

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: **340 Gates Street**

Postal code: **19128-4514**

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **The Lamon House**

Current Name: **Unknown**

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: Private 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): **ca.1906-10**

Date(s) of construction: **ca.1906-10**

Architects: **Unknown**

Builders: **Unknown**

Original owner: **Joseph Lamon**

Significant person: **Unknown**

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.

Criterion J added by PHC

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

9. NOMINATOR

Organization: **Ridge Park Civic Association – Marlene Schleifer**

Author: **Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian
Keeping Society of Philadelphia**

Date: **11 May 2021**

Address: **1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107**

Telephone: **717.602.5002**

Email: **keeper@keepingphiladelphia.org**

Nominator is is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 14 May 2021

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete

Date: 28 May 2021

Date of Notice Issuance: 3 June 2021

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Denise Lehmann

Address: 340 Gates Street

City: Philadelphia

State: PA

Postal Code: 19128

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 21 July 2021

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 13 August 2021

Date of Final Action: 13 August 2021

Designated Rejected

12/7/18

Criteria C, D, and J

NOMINATION
FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Figure 1. The primary (southeast) elevation of the subject property. Source: Oscar Beisert.

THE LAMON HOUSE
CA. 1906-10
340 GATES STREET
ROXBOROUGH
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



Figure 2. The boundary of the proposed designation is delineated by the blue dashed line. Source: Atlas, City of Philadelphia.

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary description of the proposed designation is as follows:

BEGINNING at a point formed by the intersection of the Northwesterly side of Gates Street and the Southwesterly side of Manayunk Avenue. CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said Gates Street 47 feet and extending of that width in length or depth Northwestwardly between parallel lines at right angles to the said Gates Street along the Southwesterly side of Manayunk Avenue 160 feet.

OPA Account No. 211447600
Map Registry No. 093N130099



Figure 3. The primary elevation (southeast) and side (southwest) elevations of the subject property. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2021.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Standing prominently at the corner of Gates Street and Manayunk Avenue opposite the recreational section of Gorgas Park, the Lamont House survives in a highly intact section of an undesignated historic landscape of suburban Roxborough just a few blocks from the Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District. The primary (southeast) elevation of the subject building is recessed from Gates Street by a wide sidewalk set in grass. The street itself retains original or period appropriate buff brick pavement, which further enhances the character of this highly intact building and its associated site. Slightly elevated from the street, the Lamont House is further distinguished by a low retaining wall of Wissahickon schist, as well as an original iron fence that spans both side lines of the property. Accessed by a short flight of steps, a plentiful yard surrounds the detached, row-like dwelling. The building itself is of a similar scale and massing as the other detached and semi-detached dwellings that form the 300 block of Gates Street.

The Lamont House is a three-story, red brick structure with one- and two-story components at the rear. A vernacular rendition of the Second Empire style, the primary (southeast) elevation is dominated by a Mansard roof, as well as a one-story front porch. Figures 1 and

3 show the primary façade, as well as its relationship to the surrounding yard and streetscape. The building features a one-story front porch supported by red brick columns separated by a replacement balustrade and accessed by a short flight of wooden steps. The flat roof of the porch structure shades the three-bay fenestration of the first floor which includes two windows and a pedestrian door. The windows appear to retain original, one-over-one wooden sash fixtures defined by segmental arches, the predominate window type found throughout the building. The second and third floors are two bays in width. The Mansard roof retains original horizontal and hexagonal slate cladding, which unifies to create a decorative façade. Penetrating the Mansard area, two dormers project from the façade with pediments. The Mansard roof is prominently rendered by simple, molded cornices atop the second and third floors.

As shown in Figures 5 and 6, the side (northeast) elevation features five bays, including three openings in the three-story block and two in the two-story block. From southwest to northeast, the fenestration includes a window, pedestrian door (which appears to be original), then three windows. The doorway at this elevation is accompanied by a one-story porch with a flat roof supported by columns that stand on brick plinths joined by a replacement balustrade. Rising above the second floor includes a similar fenestration; however, the opening above the porch contains a projecting three-part bay window. There are only two window openings in the third-floor fenestration. There is a single window in the side (northeast) elevation of the rear one-story component. As shown in Figure 4, the side (southwest) elevation features four windows on the ground floor, two windows on the second floor, and one window on the third floor.

The rear (northwest) elevation features a one-story rear component as well as rear windows on the second floor the two-story component. The main block of the house features a rear Mansard roof at the third floor, which retains similar slate shingles and dormer windows.



Figure 4. Looking north at the side (southwest) and primary (southeast) elevations. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia.



Figure 5. Top: Looking southwest, the side (northeast) elevation of the subject property. Figure 6. Bottom: Looking south, the side (northeast) elevation of the subject property, including the rear components. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2021.

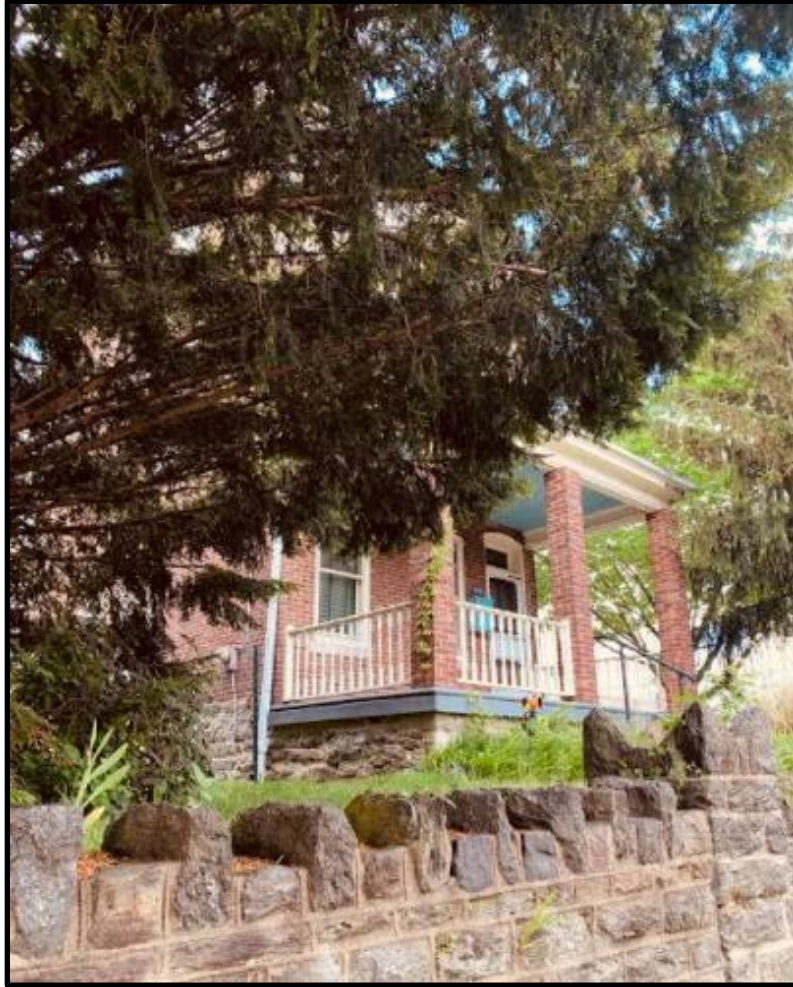


Figure 7. Top: Looking northeast, the stone retaining wall, yard, and front porch of the subject property.
Figure 8. Bottom: Looking northeast at the iron fence and stone retaining wall at the south corner of the subject property. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2021.

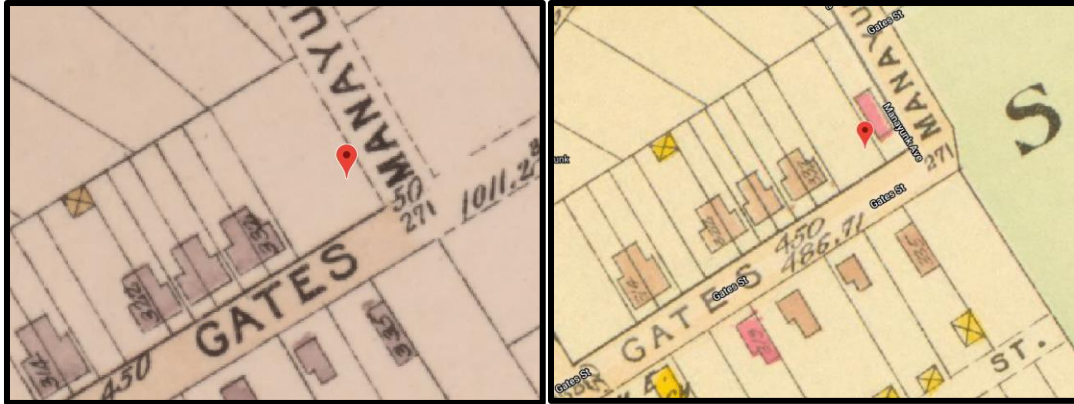


Figure 9. Left: 1895 Philadelphia Atlas showing that the subject property had not yet been constructed. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network. Figure 10. Right: 1910 Philadelphia Atlas by G.W. Bromley, showing the subject house had been constructed. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lamon House at 340 Gates Street in Roxborough 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 Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia, the 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.*

The period of significance for the subject property dates to the time of construction in ca.1906-10. The property was a vacant lot at the time of the publication of the 1895 *Philadelphia Atlas*. Joseph H. Lamon purchased the subject property from manufacturer William M. Somerset and his wife, Elizabeth, in 1906 for \$1,000.¹ By the time of the 1910 *Philadelphia Atlas*, the subject building appears to have been constructed on the site.

¹ Deed: William H. Somerset to Joseph H. Lamon, \$1,000, 16 March 1906, Philadelphia Deed Book W.S.V., No. 638, 129.



Figure 11. Top left: The Bunting House, ca.1880 (demolished). Source: The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia. Figure 12. Top right: 5205 Ridge Avenue, ca. 1884-92. Figure 13. Bottom left: 5504 Ridge Avenue, ca.1888-92. Figure 14. Bottom right: 5550 & 5552 Ridge Avenue, ca. 1853-74. Source: Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District.

CRITERION D

The Lamson House embodies distinguishing characteristics of the Second Empire style, as the said style evolved and influenced the vernacular suburban landscape of Philadelphia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. According to Virginia & Lee McAlester’s *A Field Guide To American Houses (McAlester Field Guide)*, the Second Empire style enjoyed widespread employment in American architecture from 1855 to 1885, constituting a distinct and significant aesthetic period within the larger realm of the Victorian era. In line with national trends, Pennsylvania appears to have been particularly fond of the Second Empire or at least various of its characteristics. The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission Pennsylvania’s Architectural Field Guide (*PHMC Field Guide*) describes the “Second Empire/Mansard Style” as being popular between 1860 and 1900, which is a slightly longer period than used in the *McAlester Field Guide*, a timeline likely related to style’s prevalence in Pennsylvania. The *PHMC Field Guide* recognizes that the style gained immense popularity in the 1860s and 1870s, as influenced by the “well-attended exhibitions in Paris in 1855 and 1867,” becoming a true modern architectural movement rather than a revivalist style. The *PHMC Field Guide* also presents commercial, residential, and public/government buildings as the most common building types to be

constructed in the style.² In Philadelphia, the Second Empire and the Mansard roof dominate the municipal identity through immense City Hall at Center Square, the construction of which spanned from 1871 to 1901. It is no surprise that the style and its characteristic Mansard roof continued to shape Philadelphia taste for decades to come, resulting in a component part of the city’s vernacular architecture.

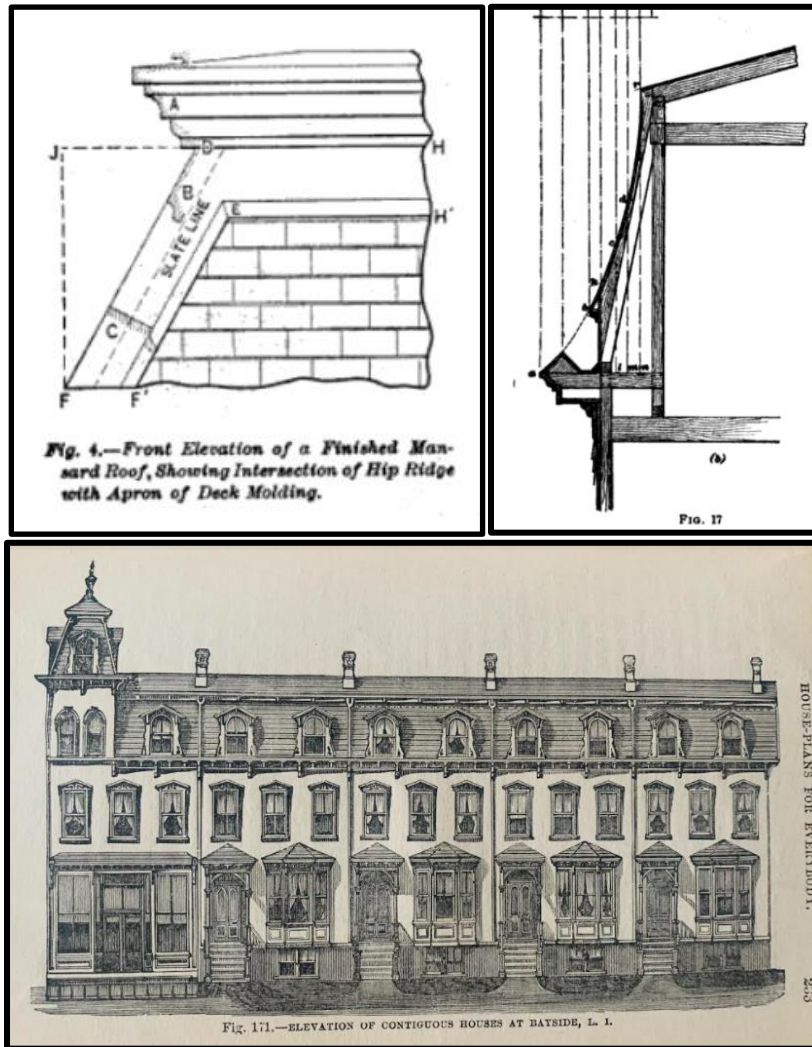


Figure 15. Left: An illustration of a “Finished Mansard Roof, Showing Intersection of Hip Ridge with Apron of Deck Molding,” similar to that of the subject property. Source: “Deck Molding,” *The Metal Worker*, 21 September 1895, 42. Figure 16. Right: *International Library of Technology*. (Scranton: International Textbook Company, 1906), 12-13. Figure 17. Bottom: An elevation of a row of houses in Bayside, Long Island designed in the Second Empire style during the height of its urban, yet domestic grandeur. Source: *House-Plans for Everybody*. (New York: Orange Judd Company, 1883), 233.

With very few alterations during the last 115 years, the subject building features a distinctive Mansard roof that serves as the primary elevation of its third floor. The Mansardic area is pierced by two gabled-fronted dormers that are symmetrically placed in

² “Second Empire/Mansard Style,” Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, accessed May 2021. <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/second-empire.html>

correspondence with the apertures of the first and second floors. The gables of the dormers are designed in the form of pediments, which are characteristic of local variants of the style. This elevation features bands of plain rectangular and hexagonal slate cladding, forming a decorative pattern commonly associated with Mansard roof treatment in the Second Empire style. The employment of a simple, molded cornice at the second and third floors is also a feature that was designed to set off the Mansard roof, showcasing it as the primary aesthetic treatment of the building. Another common feature of the Second Empire style is the presence of a porch and the subject property has both a front and side porch. The *McAlester Field Guide* and *PHMC Field Guide* both describe the primary characteristics of the Second Empire style: the distinctive Mansard roof often punctuated with dormers that pierce a steep sloped structure; molded cornices; decorative slate patterns; and porches.³

Architects and influencers popularized the building form and style through pattern books and other printed medium, which led to the proliferation of such developments throughout Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the eastern United States. One design for a row of houses in Bayside, Long Island (Figure 17) was published in S.B.Reed's *House-Plans for Everybody* in 1883, showing an unusual pattern book design for attached houses. While the example shown by Reed is at the height of the Second Empire style, the employment of such designs was common in most urban areas in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and would go on to influence the design of modest attached, semi-detached, and detached houses in Roxborough and Philadelphia at-large. Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings present the "Mansard Roof Cottage" as a common type in *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870-1960*, which includes modest examples of detached houses in the American landscape. While they do not provide textbook examples of the Second Empire style, their specimen exhibits the range of variants that emerged from this well-known stylistic movement.

By the turn of the twentieth century, the Second Empire style has almost been reduced to a building form that was largely defined by simplified variants of the Mansard roof. This shift in the style is perhaps best understood in period photographs of new and dramatically altered buildings in Germantown. Figures 23, 24, and 25 show the use of simplified Mansard roofs that are nevertheless still set off by distinctive, yet also restrained, molded cornices, all of which rises above symmetrical fenestrations and one-story porches with revivalist details.

Within the context of Philadelphia, the subject property is a highly intact specimen of a late vernacular Second Empire style, satisfying Criterion D.⁴

³ Virginia & Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide To American Houses*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998), 240-243.

⁴Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870-1960*. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009), 167-68



Examples of vernacular Second Empire style dwellings in Roxborough. Figure 18. Top left: 5639 Ridge Avenue, ca. 1896-99. Figure 19. Top right: A twin at 7535 & 7537 Ridge Avenue, ca. 1895-1910. Source: Google. Figure 20. Left: A Second Empire style dwelling near Ridge Avenue and Parker Street, 1949. Source: DOR Archives. Figure 21. Middle: A Second Empire style twin at Parker and Ridge, 1949. Source DOR Archives. Figure 22. Right: Dwellings with Mansard roofs and one-story front porches near Ridge Avenue. Source: DOR Archives.

CRITERION C

In Philadelphia and, specifically, in Roxborough, the Second Empire style and its prominent Mansard roof was decidedly influential in shaping the built environment during the second half of the Victorian era and onwards into the twentieth century. As previously stated, the *PHMC Field Guide* recognize that the style was commonly employed in the design and construction of residential buildings.⁵ In the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District, the Philadelphia Historical Commission (PHC) staff take notice of the Second Empire style as a theme in the evolution and development of the area, as it evolved from a linear village to a suburb. In fact, in a historic district of 188 resources, 33 buildings, nearly one-fifth of the inventory, are classified as being of the Second Empire style, and many more have employed Mansard roofs and other features commonly associated with the style.⁶ These

⁵ “Second Empire/Mansard Style,” Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, accessed May 2021. <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/second-empire.html>

⁶ Philadelphia Historical Commission staff. Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District. (Philadelphia: Philadelphia Historical Commission, 2018), 49-50.

statistics alone show that the Second Empire style and the employment of the Mansard roof characterized the built environment of Roxborough.



Period photographs of similarly styled buildings in Northwest Philadelphia. Figure 23. Top left: The Truck Company at Germantown Avenue and Seymour Streets featured a newly built Mansard roof in the first decade of the twentieth century. Source: Germantown Historical Society. Figure 24. Top right: Wilson's West Side Saloon at Wayne Avenue and Price Street was newly built at the turn of the twentieth century with a mansard roof not dissimilar from that of the subject property. Source: Germantown Historical Society. Figure 25. Bottom: The rear elevation of the Thomas Newhall House after it was renovated by the Pearson family in the late nineteenth century. The Second Empire treatment of the building is not dissimilar from the subject property. Source: Germantown Historical Society.

Modest examples of detached and semi-detached dwellings predominated in the Second Empire style throughout Roxborough and beyond in Northwest Philadelphia. Figures 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 represent a sampling of those buildings that represent the style, as classified by the PHC staff. While those shown in Figures 11, 12, 13, and 14 signify the earlier and more ornate Second Empire style specimen, Figures 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 illustrate the evolution of the style to include features that are becoming more and more streamlined and/or influenced by other non-Italianate embellishments.



Examples of the Second Empire style in the domestic architecture of Ridge Avenue and Roxborough. Figure 26. Top left: 6190 Ridge Avenue (ca.1875-84). Figure 27. Top center: 6212 Ridge Avenue (ca.1886-88). Figure 28. Top right: 6234 Ridge Avenue (ca.1883-84). Figure 29. Bottom left: 7910 and 7912 Ridge Avenue (ca.1875-84) Figure 30. Bottom center: 6526 Ridge Avenue (ca.1900). Figure 31. Bottom right: 6787 and 6789 Ridge Avenue (ca.1900). Source: Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District.

As shown through the PHC’s Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District and additional examples discussed in this document, the Second Empire style and the prominence of the Mansard roof characterize the built environment of Roxborough in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A pristine example within that suburban atmosphere, the subject property exhibits this aspect of the neighborhood’s stylistic evolution and development, satisfying Criterion C.



Figure 32. Public Ledger Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, ca. 1867. Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

EVIDENCE OF THE SECOND EMPIRE STYLE IN PHILADELPHIA⁷

Philadelphia's built environment features a wide variety of buildings designed in the Second Empire style. Perhaps the most significant example in America, Philadelphia's City Hall was designed by John McArthur Jr., being constructed between 1871 and 1901 at a cost of \$24 million.⁸ Built in 1865, just south of Center Square, the Union League of Philadelphia was another building completed in the Second Empire style.⁹ The building, designed by leading Philadelphia architect John Fraser (1825-1906), still stands at 140 S. Broad Street.¹⁰ Unlike Philadelphia City Hall, this private club building resembles a mansion rather than a public building. On the commercial and industrial frontier, the *Public Ledger* constructed "their new and splendid building" (Figure 21) at the southwest corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets in 1867, which was also designed by John McArthur, Jr. The *Scientific American* said the following about the building:

The new *Ledger* building is one of the largest printing houses in the Union, very beautiful in architecture, located on the corner of Sixth and Chestnut Streets. Every portion of the establishment is complete with regard to light, heating, ventilation, and other comforts. The office and editorial rooms are

⁷ This historic context was used in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: A Double Residence, 5200-04 Wayne Avenue. in the Second Empire style and the John C. Winston Stable, 5208 Wayne Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by Oscar Beisert, Keeping Society of Philadelphia in 2020.

⁸ Russ F. Weigley (editor). *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*. (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1982).

⁹ Walter L. Fleming. *Documentary History of Reconstruction: Political, Military, Social, Religious, Educational, and Industrial, Vol. 2*. (1906), 1-20.

¹⁰ Russ F. Weigley (editor). *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*. (New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1982).

furnished splendidly. The composing room is on the upper floor, which, by aid of a Mansard roof, has a height of twenty-one feet.¹¹

Another important public building was the Court House and Post Office (Figure 20/Demolished), also designed in the Second Empire style, by Alfred B. Mullet (1834-1890). Completed in 1874, it featured a complex, multi-level Mansardic roof structure at the center and a smaller, low-slung Mansard roof atop the vast four-story building.



Figure 33. Court House and Post Office, facing onto S. Eighth Street between Chestnut and Market Streets in Philadelphia, ca. 1874. Source: Oscar Beisert.

Commercial and other private for-profit establishments styled both their buildings and their advertisements in response to what might be called a Mansard mania. Known to shy away from modernity—especially in style, even old Philadelphians warmed to the Mansard roof. No doubt the inherent Quaker conservatism was satiated by the prospect of a low-cost addition that allowed them to keep the existing building yet update and even formalize its appearance. No greater specimen can be found than the Philadelphia Contributionship. The “Oldest Continually Operating Fire Insurance Company in America” commissioned Thomas U. Walter (1804-1887), a darling of Philadelphia architecture, to design a commodious building for the establishment, which was completed in 1836.¹² It had the appearance of a large Greek Revival house with Georgian antecedents. Later in the nineteenth century, the fourth, half-story was enlarged to accommodate a full floor—an improvement that was achieved with a Mansard roof.

¹¹ “A Philadelphia Newspaper Establishment,” *Scientific American* (1845-1908). (New York: 6 July 1867), 10.

¹² “Company History,” The Philadelphia Contributionship. Accessed 25 January 2017. <<http://www.contributionship.com/history/tour.html>>

By 1883, Hagar & Campbell’s “New Dime Museum” was proudly advertised as opening on “Monday September 3d.” at the corner of Ninth and Arch Streets (Figure 21/Demolished). The advertisement illustrates their distinct four-story, Second Empire style edifice that is largely concealed by advertisements for the museum.¹³ Just in time for the Centennial Exhibition, the Second Empire style was so popular that companies like Cunningham & Hill, Manufacturers and Retailers of Flags and Shields, published an advertisement (Figure 24) for their product in which a Second Empire style building is shown draped in their products.



Figure 34. Top: Advertisement Card: “Hagar & Campbell’s Dime Museum, Ninth & Arch Streets. Opens Monday September 3d. 1883.” (The Stobridge Lithograph Co., 1883). Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia. Figure 35. Bottom: Advertisement of Cunningham & Hill, 204 Church Street, Philadelphia, ca.1876. Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia.

The Second Empire style was particularly popular in its application to Philadelphia’s residential architecture with continual use in detached, semi-detached—including twins, and rowhouses from the 1860s into the early twentieth century. Yet we understand that the

¹³ Advertisement Card: “Hagar & Campbell’s Dime Museum, Ninth & Arch Sts. Opens Monday September 3d. 1883.” (The Stobridge Lithograph Co., 1883). Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia.
 The Lamon House, 340 Gates Street, Roxborough, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, May 2021–Page 18

French influence in local domestic architecture appeared earlier, if not just for brief moment. Purported to be the first Mansard roof in America, Robert Morris, known as the “Financier of the American Revolution,” commissioned the éminent French architect, Pierre Charles L’Enfant (1754-1825), to design a mansion for him around 1794. However, after the project was well underway, he suffered major financial losses that prevented him from finishing the house. As a result, the building became known as “Morris’ Folly,” standing as an incomplete masonry shell on a large parcel bound by Chestnut Street at the north, 7th Street at the east, Walnut Street at the south, and 8th Street at the west (Figure 25).¹⁴



Figure 36. Detail of “The Morris Mansion, Philadelphia, As It Was.” Source: PhiladelphiaBuildings.org.

¹⁴ Charles Rappleye. *Robert Morris: Financier of the American Revolution*. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2010).

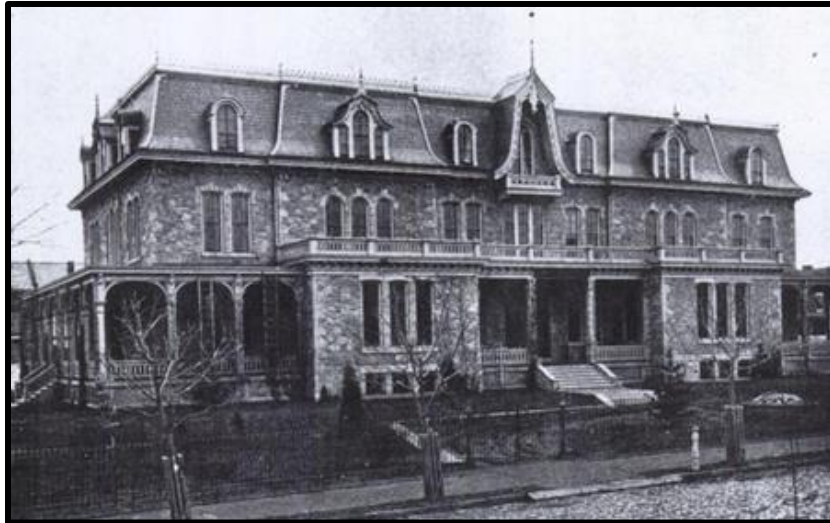


Figure 37. Top: Marble Terrace, 3200 Block of Chestnut Street, West Philadelphia, ca. 1872. Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia. Figure 38. Bottom: The Old Man’s Home on Powelton Avenue between Saunders Avenue and 39th Street, designed by Hewitt Brothers, architects, in 1897. Source: Robert Morris Skaler. *West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street*. (Arcadia Publishing, 2002).

After Morris’ Folly, the employment of the Mansard roof was almost entirely dormant at Philadelphia until the Second Empire style came into vogue. In the 1860s, one of the most impressive blocks to be constructed in Philadelphia was known as Marble Terrace, ca. 1870 (Figure 26/Demolished). Located in the 3200 block of Chestnut Street, the development was described in real estate advertisements as: “Handsome Modern Four-story Marble Front,” a property that was, in fact, four stories in height—the fourth floor being a Mansard roof with a variation of dormers typical of high style designs in the 1860s and 1870s.¹⁵ A similar marble-front development was completed in the same style on the northeast side of Ridge Avenue just below Girard, the last vestiges of which were renovated or demolished

¹⁵ “M. Thomas & Sons. Auctioneers,” *Legal Gazette*. (15 May 1874), 160.

in recent years. In West Philadelphia, the style was employed in both detached, semi-detached twin houses, and row houses. Further into West Philadelphia, the development of streetcar suburbs led to the construction of numerous detached and semi-detached twin houses. Many of the residences were designed in the Second Empire style, which may be found on the fringes of University City and in Powelton Village (Figure 27), Spruce Hill, and West Powelton. Located in Spruce Hill, the Satterlee Heights Development (Figure 28) began in 1871 with several houses in the 4300 block of Osage Avenue that were of the Second Empire style.¹⁶



Figure 39. Top: Detail from Satterlee Heights. Satterlee Hospital Grounds, 27th Ward. West Philadelphia., n.d. Note: the large, detached house facing onto 42nd Street is labeled “12” and was the home of Samuel Sloan. Immediately to the north, a twin is labeled with two numbers, “13” and “14,” being the homes John F. Bush and Mrs. M. Harding. Each of these houses appear to be designed in the Second Empire style. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network. Figure 40. Bottom: Large Second Empire style houses in the 4200 block of Chester Avenue, which are no longer extant. Source: Robert Morris Skaler. *West Philadelphia: University City to 52nd Street*. (Arcadia Publishing, 2002), 52.

¹⁶ Oscar Beisert. *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: 4300-03 Osage Avenue*. (Philadelphia: Oscar Beisert, 2015).

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sponsored by the Ridge Park Civic Association and Marlene Schleifer, this nomination was authored and compiled by Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian and Historic Preservationist, with assistance from J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian, and Kelly E. Wiles, Architectural Historian.

The following sites were used to create the nomination:

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

Hathi Trust

Newspapers.com

Proquest Historical Newspapers

The Germantown Historical Society

The Library Company of Philadelphia

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

“A Philadelphia Newspaper Establishment,” *Scientific American* (1845-1908). (New York: 6 July 1867), 10.

Advertisement Card: “Hagar & Campbell’s Dime Museum, Ninth & Arch Sts. Opens Monday September 3d. 1883.” (The Stobridge Lithograph Co., 1883). Source: The Library Company of Philadelphia.

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Deed: William H. Somerset to Joseph H. Lamon, \$1,000, 16 March 1906, Philadelphia Deed Book W.S.V., No. 638, 129.

Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings. *American Vernacular Buildings and Interiors 1870-1960*. (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2009), 167-68

House-Plans for Everybody. (New York: Orange Judd Company, 1883), 233.

International Library of Technology. (Scranton: International Textbook Company, 1906), 12-13.

“M. Thomas & Sons. Auctioneers,” *Legal Gazette*. (15 May 1874), 160.

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Oscar Beisert. *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: A Double Residence, 5200-04 Wayne Avenue. in the Second Empire style and the John C. Winston Stable, 5208 Wayne Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*. (Philadelphia: Keeping Society of Philadelphia, 2020).

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