

Owner and public comment
for the Gates Street Historic
District

Fwd: Gates Street Nomination

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Wed 9/14/2022 7:27 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

From: T Kro**Sent:** Wednesday, September 14, 2022 4:27 PM**To:** preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>**Subject:** Gates Street Nomination

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To Members of the Philadelphia Historic Commission:

I will be attending the first part of the September 21st zoom meeting, but have a medical appointment that conflicts with the latter portion of the meeting where, I am afraid, the discussion about Gates Street in Manayunk is likely to take place. So...

It is of the utmost importance to me that the commission re-examine the criteria for historical preservation with us Manayunk residents in mind. We are a neighborhood with some grand old homes, yes, but we are mainly a neighborhood of more ordinary homes which nonetheless are of immense historic value to the current and future residents of this neighborhood.

Why should it be only the homes of the formerly wealthy mill owners that are preserved for posterity? Our homes, which were the homes of mid level management, shopkeepers, and mill workers, are just as significant a part of the social history of our neighborhood. The case could even be made that since the majority of residents lived in homes like ours that are less grand, more vernacular in style, and more modest in proportion, these homes are MORE important to preserve than the grand homes of the few wealthy mill owners.

The block of Gates Street under consideration, is particularly charming and is one of the loveliest blocks in the entire neighborhood. To allow the wholesale rape and ruination of that block for the profit of a few developers may be legal, but it is criminally unkind to our neighborhood and depressing in the extreme to

see a city agency give the green light to this type of greedy and inconsiderate growth.

Any developer who truly cared about the fabric of our neighborhood or about sustainable building practices would be investing in rehabbing these lovely homes, not tearing them down and building these 38 foot tall townhome clones. There is nothing eco-friendly about larger, taller, more expensive structures that do not include any solar panels, that do not even include space for trees or gardens.

PLEASE reconsider what it is that makes a building eligible for historic designation. We here in Manayunk are witnessing the daily destruction of our neighborhood. This little block is symbolic of all that we want to hold on to here. Please help us to preserve it in its present state.

Very sincerely,

Tina Krovetz
160 Fountain Street