

ADDRESS: 1533-41 N 16TH ST

Name of Resource: Seventh-Day Adventist Church

Proposed Action: Rescission

Property Owner: Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist

Nominator: Historical Commission

Staff Contact: Jon Farnham, jon.farnham@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: The Historical Commission is considering whether to remove the property at 1533-41 N. 16th Street from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The Historical Commission designated the property at the southeast corner of 16th and Oxford Streets on 1 July 1982, along with several other buildings on the 1500-block of N. 16th Street. At the time of designation, a late nineteenth-century church stood on the site. The nomination explains that the building was erected for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer. It further explains that church was later occupied by two Armenian congregations before the Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-Day Adventist purchased it in 1966. A Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form in the Historical Commission's files, prepared by Michael Lewis in 1984, identifies the architect of the church as Frank Watson and dates the building to 1893.

Newspaper reports indicate that the church building suffered a massive five-alarm fire in October 1991. The fire was started by workers using a propane torch to install a new roof. The church building was demolished shortly after the fire to abate the dangerous condition. A new church was erected on the site in the late 1990s, apparently without the Historical Commission's review or approval. A site plan for the new church in the Historical Commission's files includes the following hand-written note: "Plan of new church; designated building burned four years ago & new plans never forwarded to the PHC for approvals 8/15/2000." The Historical Commission's staff discovered that the historic church building had been lost to fire 30 years ago but that the address remained on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places during a recent, routine review of records and is requesting that the Historical Commission consider rescinding its designation.

Section 5.14.b.1.a of the Historical Commission's Rules & Regulations stipulates that the Commission may rescind the designation of a building and remove its entry from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places if the resource has ceased to satisfy the Criteria for Designation because the qualities that caused its original entry have been lost or destroyed. While the property was designated prior to the adoption of the current historic preservation ordinance and its Criteria for Designation, the nomination indicates that the church was designated for its architectural qualities, which were lost with the fire and subsequent demolition. The role of the Committee on Historic Designation in reviews such as this one is to determine whether the qualities that caused original entry of the property on the Register have been lost or destroyed or, in other words, whether the property has ceased to satisfy the criteria that led to its original designation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Historical Commission find the resource has ceased to satisfy the Criteria for Designation because the qualities that caused its original entry have been lost or destroyed, and that it rescind the designation of 1533-41 N. 16th Street and remove it from the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, pursuant to Section 5.14.b.1.a of the Historical Commission's Rules & Regulations.



The church at 1533-41 N. 16th Street, looking northeast from 16th Street, 26 April 1982.



The church at 1533-41 N. 16th Street, looking southwest from Oxford Street, June 1982.



A current view of the North Philadelphia Seventh-Day Adventist Church from the corner of 16th and Oxford Streets. The church building was designed by architect Lester Rosenwinkel and constructed about 1998.

Fire ruins church; roofers blamed

By Thomas J. Gibbons Jr.
and Edward Colimore
Inquirer Staff Writers

A century-old North Philadelphia church building was destroyed yesterday afternoon in a five-alarm fire that authorities said was started by workers using a propane torch to install a new roof.

More than 135 firefighters battled the blaze at the North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church at 16th and Oxford Streets. There were no injuries.

Authorities, fearing spread of the blaze and collapse of the handsome red brick walls of the five-story Gothic Revival church, temporarily evacuated more than 75 residents from surrounding homes and a large apartment house that adjoins the structure.

"We just lost a major church in North Philadelphia," Fire Commissioner Roger M. Ulshafer said shortly after he placed the blaze under control at 2:20 p.m. "It looks like it might be a total loss, which is really sad for this community."

According to the commissioner, the blaze was reported at 12:48 p.m. and was started by employees of Farrello Roofing who were installing a hot rubber roof. It was at least the fifth time, the commissioner said, that that process has resulted in a Philadelphia church's being destroyed by fire.

"This is becoming particularly a hazardous situation in the city now," Ulshafer said. "Roofers were working up there with a torch with propane. Fire started underneath the roof. They [the workers] did not call the Fire Department right away. By the time we got here, this whole roof was involved."

As additional alarms were ordered, word of the blaze reached church members who live in the neighborhood and hurried to the scene.

"When I saw smoke, I just started running," said Hollister Sherrill, 72, fighting back tears as she stood on 16th Street. She clutched her hands as she watched flames leap high out of the church's interior after the roof collapsed. "My heart is really heavy. Believe me, believe me, believe me."

Another member, LeRoy Williams, 45, estimated that the congregation has more than 1,000 members who have lost their place of worship.

"I'm heartbroken," he said. "I know everyone else will be also. I don't know what we're going to do, but God will provide. He will do something."

Ulshafer explained that four



The Philadelphia Inquirer / JOHN COSTELLO

Smoke engulfs the North Philadelphia Seventh Day Adventist Church, 16th and Oxford Streets.

alarms were sounded because of the severity of the fire and the small streets in the area, and that the fifth was ordered "to get some additional water in here because this area is notorious for small water mains."

Ulshafer said the roofers had been applying rolls of rubber on the roof that are then sealed together seam by seam.

"They do it with a hot propane torch," he said. "They have to be very careful when they do that. These roofs are very old. The wood in there is dried out."

After the fire erupted, according to Ulshafer, the roofers tried to extinguish it themselves using "some things that possibly shouldn't have been used."

"It's very difficult for us to combat a fire once the whole roof is involved, which was the case when we got here," he said.

Efforts to reach a spokesman for the roofing company were unsuccessful last night.

The church's pastor, the Rev. W.E. Hall, could not be reached to determine where services would now be

held.

Williams said the congregation has a main service each Saturday morning at 11 and a weekly prayer service Wednesday evening at 7:30.

The church was placed on the Philadelphia Registry of Historic Places in 1982 and has been the place of worship for four congregations, ac-

cording to the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

In the files of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, the church is known as the Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, though the locals know it as the North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Student accuses man of rape

RAPE, from 1-B
her through the door, causing her to fall face down on the bed. He then raped her, the affidavit said. After the attack, she asked him for her clothes and he refused, forcing her to feel around the room to find them.

During Memorial Day weekend 1989, Andrews came into her bedroom and took her to his room, where he raped her, according to the affidavit.

Kovach said the woman and Andrews had been injured in a car accident sometime after the second

rape, and she returned home to Germany, where she reported the incidents to a therapist, he said.

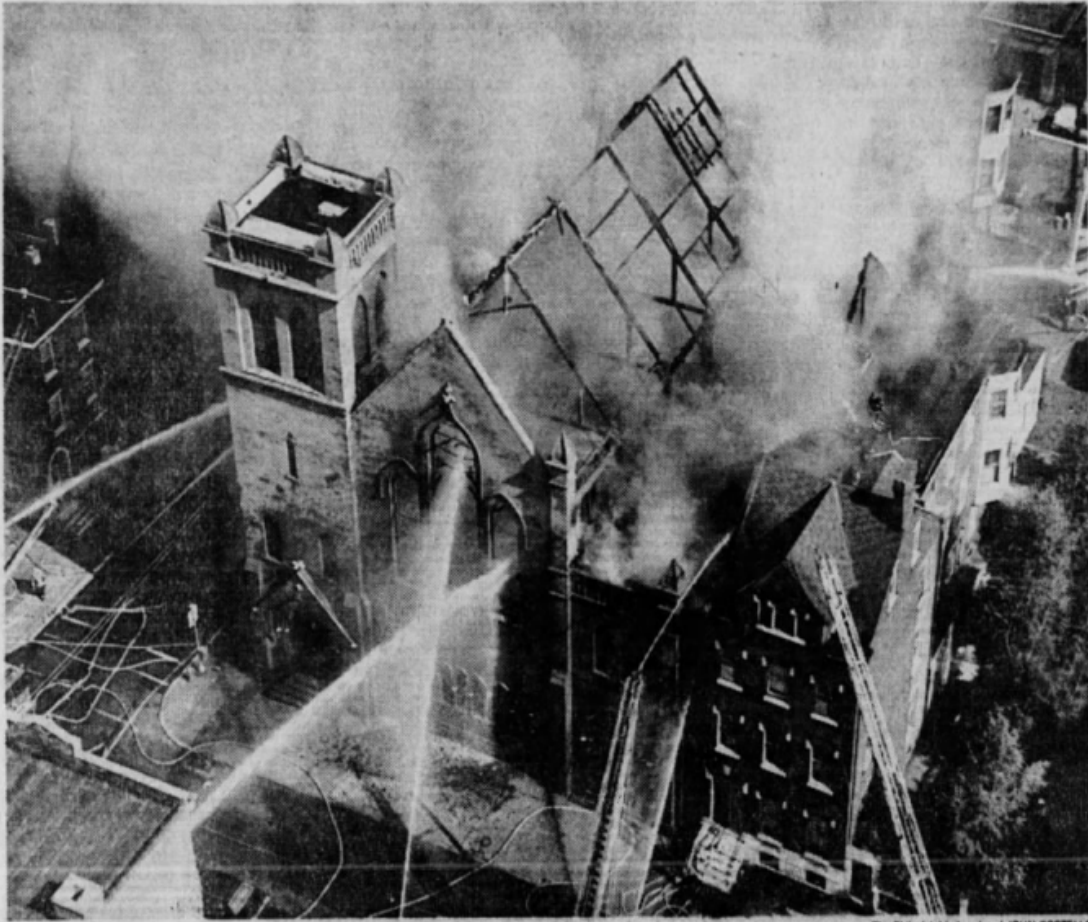
Kovach said it took a while for the woman to realize that she could still file charges.

Andrews was released after posting 10 percent of \$75,000 bail. A preliminary hearing was scheduled for Thursday in Upper Darby Regional Court.

Andrews has been suspended with pay pending a school district investigation, Philadelphia school officials said.

Inquirer, 11 October 1991, pg. 11.

Fire destroys N. Phila. church



The Philadelphia Inquirer / JOHN COSTELLO

Smoke billows through the skeletal roof of the North Philadelphia Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 16th and Oxford Streets. The five-alarm fire that destroyed the

century-old Gothic Revival church building yesterday was started by roofers using a propane torch, authorities said. Story on Page 1-B.

Inquirer, 11 October 1991, pg. 1.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION Box 1026 PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION Harrisburg, PA 17120		7. Local survey organization Clio Group, Inc.		1. County Philadelphia	5. Present name No. Phila. 7th Day Adventist	6. Other name (historic name if any) Church of Our Redeemer	7. Munc. (city) Philadelphia	8. Street address of specific location 1512 Oxford Street a.k.a. 1533-1541 N. 16th St.	
8. property owners name and address Allegheny E. Conf. Association 1512 Oxford Street Philadelphia, PA		9. tax parcel number / other number 471129600							10. U.T.M. zone 18 48 6 2 1 0 Easting 4141215101410 Northing usgs sheet Philadelphia Quad
12. classification site () structure () object () building () in N.R. district yes () no ()		13. date(s) (how determined) 1893 (BG)		14. period 1880-1899		15. style, design or folk type 19- Gothic Revival		19. original use 150300 - Church	
16. architect or engineer Watson, Frank		17. contractor or builder		18. primary building mat./construction 03 - Brick		20. present use Church		21. condition above average	
22. integrity average		23. site plan with north arrow							
24. photo notation GT-NPI-1-11		25. file/location							
26. brief description (note unusual features, integrity, environment, threats and associated buildings) <p>This church building conforms to a basilican plan with a high central nave lit by a trio of large leaded glass lancet windows over a tripartite composition of smaller windows. To the south, the low side aisle is differentiated by a projecting buttress which rises above the roof and terminates in a ogee-shaped finial. Access is provided through a double door under a pointed arch which is outlined by a profiled archivolt carried on sculpted consoles. Above, the second story is lit by twin lancet windows; a blind arcade serves as a cornice. The main entrance is through the north aisle which culminates in a square bell tower at the corner of Oxford and North 16th Street. The entrance is set off by a gable and short buttresses which flank the pointed opening. Lancet windows light the otherwise unrelieved next two stories of the tower which terminates under a simple brick corbel frieze. A pair of pointed arch windows light each face of the belfry. Simple piers, capped by ogee-shaped finials, mark the corners of the tower. (continued) (continue on back if necessary)</p>									
27. history, significance and/or background <p>The Protestant Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, now the North Philadelphia Seventh Day Adventist Church, documents the social changes that North Philadelphia has undergone since its development in the late nineteenth century. The building uses the traditional basilican plan as an appropriate solution for a modern urban church with an emphasis on a single facade. The tripartite scheme determines the placement of the tower which is drawn into the body of the church, creating an (continued) (continue on back if necessary)</p>		28. sources of information New York Times: obituary, October 30, 1940 Clio Index: 0015268, 0017642		29. prepared by M. Lewis		30. date 4/19/84		revision(s)	

(continue on back if necessary)

044-62100-01512

26. continued:

The basement level is of rough-dressed ashlar masonry and is lit by low windows under flat lintels.

27. continued:

asymmetrical visual sequence of the tower, high nave and low aisle.

It is significant that the architect of the church was Frank Watson, who was most active as a designer of Catholic churches in the North Philadelphia area. Watson (1859-1940) studied in France and with noted Philadelphia Catholic architect E. F. Durang. The selection of Watson as architect for a Protestant Episcopal church suggests that the North Philadelphia Protestant community drew on a different group of architects than the more socially prominent church architects active in Center City Philadelphia.

EVALUATION

Would contribute to a district.

EVALUATOR(S)

M. J. [illegible]

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR PHC USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

1500 block North 16th Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1501-1503, 1505, 1507, 1509, 1511, 1517, 1521, 1523,

CITY, TOWN 1525, 1527, 1531, 1533-1549, 1522, 1524, 1530

North 16th Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
___ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☒ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: apt.
houses

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Room 153, City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Broad and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

3: Owners:

1501-1503: Bessie Mae Totten
1505: Felix Scrutchins, Mabel Ingram and Lorretta Williams, joint tenants in common
1507: Edith Lamaire Massiah and Rev. Benjamin Massiah
1509: Theolyn R. Allison
1511: Marian Gray Secundy
1517: Kay Bailey Nichols
1521: James R. Faison
1523: Orrie Goldsmith
1525: Adeyo O. Oyaga
1527: Walter H. Barker & Frances L., his wife
1531: S. Francis Riley
1533-1549: Allegheny Conference Association of 7th-Day Adventists
1522: Clarence E. Wood
1524: Adeyo O. Oyaga
1526: Viola Howell
1530: Unity Mission Church Home and Training School, Inc.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1500 block of North 16th Street exhibits a wide range of architectural styles, most of which date to the middle to late 19th Century. Several of the houses are of vernacular design and construction; the remainder are probably architect-designed, using a variety of brick, brownstone, granite and rusticated stone materials for their facades.

1501-1503: Constructed c. 1877, this building stands 3-stories high composed of brick with a pedimented frontispiece in the right bay on the west elevation, a tripart window opening in the left bay separated by stone piers and capped by a stone lintel with a keystone. The 2nd and 3rd floor openings all contain 1/1 double-hung sash and have stone lintels with keystones and stone sills. A stone beltcourse appears between the 2nd and 3rd floors. The structure is capped by a bracketed cornice. A one-bay setback on the left contains a small opening on the first floor and identical openings to the main facade on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The south elevation has two parts: the left 2-bay section and the main 5-bay section. The left elevation is fronted by a fire escape and a porch. The openings on the second floor have been converted to door openings for the fire escape as has the left opening on the third floor. The third floor right opening contains 1/1 double-hung sash identical to those described on the west elevation. The 5-bay right section contains a 4-part window arrangement on the ground floor center, a door opening and a 2/1 double-hung sash arrangement in the right 2 openings, and identical 1/1 double-hung sash in the right four openings on the upper floors as those on the west elevation. The upper floors' left opening has a pair of casement windows. All openings on the south elevation contain stone sills and lintels with keystones. Brick quoining appears on all corners of the building.

1505-1507: William R. Valleau had this double house constructed in the mid 1870s about the same time when he commissioned the house at 1501-1503. Each house stands as a $3\frac{1}{2}$ story, 2-bay, brick dwelling on a raised stone basement and has an arched door opening containing paired doors on the ground floor and 2 window openings on all floors with stone sills and lintels containing 1/1 double hung sash. A bracketed cornice appears above the 3rd story and a stylized front gable with wall dormer containing 2 openings sits in front of the mansrad roof. Although similiar in design, small differences do appeaz such as the cut of the panels in the watertable below the first floor openings, the style of the lintels and the bracketed cornice. Robert Dornan, of the carpet manufacturing firm of Dornan, Maybin & Company (later Dornan Brothers and Company), owned 1505 from 1878 to 1917. The Dornan Residence was illustrated in Moses King's Views of Philadelphia in 1902. It has also served as a convalescent home from 1952 until recently. Samuel G. Lewis owned 1507 from 1877 to 1895. In 1949, incidental to its conversion to an apartment house, a 1-story and a 4-story brick additions and a fire escape were added to the rear of the building.

1509: Constructed between 1869 and 1872 for William R. Valteau, a speculator, this 3-story stuccoed structure exhibits many of the same characteristics as 1505 and 1507 N. 16th Street with the raised stone basement, arched openings and bracketed cornice. Charles A. Kurlbaum, of the chemical firm of Stinson Brothers and Kurlbaum, lived here from 1877 to his death in 1899. In 1918, J. Ethan Fieldstein designed a 2-story addition and interior alterations. A 3-story addition was added in 1937.

1511: Designed by Thomas P. Lonsdale in 1891, this 3-story, 2-bay dwelling was constructed for James Conaway, of the James Conaway & Company umbrella fram manufacturers, and is the last house to be erected on this block during the 19th Century. Attached to 1509, the facade exhibits a stone facade on the basement and ground floors and a brick facade on the upper floors. The right bay on the ground floor contains an arched door opening; the left bay contains a pair of arched openings separated by a stone column. The second floor has a 3-opening stone bay in the left opening and a tall opening topped by a stone lintel in the right bay. The 3rd floor features arched openings: a 3-part bay on the left and a single 1/1 sash in the right. A decorated cornice completes the structure. The Conaway family owned the building until 1909 when they sold it to Emil Selig who commissioned the architectural firm of Magaziner & Potter to design a 2-story back building and interior alteration the following year. The building passed into the hands of William H. Gray, Jr., father of Pennsylvania's present Congressman William H. Gray, III, in 1950 and members of his family still retain possession.

1517: Constructed by and for John Eaton, a carpenter, between 1871 and 1873, this 3-story, 2-bay brownstone dwelling marks the rise of architectural quality along this block. The designs of its ornately decorated frontispiece is repeated not only above the 2nd floor openings but is also enlarged in the panel situated just below the cornice. The door opening sits in the left opening; a tri-part window fills the right opening on the ground floor. 2 pairs of square-head 1/1 double-hung sash fill the 2nd floor openings; 2 pairs of arched 1/1 double-hung sash fill the 3rd floor openings. A bracketed cornice tops this building. Building permit records reveal that Edwin Wolf, owner from 1914 to 1924, commissioned interior alterations in 1914 and an extension to the 2nd floor rear porch in 1916.

1521: Another of the grand buildings constructed in the early 1870s, Thomas Barlow, a builder, erected this $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 2-bay, rusticated stone faced dwelling in 1872-1873 and sold it to Edward C. Markley, head of the printing firm of Edward C. Markley & Company, in the latter year. Deed records indicate that Clarence, Morris and Benjamin Wolf owned this house at various times between 1916 and 1938. Its rusticated stone facade is unique on the block. The left bay door opening is approached by a set of turned stone steps and a small porch is formed by the stone door hood supported by two columns and the recessed opening. Two narrow 1/1 double-hung sash exist in the center and right openings. The 2nd and 3rd floor openings each are framed by dressed stone and contain 1/1 lights. A mansard roof fronted by a gabled tri-part dormer sits above the plain cornice. The south elevation is highlighted by a large 2-story metal bay. Interior work was performed in 1938 and 1945 preparatory to creating apartment complexes within the structure.

1523: James H. Gay, of the carpet manufacturing firm of John Gay's Sons, commissioned the erection of this structure shortly after he purchased the property in 1882. This 3-story, 2-bay, brownstone dwelling appears rather squat compared to its adjoining neighbor at 1521. The turned brownstone steps and door opening closely approximates that of the earlier building. The first floor contains 2 window openings framed by dressed stone. Cut stone lintels appear above all first floor openings. A decorative stone beltcourse appears above the ground floor. The 2nd and 3rd floor openings each have window hoods and contain 1/1 double-hung sash. A decorative metal cornice completes the structure. Interior alterations occurred in 1913 and 1941, the latter designed by Morris J. Rosenthal.

1525: One of the two oldest houses on the block, 1525 N. 16th Street was erected in 1868-1869 by Samuel Forder, a builder, who then moved his family in and resided here for 19 years. His family then retained possession for another 20 years. This pompeian brick structure stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories tall and 2 bays wide with brownstone trim. A rounded arch doorway sits in the left bay containing paired doors. Two openings sit to the right containing 1/1 narrow double-hung sash and are topped by a brownstone window hood. The openings on the 2nd and 3rd floors each contain 1/1 double-hung sash with window hoods. Above the bracketed cornice sits a mansard with two dormers. Building permits reveal alterations to the structure in 1909, 1939 and 1956.

1527: Constructed in 1868-1869 by Isaac B. Thorn, another contractor, this building stands as a simplified version of 1525 with its use of marble trim and its absence of a mansard. The Thorn family retained title to this property from 1868 to 1949. It was converted in the latter year to a 2-family residence with the accompanying necessary interior alterations.

1531: Against H. Hoopes, a bookkeeper/clerk, lived in this house from its construction in 1882-1883 to 1909. Exhibiting late-Victorian characteristics of red brick, white marble, polychromatic beltcourses and stylized Gothic arches, this structure stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and 3 bays wide. It sits on a raised stone basement. The ground floor arched left bay contains the doorway and is highlighted by stone arch braces and a stone keystone. All of the remaining openings contain 1/1 double-hung sash and are highlighted by the stone supporting braces on the arches. The gabled dormer window on the fourth level contains a stylized Palladian window with a pointed arched center opening. Morris Wolf commissioned Simon & Simon to design some interior alterations shortly after he purchased it in 1920. He sold the house to Dr. Harry Hudson in March 1925 who then proceeded to renovate the interior. Hudson sold it back to Wolf in 1943 and Wolf hired David Supowitz to convert the building into a 6-family dwelling.

1533-1549: Constructed between 1883 and 1886 for the Reformed Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer of Philadelphia, this $2\frac{1}{2}$ story, brick church has a stone watertable, a large arched opening in its left bay and a smaller door opening in its right bay on the ground floor. Between the two appear seven arched openings in a 2-3-2 pattern. A bell tower sits above the left opening and contains 2 arched openings in the 2nd level, a small arched opening on the third level and 2 openings on all sides on the top level. Corbelled brick, a small cornice and a fake balustrade complete the tower. The central part of the building is gabled with 3 large arched openings, the larger central flanked by two smaller openings. The large opening contains 14+ lights, the smaller each contain 7 lights apiece. The right section of the building contains two arched openings on the second level and a pattern of brick arches, similiar to those on the bell tower balustrade, running between an upper beltcourse and the cornice. The church building has had four occupants in its 99 year history: The Reformed Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer until 1929, the North Philadelphia Armenian Church from 1929 to 1958, the St. Gregory Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church from 1958 to 1966, and the Allegheny Conference Association of 7th-Day Adventists from 1966 to the present.

1522: Erected in 1880-1881 for Joseph Eastburn Smaltz, this $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 2-bay dwelling exhibits a brownstone facade with a mansard roof. The large door opening in the right bay has a large rounded-arch frontispiece complete with marble columns and Corinthian capitals. Borth the center and left bays each contain 1/1 double-hung sash and are framed by stone pilasters supporting a decorative arched window hood. Stone beltcourses appears at the sill level of the 2nd and 3rd floors and the openings are similiar in appearance to those on the ground floor. A bracketed cornice separates the main facade from the mansard. Two arched dormers pierce this mansard. The house stands basically unaltered and in good condition. Only some replacing of interior partitions in 1926 appear in the building permit records.

1524: Erected between 1882 and 1886 for the use of Delaplaine McDaniel, part owner of the McDaniel and Harvey Iron Company, this structure, like its adjoining neighbor at 1522 N. 16th Street exhibits a brownstone facade. Tudor arches highlight the ground floor openings and a carved stone panel appears above the door and carved rosettes above each of the window openings. A stone beltcourse forms the sill line of the second floor openings. These openings are similiar in design to those on the ground floor and have window hoods perched above. The 3rd story openings have a pronounced stone sill and carved rosettes above the arches. A wood cornice sits above the 3rd story and a gabled 2 opening dormer interrupts the cornice and pierces the mansard roof. In 1943, Hyman Garber, then owner of the property, commissioned David Supowitz to alter this structure into a 6-family residence.

1526: A $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 3-bay, stone-faced dwelling erected c. 1876-1880, this structure has an arched door opening in the ground floor right bay. A key-stone highlights the stone arch. The remaining ground floor openings and the 2nd floor openings are all framed with stone and contain keystones in their shallow arches. A gabled wall dormer containing an arched opening with 2 multi-light casement sash appears within the mansard roof.

1530: Attributed to John McArthur, Jr., this 3-story, five-bay, stone-facaded, brick dwelling was erected between 1881 and 1883 for Albert Disston. The ground floor contains a central arched door opening and 2 arched window openings with molded window hoods on either side. A stone beltcourse appears about 3/4ths of the way up the openings connecting the window hoods. The 2nd and 3rd story openings are similiar to those found below except the central openings which contain 1 large double-hung sash flanked by 2 smaller double-hung sash. A bracketed stone cornice, with a pediment over the central openings, top the structure. A 2nd-story balcony supported by largo ancones, appears in front of the 2nd floor central opening. The north elevation is highlighted by a 3-story stone and brick bay and the south elevation has a 1-story stone bay near the front elevation and a stone porte-cochere near the center of this elevation. The Disston Estate commissioned Hale and Kilburn to add a 3d story addition onto the rear of the building in 1906. Other additions were added in 1920 when the building housed the Progress Club and interior repairs were made when 1530 N. 16th Street served as the home for the Bible Institute of Pennsylvania.

Two other buildings presently exist on this block: the Bell Telephone facility erected in 1924 at 1506 N. 16th Street and Father Divine's Mission at 1534 N. 16th Street, a.k.a. 1600-1612 Oxford Street. This latter building either severely altered or replaced the George Ziegler Residence in 1924. Both the George Ziegler Residence and the Reuben C. Moon Residence, located at 1516 N. 16th Street and demolished by the Bell Telephone Company in the late 1960s or early 1970s, were featured in Moses King's Views of Philadelphia published in 1902. Neither one of the present existing structures contributes to the 19th Century residential character of the 1500 block of North 16th Street.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1868 to 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1500 block of North 16th Street rests its significance upon its place in the architectural and social heritage of North Philadelphia. The sequence in which the various structures on this block appeared indicated the growing attractiveness of the block as a place of residence for members of the middle and upper classes during the late 19th Century. The styles of design used vary considerably from the plain vernacular, carpenter designed and built structures such as those at 1525 and 1527 N. 16th Street to ornate stone and brownstone facades, each individually designed to form a heterogeneous streetscape. Although the neighborhood has seen much social change since its founding, the families associated with the various houses during the past 110 years have been among the leading families of their particular social and/or ethnic group.

The first houses erected in this block presently stand at 1525 and 1527. Erected in 1868-1869 by and for Samuel Forder and Isaac Thorn, respectively, both of whom practiced different aspects of the building trades, the basic form of the two buildings is similar to many found within the Spring Garden Historic District. The Forder House, with the brownstone trim and mansard, presents a slightly more ornate facade than does the Thorn House.

The people who followed Forder and Thorn onto this block chose not to emulate their style of architecture but commissioned designs which would make each house stand independent of its neighbor and, in essence, proclaim to the world that the residents within belonged to the new managerial class created by the industrial revolution and resulting commercial boom during the middle decades of the 19th Century. Men such as Edward C. Markley of the printing firm of Edward C. Markley & Son, Theodore C. Engel (Bergner & Engel Brewing Company), Charles A. Kurlbaum (Stinson Brothers and Kurlbaum, chemicals), James H. Gay (John Gay's Sons, carpets), Joseph Eastburn Smaltz (shoes) and Robert Dornan (Dornan, Maybin & Company, carpets) chose this block to settle.

Like the surrounding area, the social upper classes vacated this block by the end of the 20th Century's second decade. Philadelphia's Jewish community replaced the WASP upper classes here, led by members of the Blumenthal, Ginsberg, Schwartz and Wolf families. By the 1950s, the area had again undergone a significant social change, into an upper middle class black neighborhood. Leaders of the black community discovered the same attributes about the street that their white and Jewish counterparts had enjoyed since 1868 and moved into the houses lining the street.

Institutional uses of the various houses have occurred throughout time. The Odd Fellows used the house at 1516 N. 16th Street from 1925 to 1956; the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks owned 1522 N. 16th Street from 1968 to 1979; the Central Odd Fellows Hall Association, Inc. owned and completely reshaped 1534 N. 16th Street between 1924 and 1945, and 1530 N. 16th Street has hosted the Progress Club from 1920 to 1931, the Bible Institute of Pennsylvania from 1935 to 1946 and the Unity Mission Church Home and Training School, Inc. from 1946 to the present. The Bell Telephone Company of Pennsylvania presently occupies the west side of the block from Jefferson Street to the site of the demolished house at 1516 N. 16th Street.

With the exception of the Bell Telephone Company Building and the altered building at 1534 N. 16th Street, the architectural integrity of the streetscape has remained almost intact and the block stands as a representative of the time during the late 19th Century when members of the nouveau riche chose North Philadelphia to be their place of residence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed Records

Building Permit Records

PRER&BG VI, 17 4/29/91 p. 255

Teitleman & Longstreth, Architecture in Philadelphia, A Guide. 1972

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			
E			
G			

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jefferson M. Moak

ORGANIZATION

Philadelphia Historical Commission

DATE

6/6/82

STREET & NUMBER

1313 City Hall Annex

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

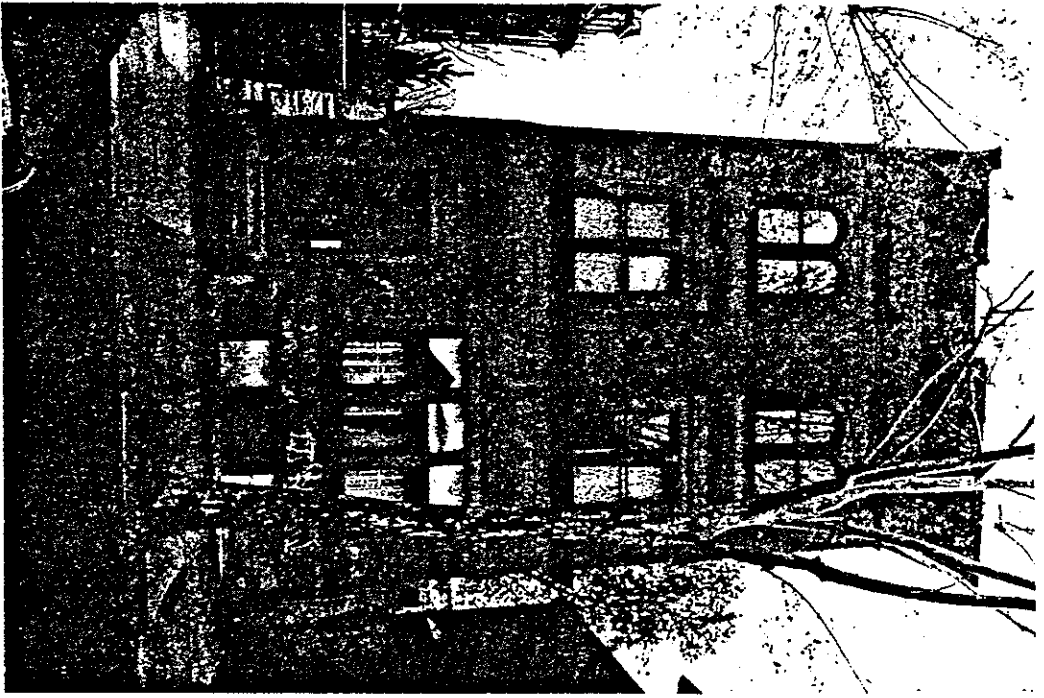


1507

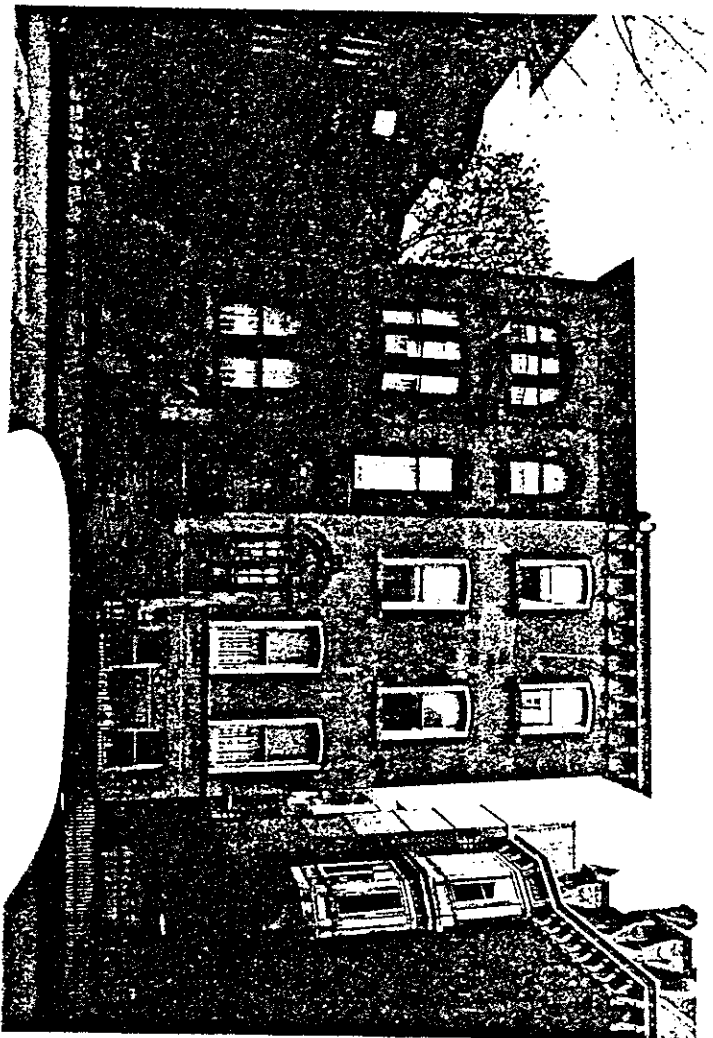
1505



1501-1503



1517



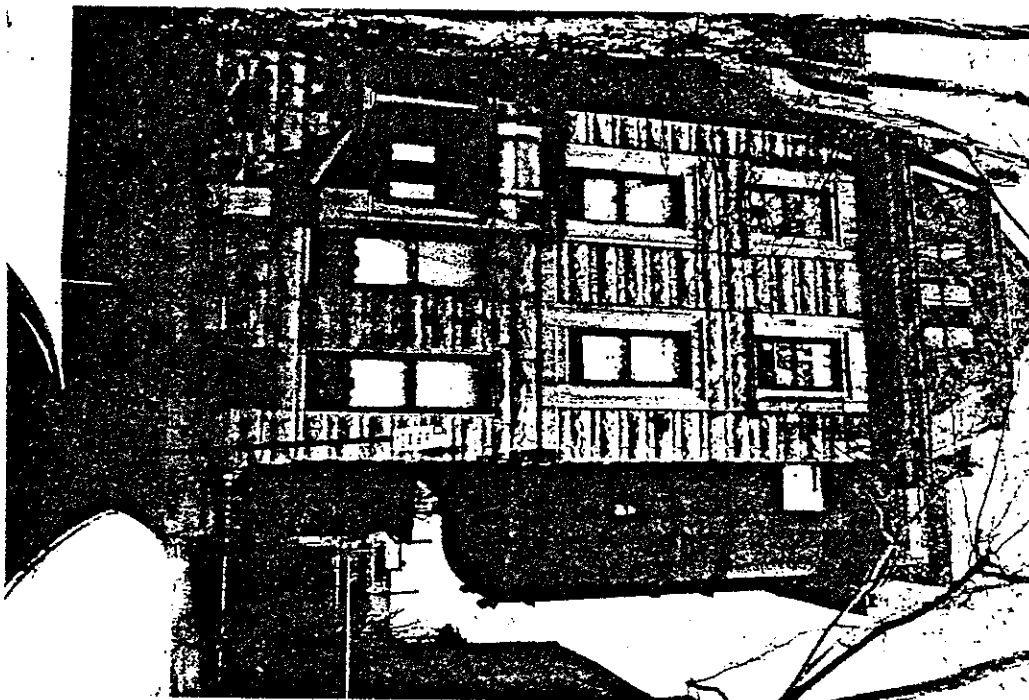
1511

1509

1523



1521



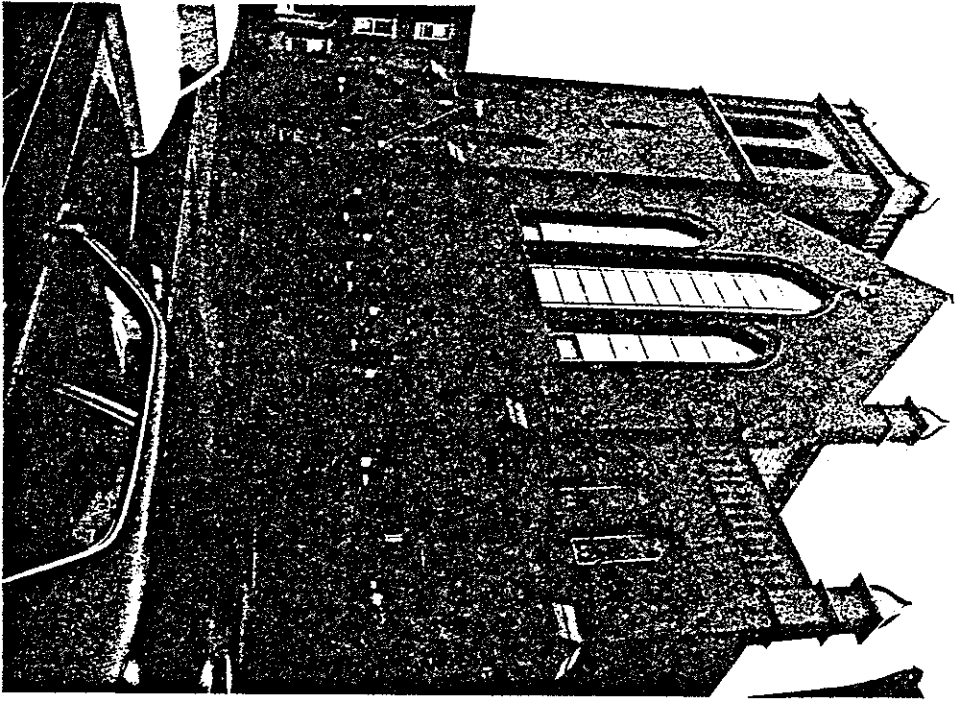


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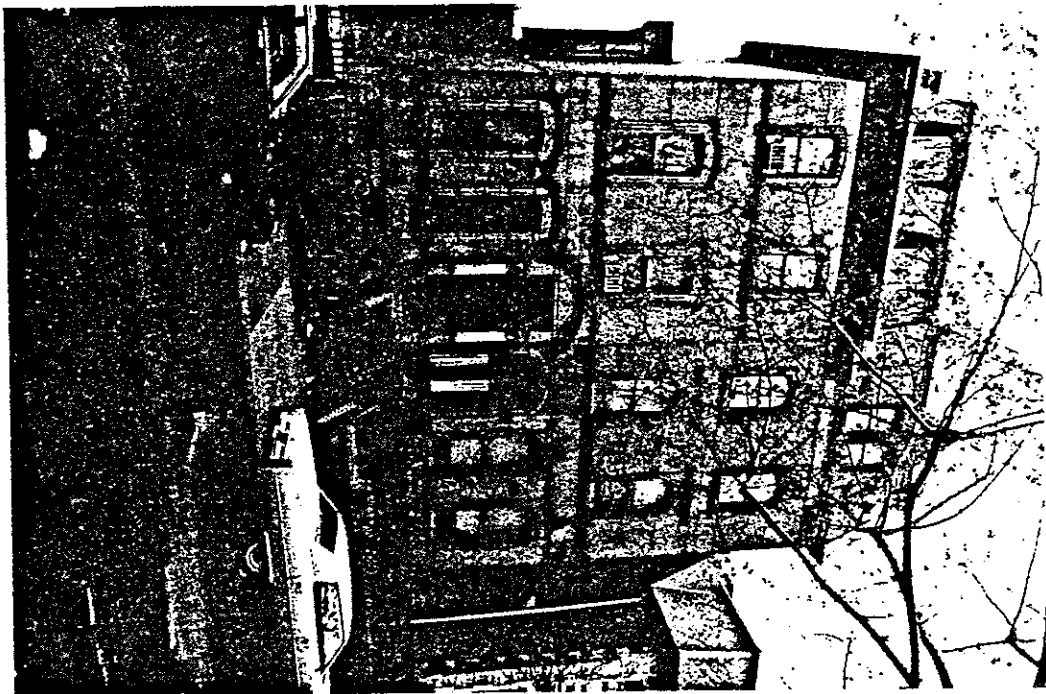


1527

1525



1533-1549



1522

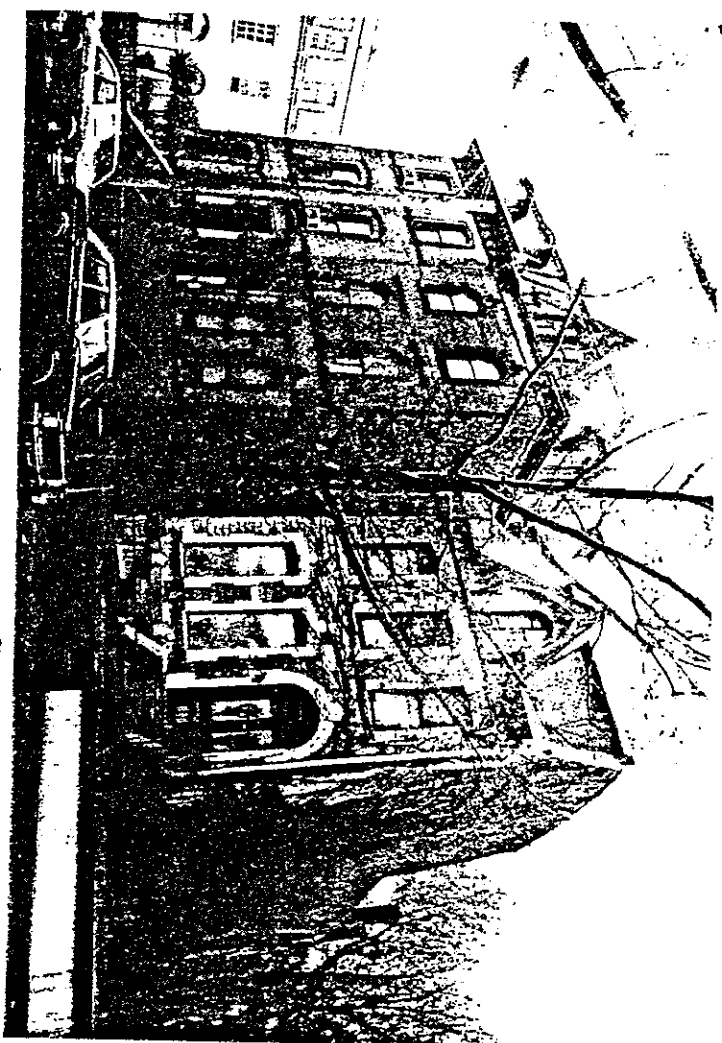
1524



1524

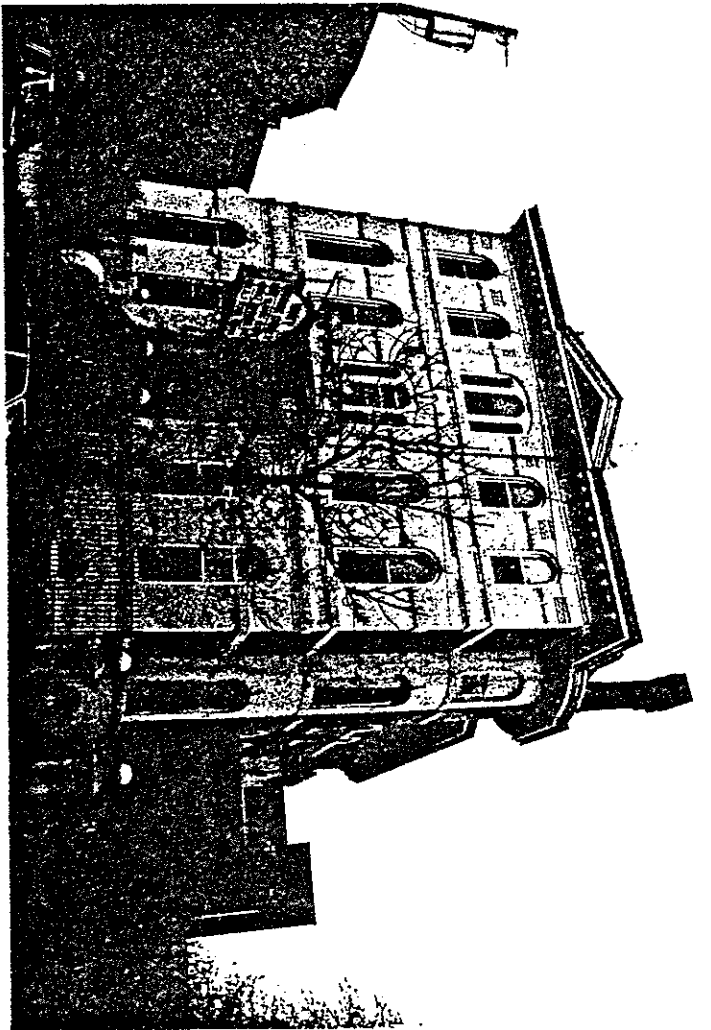
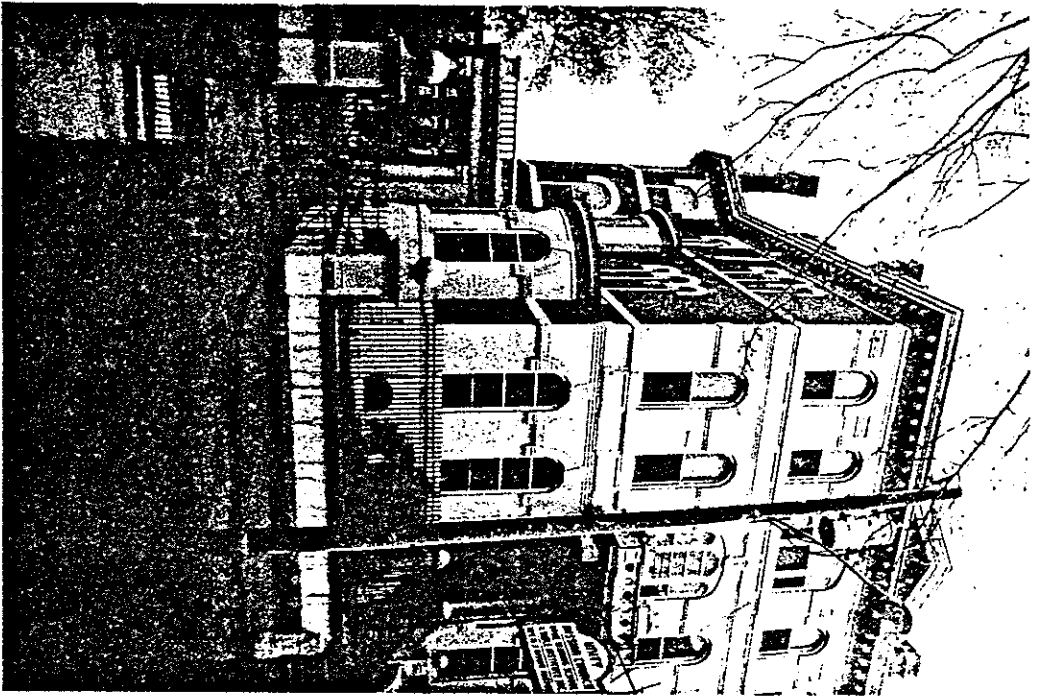
1526

1530



1522 1524

1526



1530 N. 16th Street

264

THE MINUTES OF THE 264th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 July 1982

F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: F. Otto Haas, Chairman of the Commission
Janet S. Klein, Vice Chairman of the Commission
Edward Pinkowski
John Taxin
Joseph W. Brown, Commissioner, Department of Public Property
Val C. Mogensen, Executive Assistant Director of Finance
Frank Thomas, Esq., Deputy City Solicitor, Law Department
Richard Tyler, Historian
Patricia Siemiontkowski, Architectural Historian
Jefferson M. Moak, Executive Secretary

Unless otherwise noted, all actions taken herein are the results of motions correctly made, seconded and carried.

The Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Philadelphia Historical Commission held on 3 June 1982 were reviewed, approved and directed to be filed.

The Report of the Architectural Committee of the Philadelphia Historical Commission for 16 June 1982, Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman. The Committee's Report for 16 June 1982 was reviewed and amended to include Janet Klein's name in the list of those present. Subject to this amendment, the 16 June 1982 report was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

The Report of the Committee on Certification for 15 June 1982, Edward Pinkowski, Chairman. The 15 June 1982 report was reviewed and the following action taken.

Each of the buildings listed below was considered, individually, and approved for certification:

1501-1503 N. 16th Street
1505 N. 16th Street
1507 N. 16th Street
1509 N. 16th Street
1511 N. 16th Street
1515-1517 N. 16th Street
1519-1521 N. 16th Street
1523 N. 16th Street
1525 N. 16th Street
1527-1529 N. 16th Street

1531 W. 16th Street
1533-1541 N. 16th Street
1522 N. 16th Street
1524 N. 16th Street
1526 N. 16th Street
1530 N. 16th Street

The Report on Philadelphia Historical Commission Staff Activities for June, 1982, Richard Tyler, Historian. Mr. Tyler's report was reviewed, approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Additional Proposals for Certification - 1 July 1982, Richard Tyler, Historian.

Mr. Tyler presented to the Commission a proposal for the certification of seven buildings in the sixteen hundred block of Locust Street. They include:

1629 Locust Street: Edward C. Knight, Jr., Residence
1631 Locust Street and 1633 Locust Street: Alfred C. Harrison Houses
1635-1637 Locust Street, a.k.a., 235 S. 17th Street: Chariton Yarnall House
1630 Locust Street: James B. Markon Residence
245 and 247 South 17th Street: Edward R. Wood Houses

On 1 July 1982, the staff completed the standard descriptive and evaluative report on these seven properties. According to this report, the buildings possess significance for their individual architectural qualities and merit, their association with notable architects and major civic and business leaders in Philadelphia, and their contribution to the ambience of St. Mark's Church, a National Register property. In addition, the historic sites survey conducted in 1980 for the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation found that they qualified for entry on the National Register of Historic Places. Following consultation with Edward Pinkowski, Chairman of the Committee on Certification, the staff polled the members of the Committee. They unanimously approved the submission of the seven buildings to the Commission for certification.

Following some discussion, the Commission reviewed each of the nominations separately and voted to certify the following buildings:

1629 Locust Street: Edward C. Knight, Jr., Residence
1631 Locust Street and 1633 Locust Street: Alfred C.
Harrison Houses
1635-1637 Locust Street, a.k.a., 235 S. 17th Street:
Charlton Yarnall House
1630 Locust Street: James B. Markoe Residence

Action on 245-247 South 17th Street was tabled owing to the apparently deteriorated condition of the building and referred back to the Committee on Certification for a recommendation. Three Commission members voted in favor of the tabling; Mr. Pinkowski and Mrs. Klein opposed this action.

The Commission also discussed the problem of increasing development pressures threatening historically and architecturally significant buildings in the Rittenhouse Square area and the need to survey, evaluate and certify those buildings worthy of preservation. A motion directing the Commission staff to undertake a study of the Rittenhouse Square area and to prepare a list of buildings for certification in priority order was made. This motion was seconded and carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemiontkowski
Architectural Historian

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
COMMITTEE ON CERTIFICATION
MINUTES

15 June 1982

Present: Edward Pinkowski, Chairman of the Committee on Certification and
Member, Philadelphia Historical Commission
Janet S. Klein, Vice-Chairman, Philadelphia Historical Commission
David Baldinger, Chief, Area Planning Division, Philadelphia City
Planning Commission
Herbert W. Levy, A.I.A., Chairman, Architectural Committee, Philadelphia Historical Commission
Hyman Myers

The twelfth meeting of the Committee on Certification met at 2:30 P.M.
on Tuesday, 15 June 1982, in Room 1313, City Hall Annex

NEW BUSINESS

1500 Block of North 16th Street

The 15 buildings listed below located in the 1500 block of North 16th Street were nominated for certification as representatives of the different styles of architecture used in the Victorian development of North Philadelphia. The sequence in which the various structures appeared indicated the growing attractiveness of this block as a place of residence for members of the middle and upper social classes. The styles used vary considerably from the plain vernacular brick dwellings erected at 1525 and 1527 N. 16th Street to ornate stone and brownstone facades, each individually designed to form a heterogeneous streetscape.

In addition, this block rests its significance upon its place in the social development of North Philadelphia. Originally built for leading members of the white mercantile and industrial classes between 1868 and 1892, these houses were occupied by prominent Jewish families, such as the Blumenthals and Wolfs, during the early part of the 20th Century. In more recent years, black leaders such as Hobson Reynolds, Cecil B. Moore, Father and Mother Divine, and others have dwelt here.

The architectural integrity of the streetscape has remained almost intact. Only the Bell Telephone Company building at the northwest corner of 16th and Jefferson Streets and the 1925-erected structure standing at the southwest corner of 16th and Oxford Streets interrupt the late 19th Century ambience of this block. Otherwise, these buildings stand basically as they were erected during the time when members of the nouveau riche chose North Philadelphia to be their place of residence.

1501-1503 N. 16th Street

This building was constructed for William R. Valleau, a speculator, in the late 1870s on the northeast corner of 16th and Oxford Streets. It stands 3 stories high and 4 bays wide along 16th Street and 9 bays long along Oxford Street. Brick quoining, brownstone lintels with keystones, a bracketed metal cornice and a pedimented frontispiece highlight the building's appearance.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend for certification 1501-1503 N. 16th Street.

1505 N. 16th Street

William R. Valleau had this house constructed in the mid- to late-1870s. It stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and 2 bays wide. This brick building stands on a raised stone basement and has an arched door opening, stone sills and lintels and a bracketed cornice. The mansard roof may be a later addition. Robert Dorman, of the carpet manufacturing firm of Dorman, Maybin & Company (later Dorman Brothers and Company), owned this building from 1878 to 1917. It was illustrated in Moses King's Views of Philadelphia in 1902. It has also served as a convalescent home from 1952 until recently.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend for certification 1505 N. 16th Street.

1507 N. 16th Street

Another house erected for William R. Valleau, this $3\frac{1}{2}$ story brick dwelling stands as a slightly more ornate companion to 1505 N. 16th Street. In 1949, incidental to its conversion to an apartment house, a 1-story and a 4-story brick addition and a fire escape were added to the rear of the building. Although the details of the stone basement, the lintels and the brackets are different from 1505 N. 16th Street, a matching mansard roof with a front gable has been added to 1507 N. 16th Street.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend for certification 1507 N. 16th Street.

1509 N. 16th Street

The most northerly of the four buildings erected for William R. Valleau in the mid- to late-1870s, this 3-story stuccoed structure exhibits many of the same characteristics as 1505 and 1507 N. 16th Street with the raised stone basement, arched openings and bracketed cornice. Charles A. Kurlbaum, of the chemical firm of Stinson Brothers and Kurlbaum, lived here from 1877 to his death in 1899. In 1918, J. Ethan Fieldstein designed a 2-story addition and interior alterations. A 3-story addition was added in 1937.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend for certification 1509 N. 16th Street.

Committee on Certification - 3
15 June 1982

1511 N. 16th Street

Designed by Thomas P. Lonsdale in 1891, this 3-story, 2-bay dwelling was constructed for James Conaway, of the James Conaway & Company umbrella frame manufacturers. Attached to 1509 N. 16th Street, the facade exhibits a stone facade on the basement and ground floors and a brick and stone facade on the upper floors. The Conaway family owned the building until 1909 when they sold it to Emil Selig who commissioned the architectural firm of Magaziner & Potter to design a 2-story back building and interior alterations the following year. The building passed into the hands of William Gray, Jr., father of Pennsylvania's present Congressman William H. Gray, III, in 1950 and members of his family still retain possession.

Mr. Baldinger informed the Committee that the Pennsylvania Bureau of Corrections and the present owner had applied to the Zoning Board for a variance to allow a 22-person penal institution/halfway house. This matter was brought before the Zoning Board on 11 May 1982 and continued until 1 July 1982. Since formal Commission action regarding certification takes place on the same date, the Committee agreed that any action taken by the Commission will not have any effect upon the zoning variance request and moved to act upon its nomination in conjunction with the remainder of the block. Janet Klein requested that in the future the Committee should be apprised of any possible controversial issues regarding nominated buildings before the Committee meets to act upon their nomination. The staff has received on 24 June 1982 notification from one of the lawyers acting in opposition to the zoning variance that the owner and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Corrections have withdrawn their zoning application.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend for certification 1511 N. 16th Street.

1517 N. 16th Street

John Eaton, a carpenter, constructed a brick dwelling at this address for his own use between 1871 and 1873. In 1877, he sold the house to Erskine D. Smith, head of the contracting firm of E.D. Smith and Company. E.D. Smith lived here for 15 years before hiring the architectural firm of Hazlehurst and Huckel to design the present appearance of the structure. Hazlehurst and Huckel had already achieved some degree of prominence in the architectural field with their designs of the Union Methodist Church at 2019 Diamond Street in 1888-1889, Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, 419 S. 6th Street (1889-1890), Saracinesca, 701 W. Allens Lane (1892), and the Edward Lewis House, 26-30 S. 22nd Street (c.1888) and other structures throughout the Philadelphia area. Building permit records reveal that Edwin Wolf, owner from 1914 to 1924, commissioned interior alterations in 1914 and an extension to the 2nd floor rear porch in 1916.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend for certification 1517 N. 16th Street.

1521 N. 16th Street

Another of the grand buildings constructed in the early 1870s, Thomas Barlow, a builder, erected this $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 2-bay, rusticated stone faced dwelling in 1872-1873 and sold it to Edward C. Markley, head of the printing firm of Edward C. Markley & Company, in the latter year. Deed records indicate that Clarence, Morris and Benjamin Wolf owned this house at various times between 1916 and 1938. Interior work was performed in 1938 and 1945 preparatory to creating apartment complexes within the structure.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1521 N. 16th Street.

1523 N. 16th Street

James H. Gay, of the carpet manufacturing firm of John Gay's Sons, commissioned the erection of this structure shortly after he purchased the property in 1882. This 3-story, 2-bay brick dwelling exhibits a brownstone facade with turned brownstone steps, cut stone lintels, window hoods on the upper floor openings and a metal cornice. Interior alterations occurred in 1913 and 1941, the latter designed by Morris J. Rosenthal.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1523 N. 16th Street.

1525 N. 16th Street

One of the two oldest houses on the block, 1525 N. 16th Street was erected in 1868-1869 by Samuel Forder, a builder, who then moved his family into the dwelling and resided here for 19 years. This pompeian brick structure stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories tall and 2 bays wide with brownstone trim. A mansard which sits above the bracketed cornice is probably a later addition.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1525 N. 16th Street.

1527 N. 16th Street

Constructed in 1868-1869 by Isaac B. Thorn, another contractor, this building stands as a simplified version of 1525 with its use of marble trim and its absence of a mansard. The Thorn family retained title to this property from 1868 to 1949. It was converted in the latter year to a 2-family residence.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1527 N. 16th Street.

1531 N. 16th Street

Azainst H. Hoopes, a bookkeeper/clerk, lived in this house from its construction in 1882-1883 to 1909. Exhibiting late-Victorian characteristics of red brick, white marble, polychromatic beltcourse and stylized Gothic arches, this structure stands $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and 3 bays wide. Morris Wolf commissioned the firm of Simon & Simon to design some interior alterations shortly after he purchased it in 1920. In 1925, he sold it to Dr. Harry Hudson, who commissioned his own interior renovations, and bought it back from Hudson in 1943. He then

1531 N. 16th Street (continued)

proceeded to hire David Supowitz to convert the building into a 6-family dwelling.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1531 N. 16th Street.

1533-1549 N. 16th Street

Constructed between 1883 and 1886, this 2½-story, brick church stands on the southeast corner of 16th and Oxford Streets. It has had four occupants in its 99 year history: the Reformed Episcopal Church of Our Redeemer until 1929, the North Philadelphia Armenian Church from 1929 to 1958, the St. Gregory Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church from 1958 to 1966, and the Allegheny Conference Association of 7th-Day Adventists from 1966 to the present.

Although this building is the only structure on the block not built for residential purposes during the 19th Century, the Committee felt that it contributed to the 19th Century architectural character of the 1500 block of North 16th Street and voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1533-1549 N. 16th Street.

1522 N. 16th Street

Erected in 1880-1881 for Joseph Eastburn Smaltz, a shoe manufacturer, this 3½-story, 2-bay dwelling exhibits a brownstone facade with a mansard roof. A large rounded-arch frontispiece, arched window hoods, stone beltcourses and a bracketed cornice highlight the appearance of this structure. The house stands basically unaltered and in good condition both on the exterior and interior. Only some replacing of interior partitions in 1926 appear in the building permit records.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1522 N. 16th Street.

1524 N. 16th Street

Erected between 1882 and 1886 for the use of Delaplaine McDaniel, part owner of the McDaniel and Harvey Iron Company, this structure, like its adjoining neighbor at 1522 N. 16th Street, exhibits a brownstone facade. Tudor arched openings, carved rosettes, window hoods and a mansard appear on the building. The exterior appears basically unaltered. Interior alterations occurred in 1943 when Hyman Garber, then owner of the property, commissioned David Supowitz to convert the building into a 6-family residence.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1524 N. 16th Street.

Committee on Certification - 6
15 June 1982

1526 N. 16th Street

This 2½-story, 3-bay, stone-faced brick dwelling was erected c. 1876-1880. Shallow arches with keystones highlight most of the ground and second floor openings and a multi-light casement wall dormer pierces the steep mansard roof. Although vacant at present, the building appears not to have undergone any significant alterations during its history.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1526 N. 16th Street.

1530 N. 16th Street

Attributed to John McManus, Jr., this 3-story, 5-bay, stone facaded, brick dwelling was erected between 1881 and 1883 for Albert Disston, one of the several sons of Henry Disston of Disston Saw Works fame. The Disston Estate commissioned the architectural firm of Hale and Kilburn to add a 3rd story addition onto the rear of the building in 1906. The Progress Club, which bought the building in 1920, made another addition in the same year. Interior alterations occurred in 1935, after the Bible Institute of Pennsylvania had purchased the building. Since 1946, the property has been used as the Unity Mission Church Home and Training School under the auspices of Father and Mother Divine. Despite the additions and alterations, the interior and exterior of the original part of the structure stand in excellent condition and basically unaltered over the past 100 years.

The Committee voted 5-0 to recommend certification of 1530 N. 16th Street.

The Committee requested further information regarding the Bell Telephone Building at 1506 N. 16th Street and the building at the southwest corner of 16th and Oxford Street be prepared and brought before the Committee for consideration. Mr. Hyatt also requested that the record state that he endorses the use of color photographs in the consideration of buildings nominated to the Philadelphia Historical Commission Register of Historical Places because the Committee has a clearer conception of the actual condition of a building by their use over the image provided by black and white photographs.

Before adjourning, the Committee agreed to schedule its next meeting on Tuesday, 14 September 1982, at 2:30 P.M. in Room 1313, City Hall Annex.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jefferson H. Hoak
Executive Assistant to the Chairman