

Public comment received by the  
Historical Commission regarding the  
nomination of 340 Gates Street

**From:** [T.Kro](#)  
**To:** [preservation](#)  
**Subject:** 340 Gates St on 7-23 agenda  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:50:19 PM

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I am writing in support of the nomination of 340 Gates Street for Historic designation. This home is a gem in our neighborhood and sits on one of the most lovely blocks in the area.

I want to see it preserved as is, not torn down and replaced with new townhomes for the enormous profit of a developer.

Saving this home sends a signal that this block is worth preserving and helps maintain the historic character of our neighborhood for future generations.

Thank you,

Tina Krovetz  
160 Fountain St

## 340 Gates St Historic Nomination

Amanda Doty

Sun 7/18/2021 2:00 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Cc: Nathan Doty

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Dear Representative,

I am writing to express my overwhelming support for the designation of the property located at 340 Gates St, Philadelphia, PA 19128 as a historic home. It is imperative that we protect this beautiful home from impending demolition. The demolition of 340 Gates St would detract from the historic character of the rest of the street.

Many of the neighbors of Gates street have come together to work with the Ridge Park Civic Association on designating the 300 block of Gates St as a historic district. Come visit the street to find many remnants of a bygone era - yellow brick street, blue slate sidewalks, deep front porches that offer a space to converse with neighbors and promote a sense of community. Many of the homes retain gorgeous, original stained glass windows that add to the charm of our tree-lined street.

Roxborough has been under siege by developers tearing down historic homes in order to make a quick buck by putting up a number of new homes in its place. This process has not only caused a number of infrastructure issues, but has also resulted in the loss of many historical features of the overall neighborhood. Gates St is one of the few intact streets left in Roxborough and I hope you will help us keep it this way by voting to nominate 340 Gates St as a historic home and preventing its demolition. Please help us preserve our local slice of history!

Thank you,  
Mandy and Nathan Doty

## Letter in Support of 340 Gates Street Preservation Nomination

L. Price

Mon 7/19/2021 6:41 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the historic preservation nomination of 340 Gates Street. The house adds charm and character to our neighborhood.

I am a homeowner on the 300 block of Gates Street, and hope the nomination will be approved.

Thank you,

-Lois Price  
324 Gates Street

**From:** [Addison Geary](mailto:Addison_Geary@phila.gov)  
**To:** [preservation@phila.gov](mailto:preservation@phila.gov)  
**Subject:** 340 Gates St. Historic Nomination  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 20, 2021 10:17:09 AM

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Dear Representative, July 20, 2021

We are writing to express our support for the designation of the property located at 340 Gates St, Philadelphia, PA 19128 as an historic home. It is imperative that we protect this beautiful home from impending demolition. The demolition of 340 Gates St. would detract from the historic character of the entire block especially considering it is a corner property.

Gates street neighbors have come together to work with the Ridge Park Civic Association on designating the 300 block of Gates St as a historic district. Come visit the street to find many remnants of a bygone era - yellow brick street, blue slate sidewalks, deep front porches that offer a space to converse with neighbors and promote a sense of community. Many of the homes retain gorgeous, original stained glass windows that add to the charm of our tree-lined street.

Roxborough is under siege by developers, whose only consideration is profit, destroying historic homes to fill every square foot with new construction. This process has not only caused a number of infrastructure issues, but has also resulted in the loss of many historical features of the overall neighborhood as well as loss of trees and green space. The latter being of significant importance to water quality and rising temperatures. Gates St is one of the few intact streets left in Roxborough and I hope you will help us keep it this way by voting to nominate 340 Gates St as a historic home and preventing its demolition. Please help us preserve our neighborhood not only for ourselves but for the next generation.

Thank you,

Addison Geary, Lori Salamida, Wynn Geary

335 Gates St.

Phila., PA 19128

20 July 2021

To: Philadelphia Historic Commission  
RE: 340 GATES STREET HISTORIC NOMINATION

I am writing in strong support of the historic nomination of 340 Gates Street.

As a member of the Ridge Park Civic Association and Ridge Park's Preservation Committee, it is with great sadness that I am experiencing the demolition of historic homes in our neighborhood. Developers are buying properties in great quantity, demolishing historic homes built before 1909, and building homes by right that are totally out of architectural character and out of proportion with homes on the street. It truly feels like the residents of Roxborough are under siege by the amount of development occurring not only on major thoroughfares such as Ridge and Henry Avenues but also, increasingly, on smaller residential blocks.

340 Gates Street sits on one of the few intact historic streets within the Ridge Park Civic Association's borders. To date, there has not been a large amount of development on the 300 block of Gates Street and there are quite a few beautiful historic homes still standing on the street. Recent building has only occurred on one vacant lot on the street. Otherwise, the entire street contains only historic homes.

Our Preservation Committee and the Ridge Park Civic Association has targeted the 300 block of Gates Street with the goal of getting it designated as an Historic District. As chair of the Preservation Committee, I am writing to express the Ridge Park Civic Association's request to the Philadelphia Historic Commission to designate 340 Gates Street as a historic home, preventing it from being demolished, and providing an opportunity for our Civic to have the time to prepare an application to designate the 300 block of Gates Street as an Historic District.

We seek the support of the Philadelphia Historic Commission to help us retain the historic character of our neighborhood.

Very truly yours,

Cheryl Feldman  
203 Lemonte Street, Philadelphia

## Letter in Support of 340 Gates Street Nomination

Sandy Sorlien

Tue 7/20/2021 9:17 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Cc: Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; M Schleifer <mgschleifer@verizon.net>

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To:

Committee on Historic Designation

Philadelphia Historical Commission

I am writing in support of historic designation protection for the tall brick Victorian house at 340 Gates Street. My husband John Arnold and I lived there for 25 years, having bought the house in 1993. We sold it in 2018 to move near family in Rhode Island, but I still work as a contractor for the Philadelphia Water Department, and return often for work and to see friends. We certainly didn't want to sell the house to a developer, not with the teardown mentality in Roxborough. But it was the only offer we received, and the buyer had said she was going to live there herself. Of course, things change.

We feel strongly that 340 Gates should not be torn down, not because we lived in the house for 25 years, but because we lived in the *neighborhood* for 27 years. We used to walk up the steep hill from our rented house on Ogle Street and admire the 300 block of Gates, with its handsome yellow brick cartway and mix of local architecture. We especially admired this tall red house on the corner where the Koller family (of Koller Funeral Home on Ridge Ave) had raised eleven children, according to the natives. My husband calls it an "anchor house," physically anchoring the two streets, Gates and Manayunk, with its lofty presence. It occupies one of the highest spots in the city and is visible from many parts of the neighborhood. Socially it's an anchor too. Those who sit on its two porches can keep an eye on the activities on the Roxborough High School property across the street, and enjoy neighbors and their many dogs walking by.

Last month, a Roxborough friend texted me that a painting of our former house was on Instagram, [here](#). (We promptly bought it.) The respected Philadelphia artist [Larry Francis](#) had actually made two paintings in 2015 of a view from Gorgas Park that featured our house. Everyone who goes to Gorgas Park – everyone who uses the ballfields, playground, concert gazebo, sledding hill, and paths – can see that house and its interesting roofline and many windows, standing up prominently from the trees as Larry painted it.

It's a neighborhood landmark, and that's why it should be saved.

Thanks for your consideration,

Sandy Sorlien

John Arnold

Sandy Sorlien

Fairmount Water Works

Philadelphia Water Department

2020 and 2021 Peterson Fellow  
Athenaeum of Philadelphia

82 Howland Avenue  
Jamestown RI 02835