

**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 ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)**

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

Street address: **6625 Lincoln Drive**

Postal code: **19119**

Councilmanic District: **8**

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: **The Nichols-Goehring House**

**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: **Vacant**

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

See attached.

**6. DESCRIPTION**

See attached.

**7. SIGNIFICANCE**

Period of Significance (from year to year):

**1902-1921**

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration:

**Built c. 1902; Addition c. 1921**

Architect, engineer, and/or designer:

**H.C. Wise and W.W. Potter, Architects**

**Rankin, Kellogg & Crane, Architects (1921)**

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan:

**William S. Kohl (1902)/ Raymond Raff Co. (1921)**

Original owner:

**G. Richard Nichols**

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,
- X (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- X (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

See attached.

#### 9. NOMINATOR: The Keeping Society of Philadelphia (Keeper@keepingphiladelphia.org)

Contact: **Oscar Beisert**

Date: **12 March 2018**

Street Address: **1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320** Telephone: **(717) 602-5002**

City, State, and Postal Code: **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107**

Nominator  is  is not the property owner.

#### PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 12 March 2018

Correct-Complete  Incorrect-Incomplete

Date: 8 November 2018

Date of Notice Issuance: 12 November 2018

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: 6625 LINCOLN DR LLC

Address: 1218 Green Street

City: Philadelphia

State: PA

Postal Code: 19123

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 12 December 2018

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 11 January 2019

Date of Final Action: 11 January 2019

Designated

Rejected

\*\*Boundary amended 7/9/2021

4/11/13

**Nomination**  
**for the**  
**Philadelphia Register of Historic Places**



Looking southeast, the John R. Goehring House. Source: Kelly Altrichter.

**The Nichols-Goehring House**  
**6625 Lincoln Drive**  
**Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

*The Nichols-Goehring House, 6625 Lincoln Drive, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*  
*Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, February 2018 – Page 1*

**\*\*BOUNDARY AS AMENDED BY PHC ON 7/9/2021\*\***



Beginning at a point on the southeasterly side of Lincoln Drive (80' wide on City Plan, legally open) at the following two (2) courses and distances, from the intersection of said Lincoln Drive with the southwesterly side of Green Street (50' wide on City Plan, legally open); 1.) along the southeasterly side of said Lincoln Drive S. 21° 18' 24" W. distance of 331.218' to a point of curve; 2.) Continuing along the southeasterly side of said Lincoln Drive on the arc of a circle curving to the left having a radius of 354.265' and extending the arc length of 44.107' to the Point of beginning having a total distance from Green Street of 375.325' to the Point and Place of Beginning;

Thence extending N. 82° 49' 54" E., the distance of 53.378' to a point;  
Thence extending N. 42° 26' 24" E., the distance of 58.278' to a point;  
Thence extending N. 21° 18' 24" E., the distance of 60.117' to a point;  
Thence extending S. 47° 33' 36" E., the distance of 110.268' to a point;  
Thence extending S. 42° 26' 24" W., the distance of 25.000' to a point;  
Thence extending S. 47° 33' 36" E., the distance of 60.417' to a point;  
Thence extending S. 42° 26' 24" W., the distance of 108.566' to a point;  
Thence extending N. 47° 33' 36" W., the distance of 99.709' to a point;  
Thence extending S. 82° 49' 54" W., the distance of 91.081' to a point on the southeasterly side of said Lincoln Drive;  
Thence extending northeastwardly along the southeasterly side of said Lincoln Drive on the arc of a circle curving to the right having a radius of 354.265' and extending the arc length of 52.362', further described as having a chord bearing of N. 09° 56' 19" E. and extending the chord length of 52.315' to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

ORIGINAL BOUNDARY AS DESIGNATED BY PHC ON 1/11/2019  
(SEE BOUNDARY AMENDMENT, 7/9/2021, ABOVE)



The subject designation is confined to the parcel delineated above in red. Source: Philadelphia Water.

## 5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the subject designation is as follows:

Beginning at a point on the southeast side of Lincoln Drive at the distance of 203' 10-5/8" southwest of Greene Street; thence extending south 47 degrees, 33 minutes, 36 seconds east 190' 9" to a point; thence extending south 42 degrees, 26 minutes, 24 seconds west 25' to a point; thence extending south 47 degrees, 33 minutes 36 seconds east 60 feet 5 inches to a point; thence extending south 42 degrees, 26 minutes, 24 seconds west 297' 5-3/8" to the northeast side of Lincoln Drive; thence extending along the same in a general northerly direction to the right along a curve whose radius is 354' 3-1/8" and forming an arc of 46 degrees, 39 minutes, 35 seconds 288' 6" to a point; thence extending still along the same on a curve whose radius is 354' 3-1/8" and forming an arc of 1 degree, 30 minutes and 47 seconds 9' 4-1/4" to a point; thence extending still along the same north 21 degrees, 18 minutes, 24 seconds east 127' 4 inches to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.

BRT No. 223266900



Looking northeast at the primary elevation and grounds of the subject property. Source: City of Philadelphia. The portion of the house highlighted in red appears to have been built in 1902 and the portion highlighted in yellow in 1921.

**6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

The Nichols-Goehring House, later known as High Acres, at 6625 Lincoln Drive is a handsome and stately historic site comprised of a commodious Colonial Revival style dwelling; a Colonial Revival style garage; and 1.2-acre park-like setting of matured plantings. Elevated above Lincoln Drive, the buildings on the site are accessed by a gently curving driveway that begins near the center of the property’s Lincoln Drive frontage and is marked by two stone gate posts that anchor iron gates. The northerly post contains the address carved in stone: “6625.”



Looking southeast at the subject property. Source: City of Philadelphia.



Looking southeast at the primary elevation of the subject house. Source: Oscar Beisert.

### **The House**

Elevated from Lincoln Drive and set upon a terrace above the private driveway, the Nichols-Goehring House is a substantial, L-shaped building comprised of the main block and porch wing. The main block is a large two-and-one-half-story brick house that was built in two phases—first, a five rank, center hall and a later addition to the northwest adding one large bay. The entire house is clad in brick masonry laid in a Flemish bond.

The house is accessed by steps cut into the terrace that lead to a brick patio that is period appearing. Set within a fenestration of six generous bays, the entrance is off-center, featuring a wide, single paneled wooden door set within an elliptical fanlight with sidelights, all of which appears to be original. To the southeast are two original six-over-six wooden double hung windows, each of which are flanked by paneled shutters with half-moon cutouts in the upper panel. To the northwest of the primary entrance is a three sided, projecting bay window, also with original, six-over-six wooden double hung windows. All of the apertures described within the primary elevation are set beneath a projecting pent eave at the center of which is a gable front entrance porch, which is supported by pairs of large wooden brackets on each side. Further to the northwest along the primary elevation is another original six-over-six wooden double hung window flanked by paneled shutters. The second floor fenestration features six symmetrically placed six-over-six wooden double hung windows flanked by wooden louvered shutters, centered above the openings below. The windows are capped by jack arches that are set within the brickwork. A simple, but heavy cornice spans the entire façade. The half-story features four segmental arched, gable-front dormers with arched six-over-six wooden double hung windows within and cheek walls with lapped wooden siding.



Looking south at the subject garage, a garden wall, and the house. Source: Oscar Beisert.



Looking southeast at the details of the primary elevation of the subject house. Source: Oscar Beisert.





Looking northwest at the side elevation of the main block and the porch wing of the subject house.  
Source: Kelly Altrichter.



Looking west at the rear elevation of the porch wing and the main block of the subject house.  
Source: Kelly Altrichter.

A rectangular porch wing appends the main block to the southeast with the narrow end along the primary elevation. The narrow façade features a single, multi-lite wooden door at center that is flanked by large multi-lite wooden double hung windows. The wing features a flat roof and is at least twice the depth of the house, featuring two rooms. The entire wing features multi-lite wooden double hung that appear to be original.

The side elevation of the main block that is at the south is obscured at the first floor by the porch wing. Above the porch wing are two six-over-six wooden double hung windows with brick jack arches above and flanked by louvered shutters. The gable end is defined by the return of the cornice from the primary and rear elevations, which continues above the returns. Symmetrically placed is a semi-circular fanlight that is divided into two parts flanking the chimney that rises flush within the gable end and does not break the raking cornice. The semi-circular portion is defined by a lintel of headers.

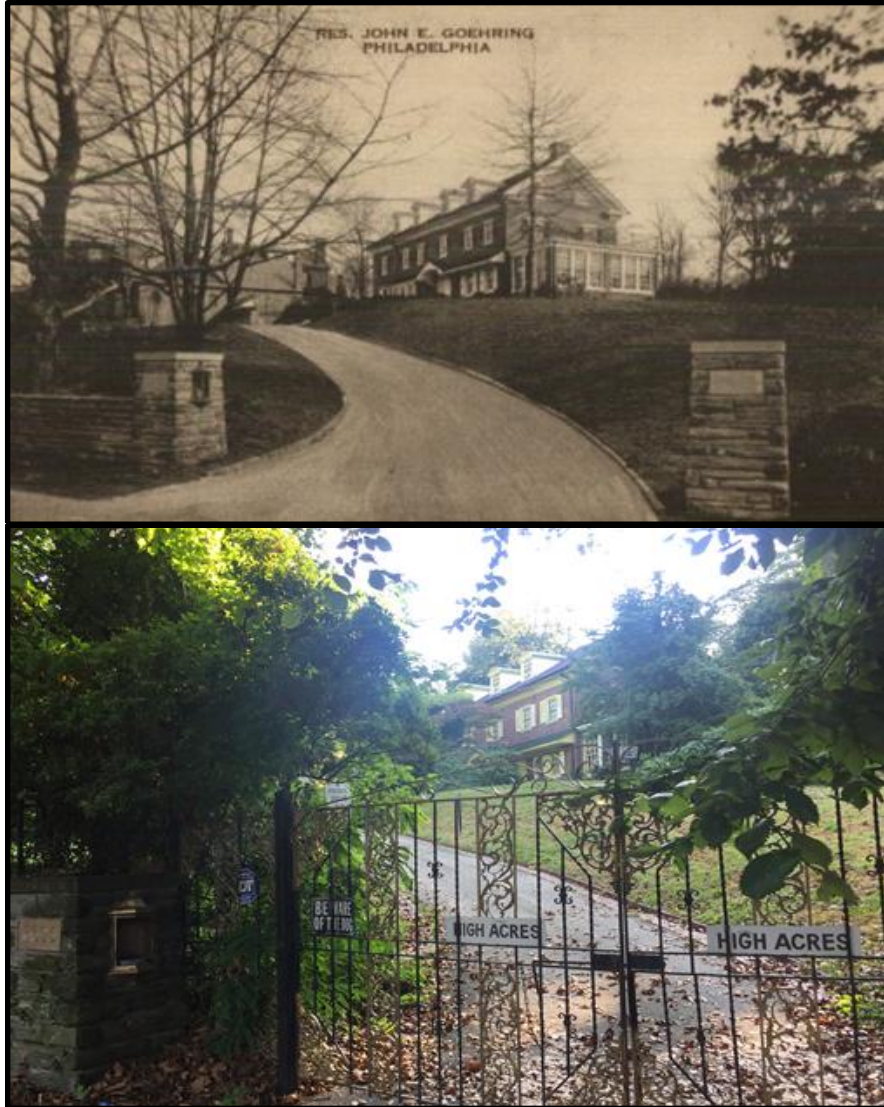
The side elevation at the north was not accessible nor was the rear elevation. However, aerial views shows that a creative Colonial Revival design was used in the design.



Looking northeast at the garage. Source: Oscar Beisert.

### **The Garage**

A large, single story garage and shop adjoin the house to the northwest. While the garage is detached and features a flat roof, the design maintains the patterned Colonial Revival brickwork used in the house. A walkway between the house and the garage features some Colonial Revival details, as well as iron gates.

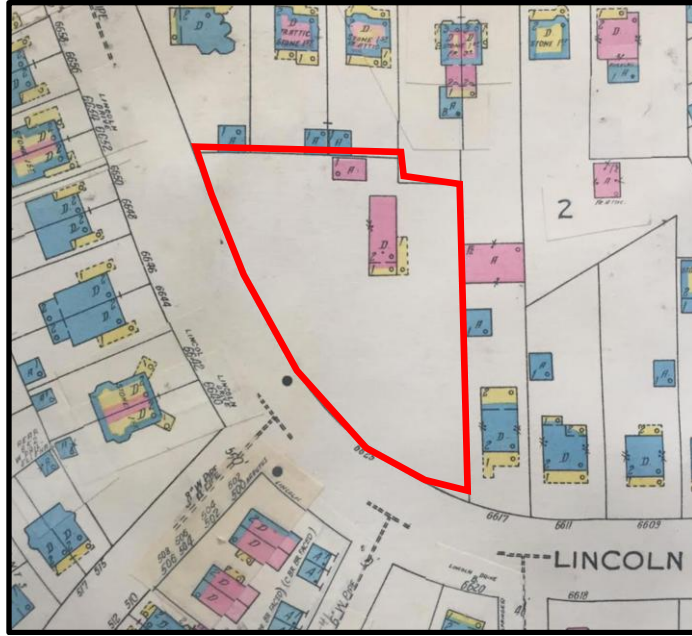


Above: post card of the “Res. John E. Goehring, Philadelphia,” c. 1920s. Source: Oscar Beisert Collection, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Below: the subject house from the driveway entrance on Lincoln Drive. Source: Oscar Beisert.

## **7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The John R. Goehring House at 6625 Lincoln Drive 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 Mt. Airy neighborhood of the larger German Township, the subject building satisfies the following Criteria for Designation, as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (c) *Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; and*
- (d) *Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen.*



Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Vol. 22. (New York, New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1926), Plate 2167. Source: J.M. Duffin. The property line is delineated above in red.

### Historic Context

The Nichols-Goehring House appears to have been conceived, initially, in 1902, when real estate developer G. Richard Nichols commissioned a “new residence...at the corner of Arbutus street and Lincoln drive” for the sum of \$6,600. “The three-story brick structure...” was designed by Architects H.C. Wise and W.W. Potter.<sup>1</sup> It appears that William S. Kohl, a contractor, was awarded the construction contract.<sup>2</sup> Soon after Nichols built a garage at a cost of \$600.<sup>3</sup> Only a few years later in January 1910, William H Wilson & Co. sold Nichols’ “brick Colonial residence and garage on a one-acre tract” to Fitz-Charles Greene for \$22,000.<sup>4</sup> Fitz-Charles Greene appears to have been a leader of the New York Life, as well as associated with the Fortune Stove Company of Reading, for which he served as Treasurer.<sup>5</sup> Soon after Greene purchased the house, a “second-story brick addition, 9x12 ft.” for \$1,500 was constructed at what was then known as 630 Lincoln Drive.<sup>6</sup>

After John R. Goehring purchased the subject property, then known as 6625 Lincoln Drive, about 1920, it appears that he brought the site to its present appearance. In 1921, a large addition was designed by architects Rankin, Kellogg & Crane, and constructed completed by the A. Raymond Raff Co.<sup>7</sup> This included both an addition as well as a “1-story garage...with wing”.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Philadelphia: 12 June 1902), p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> “Latest News In Real Estate,” The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Philadelphia: 12 June 1902), p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Philadelphia: 16 September 1907), p. 6.

<sup>4</sup> “Lincoln Drive House Sold,” The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Philadelphia: 5 January 1910), p. 13.

<sup>5</sup> The Indicator, Volumes 40-41.; and “Charters,” Journal of the Engineers’ Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. 4.

<sup>6</sup> The Philadelphia Inquirer. (Philadelphia: 5 October 1910), p. 14.

<sup>7</sup> Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders’ Guide. (Philadelphia: 2 February 1921), v. 36, n. 5, p. 74.

<sup>8</sup> The Accessory and Garage Journal, Vol. X, No. 1.



Looking southeast at the subject house. Source: Oscar Beisert.

#### **CRITERION D**

**The Nichols-Goehring House is a distinctive example of the Colonial Revival style as applied to suburban residences of the upper classes in Philadelphia in the first quarter of the twentieth century. While not a copy in archaeological terms, the subject property draws “...its inspiration from many sources and obtaining its effects by an understanding of the proper use of local material quite as much as by the study of any work of the past.” According to G.H. Edgell, formerly professor of Fine Arts and Dean of the Faculty of Architecture at Harvard University in the 1920s, “A brilliant example of this tendency one can see in the suburban work near Philadelphia.”<sup>9</sup> The Nichols-Goehring House is no exception to Edgell’s observation. Poised on elevated ground at a bend of Lincoln Drive, the subject property is the embodiment of a design that draws from past, historic buildings, using local red brick for its exterior cladding, while also being a decidedly “modern Colonial” at the time that it was built.**

*Background.* According to the Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide by the Historical and Museum Commission, the Colonial Revival Style 1880-1960 is “...one of the most frequently produced and enduring popular styles in America...” The style enjoyed huge popularity as a result of the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876, and further popularized by the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Like other revivalist movements, the Colonial Revival movement didn’t always produce period Georgian replicas, but, instead, inspired the employment of the

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<sup>9</sup> G.H. Edgell. *The American Architecture of To-Day*. (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1928), p. 88.

stylistic characteristics and features in new and innovative ways.<sup>10</sup> The style guide states the following regarding the applicability of the style to new buildings and renovations in the period between the First and Second World Wars:

Generally, the Colonial Revival style took certain design elements - front façade symmetry, front entrance fanlights and sidelights, pedimented doorways, porches and dormers - and applied them to larger scale buildings. These colonial era details could be combined in a great variety of ways, creating many subtypes within this style.<sup>11</sup>

*Common Building Type.* The style guide also calls out “houses” or residences as a common building type designed in the Colonial Revival style. The subject property is distinctive of an era in Philadelphia and beyond that was defined by large suburban houses like the subject property that were “modern,” but designed in the “Colonial” style, which persisted through the first half of the twentieth century.



Looking southeast at the entrance to the subject house. Source: Oscar Beisert.

*Identifiable Features.* The style guide also identifies twelve major “identifiable features” that were commonly associated with the Colonial Revival style. The subject building possesses more than half of those characteristics (numbers align with the style guide):

- No. 2: Front door sidelights
- No. 3: Pedimented door, windows or dormers
- No. 6: Symmetrical façade
- No. 7: Double-hung windows, often multi-paned

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<sup>10</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses—The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture.* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), pp. 408-432.

<sup>11</sup> The Colonial Revival Style 1880-1960, Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, published online by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Accessed on 20 December 2017. < <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/colonial-revival.html>>

- No. 8: Triple windows often with incised patterns
- No. 9: Wood shutters
- No. 10: Decorative pendants
- No. 11: Side gabled or hipped roofs
- No. 12: Cornice with dentils or modillions<sup>12</sup>

While there is no “Columned porch or portico,” (No. 1),” or “Broken pediment over front door,” (No. 3), the building does feature a pent eave that is centered on a Colonial Revival entrance porch. Additionally, what the aforementioned style guide doesn’t identify as among the “identifiable features,” Virginia Savage McAlester does in her updated version of A Field Guide to American Houses (2013). One of these features is the application of the decorative, Colonial Revival style window in the second floor of the central bay, lighting the staircase and center hall of the house. McAlester also identifies other Colonial Revival features that are integral to the subject facade including the use of the red brick, Flemish bond, and courses of soldier brick and stone or concrete, all of which may be found in both the house and the garage.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> The Colonial Revival Style 1880-1960, Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, published online by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. Accessed on 20 December 2017. < <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/colonial-revival.html>>

<sup>13</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester. A Field Guide to American Houses—The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America’s Domestic Architecture. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013), pp. 408-432.



A Colonial Revival style house at 104 E. Cliveden Street, Germantown. Like the Nichols-Goehring House, this building features a similar pent eave and entrance porch, as well as a gracious doorway with an elliptical fanlight. Source: Google.

### **CRITERION C**

**The Nichols-Goehring House reflects the environment of suburban, residential architecture of the upper classes of Philadelphia in an era characterized by the Colonial Revival style. With innumerable historic, Colonial and Federal period examples that could be stylistically related to the characteristics of the subject house, the design represents a creative period in Colonial Revival design that created the “modern Colonial,” borrowing from the past in both design and material composition, while also creating a distinct and often unique design. Throughout Philadelphia, the larger region and even nationally the taste for the Colonial Revival influenced domestic architecture, and the subject house exemplifies this period of architectural design and its influence on suburban dwellings.**



The Colonial Club once stood at the corner of Green Lane and Harvey Street in Germantown. This Colonial Revival style club house was designed as a distinctive building that fit into the suburban context of Germantown and, while it includes many features of the said style, it was a creative, unique work. The Nichols-Goehring House and the Colonial Club both included a pent roof, though the example shown above is more fully articulated. Source: the Germantown Historical Society.





On left, the Baynton House at 5208 Germantown Avenue, c. 1798, features a red brick façade, less commonly seen on Germantown Avenue, while the more traditional Conyngham-Hacker House at 5214 Germantown Avenue features Wissahickon Schist. Source: Collection of Philadelphia Landmarks, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Nichols-Goehring House is a less usual design that exemplifies a period defined and even dominated by the Colonial Revival style in Philadelphia. Shown above, two formal houses, the Baynton House, c. 1798, and the Conyngham-Hacker House, c. 1796, both relate to the subject house. The Baynton House features a red brick façade like the Nichols-Goehring House, while the Conyngham-Hacker House is more relatable in scale, being, obviously, smaller and more symmetrical than the subject house. Both presumably dating to the late eighteenth century, these houses reflect Federal period design and its Georgian antecedents. The Nichols-Goehring House digs slightly deeper. Below is an image of the Barr House, formerly on the west side of Germantown Avenue at the present site of Chelten Avenue.<sup>14</sup> This ancient building, appearing as two houses, is definitely a building that grew over time. Perfect symmetry isn't always common in houses that evolve over time, and there is certainly a component of this in many of the designs used to create "modern Colonial" houses of the early twentieth century. The Philadelphia architect R. Brognard Okie, for example, would illustrate this tradition of evolution in his new Colonial Revival designs.



Likely by Charles J. Wister, this drawing shows the Kurtz-Barr House, formerly in the 5700 Block of Germantown Avenue, now the site of W. Chelten Avenue, in Germantown. Source: Collection of Philadelphia Landmarks, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

<sup>14</sup> John Palmer Garber, Naaman Henry Keyser, C. Henry Kain, and Horace Ferdinand McCann. History of Old Germantown. (Philadelphia: H.F. McCann, 1907), pp. 369-70.



Likely by Charles J. Wister, this drawing shows the “Old Shoemaker Mansion,” on the east side of Germantown Avenue above E. Penn Street, demolished for the development of Cottage Row. Source: Collection of Philadelphia Landmarks, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Like the Kurtz-Barr House, the “Old Shoemaker Mansion,” formerly located on the east side of Germantown Avenue above E. Penn Street, later Shoemaker Lane, was a large house that was clearly expanded over time.<sup>15</sup> Reflecting a far more vernacular appearance than the subject house, the Old Shoemaker Mansion too justifies these linear Colonial Revival style dwellings that stray somewhat from symmetrical strictures of Georgian architecture. Also built over time, the Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908 Germantown Avenue is another historic building that is relatable to the Nichols-Goehring House with its side gabled roof, and asymmetrical, yet somehow formal fenestration. Both houses feature four dormers within the primary elevation that are purposely placed, yet asymmetrical.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908-14 Germantown Avenue, Germantown is a historic house that started life c. 1760 and was substantially enlarged over time to appearance shown above. Despite best efforts c. 1819, the house is not quite symmetrical due to its seemingly endless evolution, yet it is where vernacular meets formality. The Nichols-Goehring House has four dormers much like the Wachsmuth-Henry House that are purposely placed, but not quite symmetrical. Source: the Germantown Historical Society.

<sup>15</sup> John Palmer Garber, Naaman Henry Keyser, C. Henry Kain, and Horace Ferdinand McCann. History of Old Germantown. (Philadelphia: H.F. McCann, 1907), pp. 274-75.



Shown above, the house at 6629 Quincy Street in the Pelham development of Mt. Airy is a more formal and straightforward version of the Colonial Revival style. Beyond its pedimented door surround and dormers, the building features red brick cladding much like the Nichols-Goehring House. Source: Google.

Because of the rich heritage of the German Township and Philadelphia at-large, the taste for the Colonial Revival style in domestic architecture was omni-present from the time of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 to the mid-twentieth century. While there are archaeological specimens among other copies in the area, some of the most creative designs borrowed from history, while also producing a distinctive, often unique, work. The following examples show that the Nichols-Goehring House exemplifies an era characterized by the Colonial Revival style in suburban residences.



Designed in 1913 by the Germantown-born architect Spencer Roberts for his aunt and uncle, the Benjamin Franklin Dewees House at 413 Church Lane is a large Federal Revival style residence that was constructed of red brick that originally featured a smooth-faced stucco finish. According to information found in Collection 3052, the Edward H. Fleer Papers at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the house was designed for Elizabeth “Lizzie” R. Roberts Wriggins, a daughter of John Roberts—the last owner of the ancient Robert’s Mill, who had recently married department store owner B.F. Dewees, as a modern, adapted copy of the Roberts Mansion that once stood near the family’s mill on E. Church Lane—formerly Mill Street.<sup>16</sup> Source: Charles Vaughn Boyd. “A Consistently Colonial House,” *The House Beautiful*, Vols. 34-35. (New York, New York: The House Beautiful Publishing Company, December 1913), pp. 14-17. Accessed from Google Books.

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<sup>16</sup> Collection 3052, the Edward H. Fleer Family Papers, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



The Charles Wriggins House, Locust Avenue, Germantown, c. 1910s.  
Source: Collection 3052, the Edward H. Fleeer Family Papers, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



Designed by the Germantown-born architect Spencer Roberts for his cousin by marriage, the Charles Wriggins House was a “modern Colonial” at the time it was built c. 1911-12.<sup>17</sup> Calling to mind the Kurtz-Barr House and the Shoemaker Mansion, the Charles Wriggins House reflects a more asymmetrical, yet still formal design like the subject building. Also similar to the Nichols-Goehring House, the dormers feature segmental pediments and the house is two-and-one-half-stories with a side gable roof. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2016.

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<sup>17</sup> Collection 3052, the Edward H. Fleeer Family Papers, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



Designed by Duhring, Okie, and Ziegler, Architects, the Ledyard Heckscher House, Germantown, Philadelphia shares some similarities with the subject property, especially in its first floor treatment, including the pent roof and the entrance porch. Source: Aymar Embury, II. "Present Tendencies in Country House Designing," *The House Beautiful*, Vols. 32-33. (New York, New York: The House Beautiful Publishing Company, October 1913), pp. 163-165. Accessed from Google Books.



Designed by Duhring, Okie, and Ziegler, Architects, this "House in Germantown" shares similar details, though not as grand, with the subject property, especially in terms of scale and the pent roof. Source: Aymar Embury, II. "Present Tendencies in Country House Designing," *The House Beautiful*, Vols. 32-33. (New York, New York: The House Beautiful Publishing Company, October 1913), pp. 163-165. Accessed from Google Books.



Red brick is less common in the German Township, but is used in the Colonial Revival style house at 6811 Mower Street at the northeast corner of Pelham Road and Mower Street. Source: Google.



Another large Colonial Revival style in the 5300 block of Magnolia Street shares similarities to the subject property and yet is markedly different. Like the Nichols-Goehring House, this building rambles in a semi-formal fashion. Source: Google.



Located at the southeast corner of E. Johnson and Magnolia Streets in Germantown, the Cope House is a large, formal Colonial Revival style dwelling that was historic in inspiration, but distinctly modern at the time it was built. Source: Google.

## 8. Bibliography

**Credits:** This nomination was prepared by Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian, for the Keeping Society of Philadelphia. Advice, assistance, and research was provided by J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian; Justin Detwiler, Senior Project Designer, John Milner Architects; and Kelly Altrichter, Historic Preservationist.

### Sources

Aymar Embury, II. "Present Tendencies in Country House Designing," *The House Beautiful*, Vols. 32-33. (New York, New York: The House Beautiful Publishing Company, May 1913), pp. 163-165. Accessed from Google Books.

Charles Vaughn Boyd. "A Consistently Colonial House," *The House Beautiful*, Vols. 34-35. (New York, New York: The House Beautiful Publishing Company, December 1913), pp. 14-17. Accessed from Google Books.

"Charters," *Journal of the Engineers' Society of Pennsylvania*, Vol. 4.

Collection 3052, the Edward H. Fler Family Papers, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Collection of Philadelphia Landmarks, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

G.H. Edgell. *The American Architecture of To-Day*. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928), p. 88.

Germantown Historical Society

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

John Palmer Garber, Naaman Henry Keyser, C. Henry Kain, and Horace Ferdinand McCann. *History of Old Germantown*. (Philadelphia: H.F. McCann, 1907), pp. 369-70.

"Latest News In Real Estate," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. (Philadelphia: 12 June 1902), p. 15.

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