<u>ADDRESS: 704-10 S 6TH ST</u>

Name of Resource: Coroneos Brothers

Review: Designation

Property Owner: Multiple condominium owners Nominator: Bella Vista Neighbors Association Staff Contact: Kim Chantry, kim.chantry@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: This nomination proposes to designate the four-story building at 704-08 S. 6th Street as historic and list it on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The proposed boundary excludes the non-historic former garage on the parcel formerly known as 710 S. 6th Street. The nomination contends that the Coroneos Brothers building, constructed in 1920, satisfies Criteria for Designation C and J. Under Criterion C, the nomination contends that the building reflects the environment in an era characterized by the Classical Revival style of architecture with Beaux Arts influence. Under Criterion J, the nomination argues that the Coroneos Brothers building exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historical heritage of the community, as a purposebuilt store and warehouse for the Coroneos brothers, who brought their grocery import/export business to an area of South Philadelphia that welcomed numerous immigrants and their businesses in the early 1900s.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the nomination demonstrates that the Coroneos Brothers building on the parcel at 704-10 S. 6th Street satisfies Criteria for Designation C and J.



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

ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address) Street address: 704-10 S. 6th Street Postal code: 19147	•						
2. Name of Historic Resource Historic Name: Coroneos Brothers Current/Common Name: 704-08 S. 6th Street							
3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE Building Structure Site Object							
4. PROPERTY INFORMATION Condition:							
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): from 1920 to 1930 Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1920 Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Max A. Bernhardt Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: Penn Construction & Engineering Co. Original owner: Coroneos Brothers, Inc. Other significant persons:							

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 th or,	e history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation;					
(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 the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or, (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,						
8. Major Bibliographical References Please attach a bibliography.						
9. NOMINATOR						
Organization Bella Vista Neighbors Association	April 7, 2023					
Name with Title Barbara Hauck-Mah, member	Email_hauckmah@gmail.com, ralph.marano1@gmail.com					
Street Address 801 S. Darien Street	Telephone_973-818-4703					
City, State, and Postal Code 19147						
Nominator ☐ is						
PHC Use Only	,					
Date of Receipt: April 10, 2023						
✓ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete	Date: April 19, 2023					
Date of Notice Issuance: April 21, 2023						
Property Owner at Time of Notice: Name: Multiple condo owners						
Address:						
City:	State: Postal Code:					
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designat	ion:					
Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission:						
Date of Final Action:						
☐ Designated ☐ Rejected	· 12/7/18					



5. CORONEOS BROTHERS BUILDING BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Figure 1. Atlas.phila.gov parcel map showing 704-10 S. 6th Street.

The Coroneos Brothers building at 704-10 S. 6th Street is located on the west side of S. 6th Street between Bainbridge and Fitzwater Streets in the Bella Vista neighborhood of Philadelphia. The building is situated in a mixed residential and commercial area. The boundary for the designation includes only the four-story building on the parcels formerly known as 704 S. 6th Street, 706 S. 6th Street, and 708 S. 6th Street. The designation excludes the non-historic building on the parcel formerly known as 710 S. 6th Street, although this building is included in the official tax parcel as shown in Figure 1 above.



Figure 2. Boundary of designation to include only the four-story building at 704-08 S. 6th Street. All additions at side and rear are not included in this boundary.

The boundary description for the four-story building is as follows:

Situate on the West side of 6^{th} Street at the distance of 30 feet Southward from the South side of Bainbridge Street. Containing in front or breadth on the said 6^{th} Street approximately 42 feet and extending of that width in length or depth Westward between lines parallel with the said Bainbridge Street approximately 71 feet. Being 704-08 S. 6^{th} Street, and excluding the non-historic c. 1960 building at 710 S. 6^{th} Street.

6. CORONEOS BROTHERS BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Coroneos Brothers store and warehouse building at 704-08 S. 6th Street was designed by architect Max Bernhardt in 1920 using a Classical Revival architectural motif. The building is four stories in height and three bays wide, clad in yellow brick with wide, triple light bays with casements common to industrial buildings. To the south at 710 S. 6th Street, a c. 1960 one-story former garage with second-story rooftop addition connects to the main building and is clad in a similar yellow brick. This building is part of the tax parcel but post-dates the period of significance and is excluded from the boundary for designation.

The first story of the building features rustic stonework piers with modern storefront infill between piers, with a terra cotta storefront cornice above. The upper floors continue the vertical piers between bays, with yellow brick cladding. Beneath the classically styled cornice, the company's name "Coroneos ~ Bros" is featured prominently on the frieze.

Both the north and south side elevations, in addition to the rear elevation, are exposed red brick. Visible telecommunications equipment is mounted to the roof.



Figure 3. View of part of the 700 block of S. 6th Street, Hidden City Philadelphia March 24, 2020.



Figure 4. 704-10 S. 6th Street, April 2023.



Figure 5. 704-08 S. 6th Street, February 2023.



Figure 6. Closeup of upper floors with "Coroneos~Bros" sign, February 2023.



Figure 7. View of rear from Bainbridge Street, August 2022. Only the upper floors with telecommunications equipment are visible. Source: Google.

Site and Building History

The subject property is located on the previous site of three separate three-story brick houses, as seen in the 1895 map below. Those three properties were purchased between 1912 and 1916 by George Coroneos, a Greek businessman. In 1920, he had the buildings demolished.



Figure 8. G.W. Bromley Philadelphia Atlas of 1895. Source: PhilaGeoHistory.org.

The Coroneos Brothers hired Philadelphia architect Max Bernhardt to design the building at 704-08 S. 6th Street. The description in the September 1, 1920 *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* states that the store and warehouse will be brick, slow burning construction, four stories, with a slag roof and cement and pine floors (Figure 9).

On October 1, 1920, the Penn Construction & Engineering Company was granted a permit to erect the four-story 10,000 square foot brick store and warehouse for the Coroneos Brothers grocery import business. George Coroneos managed the business with several of his brothers. They were known for their Greek and Italian specialties.¹

Store and Warehouse, 704-06-08 South Sixth street, Philadelphia. Architect, Max A. Bernhardt, 721 Walnut street, Philadelphia. Owners, Coroneos Bros., on premises. Brick, slow burning construction, 4 stories, slag roof, cement and pine floors, waterproofing (electric lighting, heating and elevator reserved). Architect taking revised bids due September 3rd. William Uhler Sons, 1841 South Broad street; Robbins Cont. Co., 1137 North Front street, and Jacob Bender, 1817 South Fourth street, are figuring.

Figure 9. Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide, v. 35, 9/1/1920, p. 765.



Figure 10. Philadelphia Inquirer, October 1, 1920, p. 9.

¹ Wholesale Grocers, U.S., Canada, Cuba, Porto Rico ...: Issued in Conjunction with Thomas' Wholesale Grocery & Kindred Trades Register. United States: Thomas Publication Company, 1920, p. 484. https://www.google.com/books/edition/Wholesale Grocers U S Canada Cuba Porto/TX4BAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0

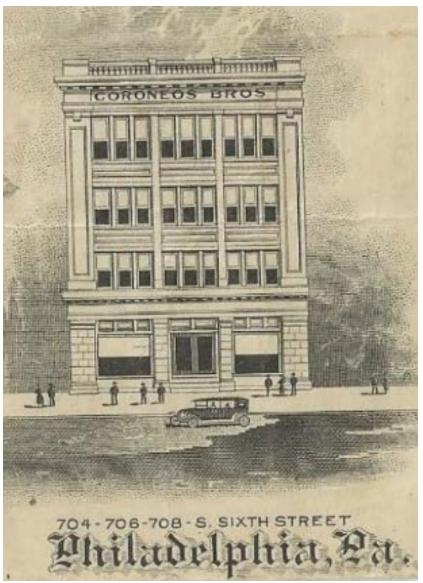


Figure 11. Clipping of promotional pamphlet for Coroneos Brothers, showing a sketch of the subject building during the time of occupation by the Coroneos Brothers. Source: "Coroneos Brothers Letterhead" associated with George Nicholaos Coroneos on Ancestry.com.

In later years, the first floor of the building was used as a showroom, and the upper floors served as a factory to manufacture ceramic tile. Once home to the Gemini Equipment Company, Leonard Borton and Ned Stein owned the building into the 1980s. In 1981, the building was purchased by interior designer Sandy Ward and accountant Thomas Baldwin. Ward completely demolished and redesigned the building's interior. The renovated commercial building served as the home for Sandy Ward's design and real estate companies, as well as the Tony Ward photography studio and Thomas Baldwin's accounting firm. Since 2001, the building has been used as condominiums.

² Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, 8/26/1980.

³ Bella Vista Neighbors Association website, May 18, 2021, Coroneos Brothers by Ralph Marano.

7. CORONEOS BROTHERS STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Coroneos Brothers building at 704-08 S. 6th Street is historically significant and merits listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Pursuant to Section 14-1004(1) of the Philadelphia Code, the property satisfies Criteria for Designation C and J.

(J) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.

The Coroneos Brothers building exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historical heritage of the community, as a purpose-built store and warehouse for the Coroneos brothers who brought their grocery import/export business to an area of South Philadelphia which welcomed numerous immigrants and their businesses in the early 1900s.

George Coroneos (1878-1921; Figure 12), a Greek immigrant businessman, purchased the properties at 704, 706, and 708 S. 6th Street in South Philadelphia between 1912 and 1916 for his grocery import and export business which he ran with his brothers James (Dimitrios), Harry (Haralambos), and Peter (Panayoti). George came to the United States between 1906 and 1908. The Coroneos Brothers Company was established in 1904 in Piraeus, Greece. Before the construction of the subject building, they operated out of the rowhouses, according to a 1917 City Directory where Coroneos Brothers are listed as George, John, and Peter. The brothers hired architect Max Bernhardt to design the store and warehouse building following demolition of the rowhouses which stood on the site. The Coroneos Brothers were well-known in the Greek circles of Philadelphia. They had a branch office of the grocery store in Athens, Greece, and also imported groceries from Italy. ⁵

⁴ Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, City Directory, 1917. Source: Ancestry.com. U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. It appears that the names James and John may have been used interchangeably for the same person.

⁵ The Philadelphia Inquirer, February 18, 1921, p. 16.



Figure 12. George Coroneos and his wife Appolonia, c. 1915. Source: Ancestry.com.

South Philadelphia was a classic American immigrant portal neighborhood. The first of two waves of immigrants from Greece to the region came between the 1890s and the 1920s. During this period of immigration from the 1890s to the 1920s, about 400,000 Greeks entered the United States but only a few thousand settled in Greater Philadelphia because the city's most attractive employment opportunities in sectors such as small manufacturing and printing required a knowledge of English, and because most manual labor jobs they might have filled had been taken by earlierarriving Italians. 6 However, it appears that some immigrant groups found opportunities for advancement in Philadelphia that they did not find in other large cities which had greater proportions of immigrant populations. Philadelphia's location as a major inland port and rail center was also significant for an import/export grocery business like the Coroneos Brothers.⁷

The Coroneos Brothers location at S. 6th and Bainbridge Streets was not far from "Greektown," an area spread across roughly six blocks centered on S. 10th and Locust Streets, which included Evangelismos Church (745 S. 12th Street), St. George's Church (256 S. 8th Street), Greek-owned businesses, diners, a Greek senior citizen housing development, and a travel agency that specialized

in travel to Greece and Cyprus. Emigration from Greece effectively halted in the mid-1920s, when the United States limited entry to quotas based on numbers of immigrants from each country in 1890, which was just before Greek transatlantic migration began. Nevertheless, by the mid-twentieth century, more than fifteen thousand first- and second-generation Greek Americans lived in the Greater Philadelphia area.⁸

https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/greeks-and-greece-modern/.

⁶ The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia, "Greeks and Greece (Modern)" by Alexander Kitroeff. https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/essays/greeks-and-greece-modern/.

⁷ Allan F. Davis and Mark H. Haller, editors. *The Peoples of Philadelphia: A History of Ethnic Groups and Lower-Class Life*. United States: University of Pennsylvania Press, Incorporated, 1998, p. 10.

⁸ *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, "Greeks and Greece (Modern)" by Alexander Kitroeff.

According to a promotional pamphlet (Figure 13), the Coroneos Brothers were importers of "oriental products" which included "olive oil, edible cotton & peanut oils, green ripe olives, Sicily green olives, and canned goods." The Coroneos Brothers export of olive oil, specifically, lead to punishment in 1910, when it was determined that a shipment of 48 packages of olive oil was adulterated and misbranded. The labels stated that the product was pure olive oil, when in fact it was about 60-70% cottonseed oil. The Coroneos Brothers pleaded guilty and were fined.⁹



Figure 13. Coroneos Bros. promotional material. Source: "Coroneos Brothers Letterhead" associated with George Nicholaos Coroneos on Ancestry.com.

On February 17, 1921, a tragic accident befell the Coroneos family and the community. A brick wall collapsed in the building during construction on the fourth floor. As George Coroneos called "watch out!" his brother James saw the walls fall, burying his brothers George and Harry and the workmen. According to the lengthy *Philadelphia Inquirer* article (Figure 14), the accident injured five workmen and killed two others: George Coroneos and an unidentified worker. George died intestate. ¹⁰ According to a 1927 *Philadelphia Inquirer* mention, "an estate of \$132,081 in personal property, exclusive of realty, was left by George Coroneos, according to an inventory and appraisal filed with the Register of Wills. The estate included George's interest in the firm of Coroneos Brothers, valued at \$122,364." ¹¹

⁹ Notices of Judgment Under the Food and Drugs Act. United States: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1911, p. 997.

¹⁰ The Philadelphia Inquirer, February 18, 1921, p. 16.

¹¹ The Philadelphia Inquirer, May 7, 1927, p. 8.

SCENE OF FATAL WALL COLLAPSE



Removal of Bricks Weakened Sixth Street Structure, Says Building Inspector

a wholesale grocery store at 704 South Sixth street. On the right firemen are shown clearing away the debris in a search for bodies. Two men were killed.

SHOTS WOMAN'S SHRIFK MINIMIZES DEATH PERIL

(Article continued next page)

. 1		tr	U-	Police and Firemen on Job	
.	Two men were killed and five hurt		1-	District Building Inspector Hill de-	
1			re	clared that the razing of the thirteen-	
2	when a wall in the rear of a wholesale		id	inch wall unloosened a large lump,	
E	grocery at 704-8 South Sixth street,		y	which fell with such force that the floors could not withstand the stress.	
1	collapsed and buried them in the de-		s,		he
. 1	bris yesterday afternoon.		th	large crowd ran to the scene and im-	
	According to Edmund Clark, Chief	,	ıg	mediately started rescue work, Police	to
-	Building Inspector, the collapse was	ear	ee		th
	due to the fact that too many bricks	of	as	out of the ruins, Battalion Chief George P. McConoghy directed the firemen.	W
	had been removed from the old wall.	yes	or	The injured were rushed to the Penn-	
	which was being razed and the new wall, which was being built, was not	the	re		ar
_	strong enough to stand by itself. The	cor	ng		w
S	wall was thirteen inches thick and fifty		st		he
	feet wide.	thi	n- of	kept the street clear.	th
-	Work was being done on the fourth	or	n-	Rev. Dionysius Papadatos, of the	N
y	floor of the building, and when the	the	ed	Greek Orthodox Catholic Church, at	w
	wall collapsed, the debris crashed down	she		Twelfth and Catharine streets, arrived early to administer the last sacrament	+1
	to the first floor, tearing its way	1	ch	to the injured men.	82
1"	through the boards that were placed on		rs	The first man found was Saline,	to
f	the third and second floors.	COL	rs	whose head was protruding above the	ce
	The dead are:	ter			CE
n	GEORGE CORONEOS, one of the pro-	tle		fied workman and the other injured men were uncovered a few minutes later.	w
-	prietors of the establishment AN UNIDENTIFIED WORKMAN.	do		The workman's body was taken to	
11	The injured are:			the Morgue.	
e	HARRY CORONEOS. 28 years old, 705	no	as	After three hours' digging the body	C
,	South Sixth street, cut and bruises	he		of George Coronéos was found. The Coroneos brothers are well	_
n	of the scalp and body.	all	ill	The contract and the contract of the contract	
s	LEX BARNEY, 67 years old, of 2926	the	ch	city. They have a branch office of the	k
2	West Clementine street, cuts on face	do	ne	T	H
-	and body.	he	re	m C.I	tl
	SERAFINO LOBELIA, 40 years old, 718	of	a-	11 11 11	K
	Kimball street, cuts and bruises of	wh	ıst	where the men were buried, left the	g
	face and scalp.	0.	_	hospital after his injuries were dressed.	
	TONY SALINO, 41 years old, 4415 North	ab	of	1.11	13.5
	Third street, cuts on face and con- tusions of body.	1	w-		n
	GUISEPPE MARFINO, 75 years old, 629	sa			
1	Federal street, Camden, lacerations of	an	2,	He was taken to his home across the	y
1	face and arms.	ha	he	ing and helped in the rescue work.	n
,	The building was occupied by an im-	to	ic-	1 1000	B
	porting wholesale and retail grocery	re	re-		L
	company, owned by James Coroneos	ex	ich	rushed to the scene thinking that an	
7	and his two brothers. It was in use	0.0	ct.		
_	while being rebuilt. At one o'clock James Coroneos	ite	ss,	cident a few minutes after he had	-
†	stepped into the store to call his broth-	1		been treated in the Pennsylvania Hos-	
	ers to dinner. At that moment George	-		pital.	N
	cried, "Watch out!" James, looking to-	U		"My brother, George, and I were	be
	wards the back of the store, saw the	ΙΓ.		moving some olive oil from the old building into the new one. We had	
	walls fall and bury his two brothers	1.	che	livet not down a hound and be mant to	n
	and the five workmen.	1	n-	the rear of the store. As it was 1	t
g	A side wall of the building at 708	1	ate	o'clock I told him dinner was ready	ir
	first collapsed, crumbling away. This took the support away from the rear	1	o-	T 1 1 Lim 11 (337 - 4)	K
e	wall facing Marshall street, which	1	D.	later T brand a result T and the till	n
8	plunged inward.	1	A		h
1-	Some of the workmen say that the	10	led	men. I was hit by a timber."	a
of	large iron pulley on top of the eleva-	10		The unidentified man was about 50 years old, five feet six inches in height	
r	tor shaft on the fourth floor, was care-		re-	and weighed about 150 pounds.	n
ls	lessly thrown down the shaft, tearing		Line St		
r-	the flooring away with it.	1	6	The second secon	4
Fi	gure 14. The Philadelphia Inquirer, February 18, 1921	1. p. 1	6.		

Figure 14. The Philadelphia Inquirer, February 18, 1921, p. 16.

The Coroneos Brothers business appears to have survived until the Great Depression, at which time it ceased operations and the property was sold. For this reason, the period of significance ends in 1930.

(C) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style

The Coroneos Brothers building at 704-08 S. 6th Street, designed in 1920, reflects the environment in an era characterized by the Classical Revival style of architecture with Beaux Arts influence. This style was inspired by the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago held in 1893 which promoted a renewed interest in the classical forms. The Classical Revival style relied on stylistic details of the earlier Greek Revival style, with symmetrical arrangements of windows and doors. The Beaux Arts style, also popular during this period of 1895 – 1930, used classical Greek and Roman decorative elements such as columns, pediments, and balustrades to create imposing architectural statements. The Classical Revival style is considered to be less ornate than the Beaux Arts, although both employed similar classical details found on the subject building. Designed to convey a sense of wealth, the ornamental motifs above the main entrance and flanking the prominent company name, the verticality of the pilasters, the light stone base, the classical detailing of the cornice, the formal symmetry – all of these architectural features reflect this era of renewed popularity of classical forms.¹²



Figure 15. Façade detail, February 2023.

http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/late-19th-century-revival.html.

¹² Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, "Classical Revival style" and "Beaux Art style."



Figure 16. Detail photograph of ornament over main entrance and cornice, April 2023.

In conclusion, the Coroneos Brothers building at 704-08 S. 6th Street is historically significant and merits listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as satisfying Criteria C and J. The building reflects the environment in an era characterized by the Classical Revival style of architecture with Beaux Arts influence, which was popular from about 1895 until 1930. Additionally, the Coroneos Brothers building exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historical heritage of the community, as a purpose-built store and warehouse for the Coroneos brothers who brought their grocery import/export business to an area of South Philadelphia which welcomed numerous immigrants and their businesses in the early 1900s.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, v. 35, p. 765, 09/01/1920; v. 36, p. 213, 04/06/1921; p. 542, 08/24/1921.

Appendix: Architect Max A. Bernhardt

Biography written by Emily T. Cooperman and Sandra L. Tatman https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar display.cfm/23865

Max Arthur Bernhardt

Born: 4/16/1896, Died: c. 1947

Max Bernhardt, son of Samuel Bernhardt, attended Southern High School in Philadelphia before he studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. He received his B.S. in Architecture in 1917 and his M.S. in 1918. His design and rendering abilities won several prizes: the Arthur Spayd Brooke Prize; the Faculty Prize; and awards from the Municipal Art Society of New York. In the 1918 Philadelphia city directory he lists himself as a draftsman, but follows that with 1920 to 1921 as a clerk. By 1923, however, he shares an office with Edwin H. Bertolett and will remain with Bertolett through 1930 although their names are never formally associated as a partnership. During the 1930s Bernhardt served as architect for the Department of Banking of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Bernhardt further served as an instructor at the Weidener Memorial School and at the Graphic Sketch Club.

Bernhardt's project list on the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings website includes 54 projects, 78 published references not yet linked to a project, and four holdings of rolled drawings.¹³

The 1920 commission of 704-08 S. 6th Street would have been a very early commission for Bernhardt, based on a review of his other work from the Philadelphia Architects and Buildings website and the online database of the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide*.

¹³ Philadelphia Architects and Buildings, Bernhardt, Max Arthur by Emily T. Cooperman, and Sandra L. Tatman, Philadelphiabuildings.org.