup>13</sup> The Browns would have known Carl Ziegler since he had designed two residences built on The Oak Road in 1923 and 1924. The Richard T. Brown (no relation) residence, a 2 ½ story Colonial Revival with tile work and Arts and Crafts references, was two doors northwest of the church property.<sup>14</sup> See Appendix (Figure 25). The contract for the 1923 residence was awarded to A. R. Raff Construction Company that later built the Church and Parish Hall.<sup>15</sup>

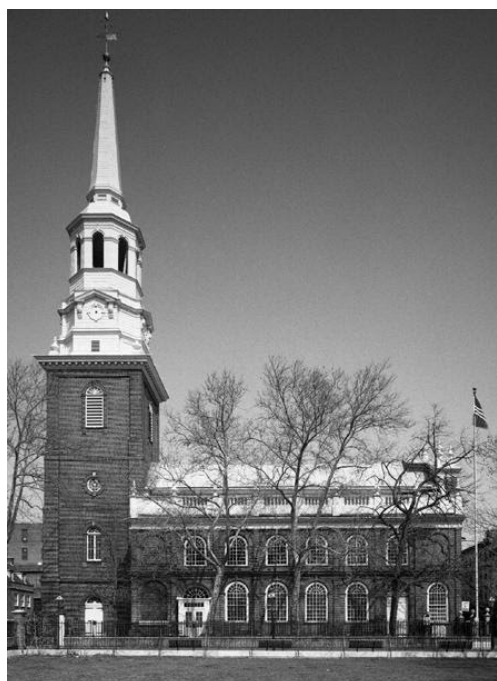


Figure 21: Christ Church, c.1982, Peter Olsen, Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

The church resembles Christ Church (1727-44), the first Anglican Church of England in Philadelphia, thought to have been designed by a gentleman-architect Dr. John Kearsley. (Figure 21) The brickwork, symmetrical plan with rhythmically placed arched windows, cornice decorated with modillions, and Palladian window reflect the design of the earlier church. Ziegler eschewed the roof balustrades of Christ Church in keeping with the simpler Neo-Classical Revival style. Although twice as tall at 196 feet and with more tiers, the Christ Church steeple worked on in 1751-54 by Robert Smith, the most prominent master carpenter at the time, undoubtedly influenced Ziegler's steeple design.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd", unpublished compilation from the church archives, 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Builders' Guide v. 39, 1924, p. 117, 2/20/1924, <http://philageohistory.org/BuildersGuide/>.

<sup>15</sup> Builders' Guide v. 38, 1923, p. 123, 2/21/1923, <http://philageohistory.org/BuildersGuide/>.

<sup>16</sup> Gallery, John, *Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide to the City*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Foundation for Architecture, 1994, p.22.





In placing the steeple above the roof and behind the portico, lacking on Christ Church, Ziegler's design followed the Anglican prototype popularized by James Gibbs in England in 1726. Gibbs' St. Martin-in-the Fields Church in London exhibited a classical portico, a steeple on the roof behind the portico, Palladian window in the chancel, vaulted ceiling and chandeliers in the nave, classical motifs in the cornices and pilasters (See Appendix, Figure 26), and rhythmically placed windows on the rectangular nave.<sup>17</sup> (Figure 22)

Figure 22: St. Martin-in-the-Field, London. Nancy Pontone, September 2019.

Ziegler followed current trends of Neo-Classical Revival but reached back to colonial times to express continuity across the centuries, and blend in with the Colonial Revival architecture of The Oak Road. Also, Ziegler's design put into visible form the "enduring factors of the Church of England" in "so-called Colonial Style."<sup>18</sup>

The church contract work was bid out to A. Raymond Raff Construction Company, 1635 Thompson Street, Philadelphia.<sup>19</sup> The cornerstone was laid on October 30, 1926 and the church and parish hall were consecrated on October 16, 1927. Five Bishops attended the dedication service in the church.<sup>20</sup> At Ziegler's suggestion, on November 30, 1927, a special St. Andrew's Day service was held for the craftsmen who built the church. Mr. Raff and 300 workmen including bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters and foremen attended the service.<sup>21</sup> The attention to detail in the brickwork, carved marble, wrought ironwork, and woodwork is a testament to the skilled architect and craftsmen who built the church. In 1928, Ralph Adams Cram, F.A.I.A. reviewed the new church in *The American Architect* with high praise for the "scrupulous fidelity to the XVIIIth century tradition". Recognized at its creation, the church remains a testament to the skill of its architect, execution in its construction and siting in "an historic environment".<sup>22</sup>

Today the church and Parish Hall look much the same as when built and still support the congregation. A Penn Charter Pre-K school is now in the basement, but in the 1950's and 60's

<sup>17</sup> Loth, Calder, "The Gibbs Church: A Paradigm for America", e Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, [www.classicist.org/articles/the-gibbs-church-a-paradigm-for-america/](http://www.classicist.org/articles/the-gibbs-church-a-paradigm-for-america/), 2011.

<sup>18</sup> Cram, Ralph Adams, "Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Germantown, PA, Carl A. Ziegler, Architect", *The American Architect*, 3/20/1928, p. 361.

<sup>19</sup> *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, Philadelphia, PA, 1926 volume 41, p. 358 (6/9/1926) & p.442 (7/14/1926).

<sup>20</sup> "Episcopal Church to be Dedicated by Five Bishops", *Philadelphia Record*, 10/15/1927, Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd records.

<sup>21</sup> "Craftsmen Who Built Good Shepherd Church Attend Special Service", *Church News*, January 1928, [www.philadelphiastudies.org/2014/07/21](http://www.philadelphiastudies.org/2014/07/21).

<sup>22</sup> Cram, Ralph Adams, "Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Germantown, PA, Carl A. Ziegler, Architect", *The American Architect*, 3/20/1928, p. 361.

The Oak Road Day School for kindergarten age children operated there as well.<sup>23</sup> In fact, The Oak Road and its houses and church appear much as they did about one hundred years ago. The one block street represents the transition from country estates to urban community albeit with lovely Colonial Revival architecture. Estates beyond The Oak Road properties developed into athletic fields for Penn Charter School to the southwest and Germantown Friends School to the northeast that provide buffers for the street.<sup>24</sup> The Oak Road and the elegant church preserve the visions of Henry W. Brown and architect, Carl A. Ziegler, whose “detail is impeccable and...of local Pennsylvania tradition.”<sup>25</sup>

## **Criterion D**

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd embodies attributes of Colonial Revival styles 1880-1960 as well as the Classical Revival style 1895-1950 used in the 1920's in many important civic buildings in Philadelphia. Colonial Revival features include: columned portico, pedimented doors, pilasters, symmetrical façade, double hung multi-paned windows, gabled roof, cornice with modillions.<sup>26</sup> Neo-Classical or Classical Revival features include: formal symmetrical design usually with a center door, full height porch with classical columns, front facing gable on porch or main roof, decorative door surrounds, dentiled cornice, rectangular double hung windows.<sup>27</sup>

The pedimented portico, flat pilasters, single columns and plain wall surfaces are emblematic of the Neo-Classical Revival style popular in the early 20th Century.<sup>28</sup> In Philadelphia, the Girard Trust Company (1905-8) designed by McKim, Mead and White; the Philadelphia Museum of Art (1916-28) designed by Horace Trumbauer and Julian Abele, and the firm of Zantzinger, Borie and Medary; and the Free Library of Philadelphia (1917-27) also by Trumbauer and Abele represent this style. It is seen as simpler than Beaux-Arts Classicism, also popular at this time, and is “peculiarly American”.<sup>29</sup> Continuity of colonial church architecture updated with current revival design are represented in this elegant church sited above road level on the residential street and worthy of designation.

## **Criterion E**

Carl Augustus Ziegler is a significant architect with pedigree in Philadelphia, as described by Sandra Tatman in the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings website. He received his Certificate of Proficiency in Architecture in 1895 from the University of Pennsylvania after studying at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Design and Spring Garden Institute. He apprenticed with Frank Miles Day & Brother; Cope & Stewardson; and Keen & Mead, but launched his own firm in 1897. The next year he was associated with Louis Duhring and R. Brognard Okie in the successful firm Duhring, Okie & Ziegler. After Okie's withdrawal in 1918,

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<sup>23</sup> “The Oak Road Day School 1956-1957” brochure, Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd records.

<sup>24</sup> USGS Map 3816 The Oak Road, Philadelphia, PA, [www.viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/](http://www.viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/) 4/5/2019.

<sup>25</sup> Cram, p. 364.

<sup>26</sup> [www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/colonial-revival.html](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/colonial-revival.html).

<sup>27</sup> [www.phmn.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architrcture/styles/classical-revival.html](http://www.phmn.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architrcture/styles/classical-revival.html)

<sup>28</sup> Gallery, John, *Philadelphia Architecture: A Guide to the City*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Foundation for Architecture, 1994, p. 96.

<sup>29</sup> Whiffen, Marcus, *American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles*, The M.I.T. Press, 1969, p. 167.

Ziegler practiced with Duhring through 1924. During this time, he developed an independent reputation as an expert on Pennsylvania colonial architecture.

At the time of the church commission, he was practicing independently and continued to work at least through 1936. He designed residential properties and was known for the accurate rendition of Colonial and Georgian Revival styles favored by Pennsylvania clients in the 1920's but could also design in Tudor Revival, Arts and Crafts and Cotswold styles. His residential designs in Germantown and Sewickley, PA were featured by published architectural writers. The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd received a favorable review, as noted earlier, by Ralph Adams Cram in *The American Architect* in the March 20, 1928 issue. He also designed churches, banks, and civic buildings. In addition to the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Ziegler designed St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church extant at 6100 Columbia Ave., Philadelphia. (Figure 23)



Figure 23: St John's Lutheran Church, 6100 W Columbia Ave, Philadelphia, Nancy Pontone, August 2020.

Ziegler was involved with the restoration of Carpenters Hall and Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge, PA as president of the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks.<sup>30</sup>

Ziegler, active in his profession, served frequently in the affairs of

the T-Square Club. In 1926, the Persian Government selected Ziegler for the design of their building at the Sesqui-Centennial celebration held in Philadelphia. In 1927, he received the Silver Medal at the Pan American Exposition of Architecture in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 1928, the British Royal Society of the Arts honored him as a fellow. In 1930, he represented the American Institute of Architects at the 4<sup>th</sup> Pan American Congress of Architects in Rio di Janeiro; in 1934, at the International Congress on Technical Education in Barcelona, Spain; and in 1935, at the Congress in Rome.<sup>31</sup> Ziegler was renown in Philadelphia but also internationally.

The church embodies the best of Ziegler's work in Colonial and Classical Revival styles. For a reference to Ziegler's residential work deemed significant in the Chestnut Hill Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places refer to the Appendix. One of the homes cited was his own design and residence at 427 W Mermaid Lane (Figure 24). Over fifty residences deemed significant in the Chestnut Hill Historic District on the National Register were designed by the architectural firm of Duhring, Okie & Ziegler.

<sup>30</sup> Tatman, Sandra L., "Ziegler, Carl (or Charles) Augustus (1878-1952)", e *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, [www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar\\_display.cfm/23435](http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/23435), 2019.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.



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## Appendix

Source: Architectural Guide and Map of Chestnut Hill

Significant residences on the National Register of Historic Places:

1921: 140 W. Chestnut Hill Avenue

1922: 490 E. Abington Avenue

1927: 201, 207, 215 W. Gravers Lane

1928: 44 Hillcrest Avenue

1928: 410 E. Abington Avenue

1929-30: 20 Waterman Avenue

1930: 22 Waterman Avenue

1930: 425 W. Mermaid Lane

1931: 427 W. Mermaid Lane



Figure 24: Ziegler design & residence, 1931, 427 W. Mermaid Lane, Nancy Pontone, September 2020.



Figure 25: Ziegler design, 1924, Richard T. Brown residence, 3830 The Oak Road, Steven Peitzman, August 2020.



Figure 26: Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd nave and chancel. Nancy Pontone, March 2019.



Figure 27: Dallin Aerial Surveys for Penn Charter School, 1938 looking east, Hagley Digital Archives.