

NOMINATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM (CD, EMAIL, FLASH DRIVE)
ELECTRONIC FILES SHOULD BE WORD OR WORD COMPATIBLE

1. NAME OF HISTORIC DISTRICT (CURRENT/HISTORIC)

House of St. Michael & All Angels Historic District

2. LOCATION

Please attach a map of Philadelphia locating the historic district.

Councilmanic District(s): 3

3. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a written description and map of the district boundaries.

4. DESCRIPTION

Please attach a written description and photographs of the built and natural environments/ characteristic streetscape of the district.

5. INVENTORY

Please attach an inventory of the district with an entry for every property. All street addresses must coincide with official Office of Property Assessment addresses.

Total number of properties in district: 5 resources (3 parcels)

Count buildings with multiple units as one.

Number of properties already on Register/percentage of total: 1 / 20%

Number of significant properties/percentage of total: 2 / 40%

Number of contributing properties/percentage of total: 3 / 60%

Number of non-contributing properties/percentage of total: 0 / 0%

6. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1887 to 1938

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic district 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.

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

8. NOMINATOR

Organization University City Historical Society Date 3 January 2023

Name with Title _____ Email info@uchs.net

Street Address 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 732 Telephone 717.602.5002

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19144

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: January 4, 2023

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: May 4, 2023

Date of Preliminary Eligibility: _____

Date of Notice Issuance: May 4, 2023

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: _____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____

Date of Final Action: _____

☐ Designated ☐ Rejected

12/7/18

NOMINATION
FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

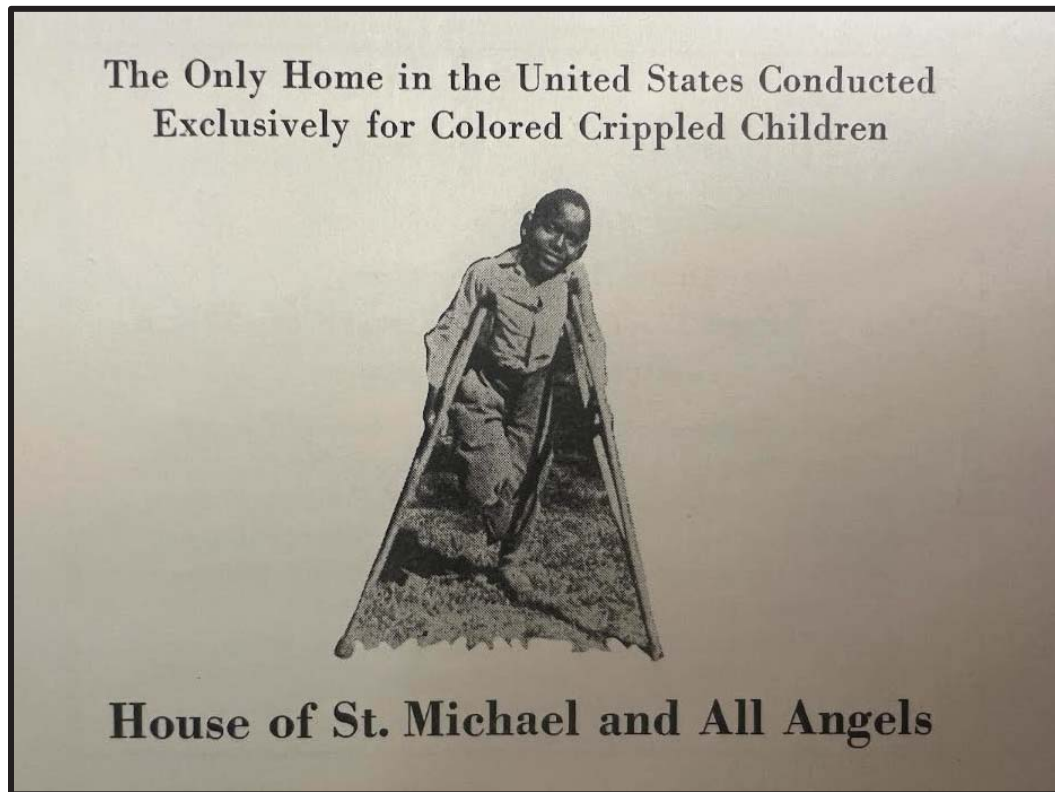


Figure 1. A cover page for a piece of literature about the institution from the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.

HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
FOR
COLORED CRIPPLE CHILDREN
HISTORIC DISTRICT

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1887 TO 1938

SOUTHEAST CORNER OF NORTH 43RD & WALLACE STREETS
WEST PHILADELPHIA
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19104



Figure 2. The boundary of the proposed historic district is delineated in blue. Source: Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Please note that the building numbers for the subject historic district have been included above.

3. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection formed by Wallace Street and North 43rd Street, thence extending east approximately 157 feet along the northern property lines of the parcels associated with 613-15 North 43rd Street and 4238-40 Wallace to the northeast corner of the parcel associated with 4238-40 Wallace Street; turning to the south, thence continuing approximately 202 feet along the eastern property lines of the parcels associated with 613-15 North 43rd Street and 609-11 North 43rd Street to the southeast corner of the parcel associated with 609-11 North 43rd Street; turning to the west, thence extending westwardly approximately 157 feet to the southwest corner of the parcel associated with 609-11 North 43rd Street; turning to the north, thence extending to the north along the westerly property line of both parcels associated with 609-11 North 43rd Street and 613-15 North 43rd Street to the point and place of beginning.



Figure 3. Top: Building 3: 4238-40 Wallace Street (1889) and Building 1: 615 North 43rd Street (1887) at the southeast corner of North 43rd and Wallace Streets. Figure 4. Bottom: A view of North 43rd Street, including Building 1: 615 North 43rd Street (1887), Building 2: 613 North 43rd Street (1888), Building 3: 4238-40 Wallace Street (1889), Building 5: 615 North 43rd Street (1915), and Building 4: 615 North 43rd Street (1894). Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

4. DESCRIPTION

The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Cripple Colored Children Historic District is located to the north of the former grounds of the Pennsylvania Hospital in the section of West Philadelphia known today as North Haverford. The area is characterized by institutional campuses and vignettes of residential twins and rowhouses primarily from the mid- to late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This small district is comprised of four residences and one church building. As is common of the neighborhood in general, the former dwellings feature front porches and are setback from the street, allowing space for plantings and general verdure that contributes to the character of the district.

The extant buildings historically associated with the institution include the following addresses, as well as the dates purchased:

Building 1: 615 North 43rd Street (1887)¹

¹ Deed: J. Campbell Lancaster to House of Saint Michael & All Angels, 2 November 1887, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 299, p. 366, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 615 North 43rd Street.

Building 2: 613 North 43rd Street (1888)²

Building 3: 4238-40 Wallace Street (1889)³

Building 4: 609 North 43rd Street (1894)⁴

Building 5: 611 North 43rd Street (1915)⁵

No longer extant, the following buildings historically associated with the institution are included in the historic context, but are not within the boundary of the proposed designation:

Building 6: 605 North 43rd Street (1918)⁶ – Demolished

Building 7: 607 North 43rd Street (1918)⁷ – Demolished

Building 8: 607 North 43rd Street (1918) – Demolished



Figure 5. The primary (west) elevation of Building 1 and the primary (west) and side (south) elevations of Building 2. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

² Deed: William Heaton, Jr., to House of St. Michael and All Angels, 14 December 1888, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 449, p. 247, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 613 North 43rd Street.

³ Deed: Pauline E. Henry, widow, to House of St. Michael and All Angels, 22 May 1894, Philadelphia Deed Book T.G., No. 385, p. 526, CAP. This deed is related to the creation of the lot and the building upon it at 4238-40 Wallace Street.

⁴ Deed: Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives and Granting Annuities to The House of St. Michael and All Angels, 16 October 1894, Philadelphia Deed Book J.J.C., No. 9, p. 147, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 609 North 43rd Street.

⁵ Deed: John Ennis, Jr., et. ux., to House of St. Michael & All Angels, 7 October 1915, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 538, p. 336, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 611 North 43rd Street.

⁶ Deed: Ebenezer Adams, et.ux. to House of St. Michael & All Angels, 20 August 1918, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 381, p. 309, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 605 North 43rd Street.

⁷ Deed: John McAllister, et. ux. to House of St. Michael & All Angels, 14 June 1918, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 409, p. 6, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 607 North 43rd Street.



Figure 6. Top: The primary (north) elevation of Building 3. Figure 7. Bottom: The side (west) elevation of Building 3. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.



Figure 8. Looking northeast at Building 1, Building 2, Building 5, and Building 4. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.



Figure 9. Top: The primary (west) elevations of Buildings 5 and 4. Figure 10. Bottom: The primary (west) of Building 5 and primary (west) and side (south) elevations of Building 4. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

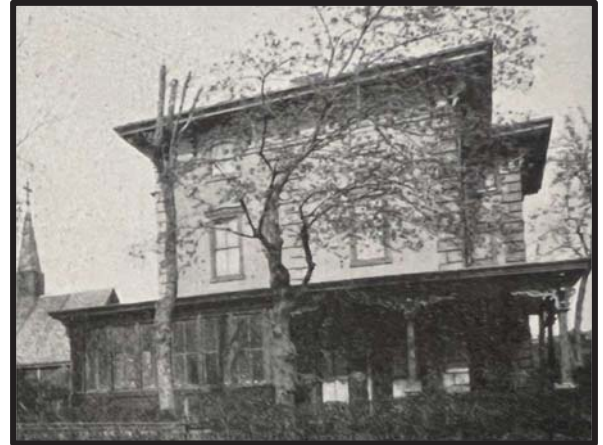


Figure 11. Looking east at the proposed historic district. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Please note that the building numbers for the subject historic district have been included above.

5. INVENTORY

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
FOR
COLORED CRIPPLE CHILDREN
INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING 4

Address: 609-11 North 43rd Street
OPA #: 881819310
Old Address: 609 North 43rd Street
Historic Name: Boy's Department
(1894-1938)
Purchase Year: 1894
Source: Deed: Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives and Granting Annuities to The House of St. Michael and All Angels, 16 October 1894, Philadelphia Deed Book J.J.C., No. 9, p. 147, CAP.
Year Built: ca.1866
Addition: Three-story redbrick rear addition
Alteration: Porch details, windows, doors, etc.
Date: After ca.1970
Source: Date purchased by funeral home
Stories/Bays: Three/Two
Roof: Flat
Façade: Stucco over masonry
Style: Italianate
PRHP Status: Not Listed
NRHP Status: Not Listed
Description: The subject building is the southern half of a three-story stucco-clad, Italianate masonry twin dwelling with a distinctive cornice and quoins at each corner of the building's primary (west), side (south), and rear (east) elevations. The three-story, red brick addition at the rear (east) elevation is non-contributing, appearing to be built after the period of significance.
Classification: Contributing
Notes: See Historic Context for additional information.



Top: Looking north at the side (south) elevation. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Top middle: The primary (west) elevation in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania. Bottom middle: The primary (west) elevation. Bottom: The primary (west) and side (south) elevations. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
FOR
COLORED CRIPPLE CHILDREN
INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING 5

Address: 609-11 North 43rd Street
OPA #: 881819310
Old Address: 611 North 43rd Street
Historic Name: Boys' Department
(1915-1938)
Purchase Year: 1915
Source: Deed: John Ennis, Jr., et. ux., to
House of St. Michael & All Angels, 7
October 1915, Philadelphia Deed
Book E.L.T., No. 538, p. 336, CAP.
Year Built: ca.1866
Developer: Margaret A. Maguire, et. al.
First Owner: David B. Fox
Addition: Two-story red brick rear addition
Alteration: Porch details/windows/doors
Date: After ca. 1970
Source: Date purchased by funeral home
Stories/Bays: Three/Two
Roof: Flat
Façade: Stucco over masonry
Style: Italianate
PRHP Status: Not Listed
NRHP Status: Not Listed
Description: The subject building is the northern
half of a three-story stucco-clad,
Italianate masonry twin dwelling
with a distinctive cornice and quoins
at each corner of the building's
primary, side, and rear elevations.
The red brick rear addition is non-
contributing, appearing to be built
after the period of significance.
Classification: Contributing (Dwelling)
Non-Contributing (Rear Addition)
Notes: See Historic Context for additional
information.



Top: Looking south at the side (north) elevation. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Top middle: The primary (west) elevation. Bottom middle: The side (north) and primary (west) elevations. Bottom: The side (north) elevation. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
 FOR
 COLORED CRIPPLE CHILDREN
INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING 2

Address: 613-15 North 43rd Street
 OPA #: 882929310
 Historic Name: House of St. Michael & All Angel for Colored Cripple Children (1888-1918)
 “Apartment for Colored Families” (1918-1938)
 Old Address: 613 North 43rd Street
 Purchase Year: 1888
 Source: Deed: William Heaton, Jr., to House of St. Michael and All Angels, 14 December 1888, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 449, p. 247, CAP.
 Year Built: ca.1866
 Developer: John H. Jones
 First Owner: Isaac Kendrick
 Addition: One-story stone addition
 Alteration: One-porch enclosure/side addition
 Date: After ca. 1970
 Source[s]: Date converted to funeral home
 Stories/Bays: Three/Three
 Roof: Flat
 Façade: Stucco over masonry
 Style: Italianate
 PRHP Status: Not Listed
 NRHP Status: Not Listed
 Description: The subject building is the southern half of a three-story stucco-clad, Italianate masonry twin dwelling with a distinctive cornice and quoins at each corner of the building’s primary, side, and rear elevations. The porch enclosure and a one-story addition at the side (south) elevation, near the southeast corner, is non-contributing, appearing to be built after the period of significance.
 Classification: Contributing (Dwelling)
 Non-Contributing (Porch Enclosure)
 Non-Contributing (Side Addition)
 Notes: See Historic Context for additional information.



Top: Looking west at the side (south) and primary (west) elevations. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Top middle: The primary (west) and side (south) elevations in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Bottom middle: The primary (west) and side (south) elevations. Bottom: The rear (east) elevations of both sides of the twin. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

**PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
FOR
COLORED CRIPPLE CHILDREN
INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING 1**

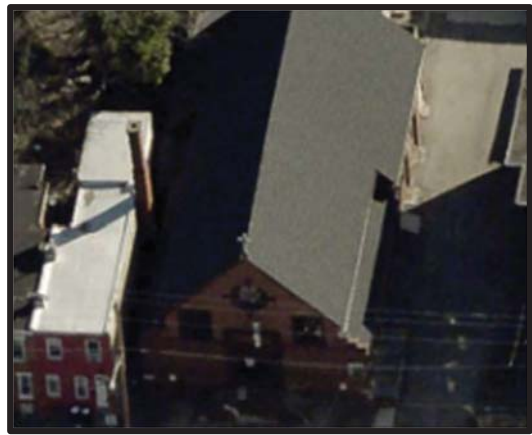
Address: **613-15 North 43rd Street**
 OPA #: **882929310**
 Historic Name: **House of St. Michael & All Angel for Colored Cripple Children (1887-1918)**
“Apartment for Colored Families” (1918-1938)
 Old Address: **615 North 43rd Street**
 Purchase Year: **1887**
 Source: **Deed: J. Campbell Lancaster to House of Saint Michael & All Angels, 2 November 1887, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 299, p. 366, CAP.**
 Year Built: **ca.1866**
 Developer: **John H. Jones**
 First Owner: **Isaac Kendrick**
 Addition: **One-story side addition (ca.1920s)**
 Alteration: **Porch enclosure/various alterations**
 Date: **After ca. 1970**
 Source: **Date converted to funeral home**
 Stories/Bays: **Three/Three**
 Roof: **Flat**
 Façade: **Stucco over masonry**
 Style: **Italianate**
 PRHP Status: **Not Listed**
 NRHP Status: **Not Listed**
 Description: **The subject building is the northern half of a three-story stucco-clad, Italianate masonry twin dwelling with a distinctive cornice and quoins at each corner of the building’s primary (west), side (north), and rear (east) elevations. A one-story addition at the side (north) elevation, near the northeast corner, is contributing, appearing to date to the period of significance. The building features a non-contributing porch enclosure at the primary (west) elevation, appearing to be completed after the end of the period of significance.**
 Classification: **Significant (Dwelling)**
Non-Contributing (Porch Enclosure)
 Notes: **See Historic Context for additional information.**



Top: Looking south at the side (north) elevation. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Top middle: The primary (west) and side (north) elevation in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Bottom middle: The primary (west) and side (north) elevations. Bottom: The rear (east) and side (north) elevations, including a one-story addition. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS
FOR
COLORED CRIPPLE CHILDREN
INVENTORY FORM – BUILDING 3

Address: 4238-40 Wallace Street
OPA #: 774316000
Historic Name: Chapel of St. Michael and All Angels
Year Built: 1889-90
Source: John Charles Manton and Joseph J. Menkevich. *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: The Chapel of Saint Michael & All Angels Home for Crippled Coloured Children, 4238-40 Wallace Street.* (Philadelphia: 2017).
Architect: William Masters Camac
Benefactor: Pauline Vanderkemp Henry
Stories/Bays: One-and-one-half/Three
Roof: Gable-front
Façade: Masonry
Style: Tudor/Eclectic
PRHP Status: Individually Listed
NRHP Status: Not Listed
Classification: Significant
Notes: Built as a memorial chapel by benefactor Pauline Henry, the building was consecrated in June 1890. See Historic Context for additional information.
Source: “Care for Crippled Children. Consecration of St. Michael and All Angels’ Home for Colored Little Ones.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 19 June 1890, 6.; and Deed: Pauline E. Henry, widow, to House of St. Michael and All Angels, 22 May 1894, Philadelphia Deed Book T.G., No. 385, p. 526, CAP.



Top: Looking south at the primary (north) elevation. Source: Pictometry, Atlas, City of Philadelphia. Top middle: The primary (north) elevation in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania. Bottom middle: The primary (north) elevation. Bottom: The side (west) elevation. Source: Oscar Beisert, 2022.



Figure 12. Children of the House of SMAACCC within the interior of Building 1 or Building 2 in the 1890s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The House of SMAACCC 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 Haverford North neighborhood of Philadelphia, the building satisfies the following Criteria for Designation as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (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; and
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

The period of significance extends from the organization's entry to the site in 1887 to the time of its removal in 1938.

CRITERIA A AND J

Founded in 1886, the House of St. Michael's and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children (House of SMAACCC), an institution established by the Protestant Episcopal Church, comprises a vignette of five historic buildings that stand at the southeast corner of North 43rd and Wallace Streets in West Philadelphia. This domestic and institutional campus was one of just a few in the city, commonwealth, and nation that provided medical and social services to African American children with physical disabilities. In fact, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (W.E.B. Du Bois) lists the House of SMAACCC as one of the Philadelphia institutions serving African Americans

in his 1897 book *The Philadelphia Negro*.⁸ And while services for Black people increased over time, as late as December 1913, *The Crisis*, an African American publication by W.E.B. Dubois, referred to the House of SMAACCC as “perhaps the only institution of its kind in the United States” (Figure 14).⁹ Similarly, the *American Journal of Care for Cripples*, published by the Federal of Associations for Cripples, referred to the House of SMAACCC as “the only home exclusively for colored crippled children in the United States, large enough and financially able to carry out the efforts demanded of it.”¹⁰

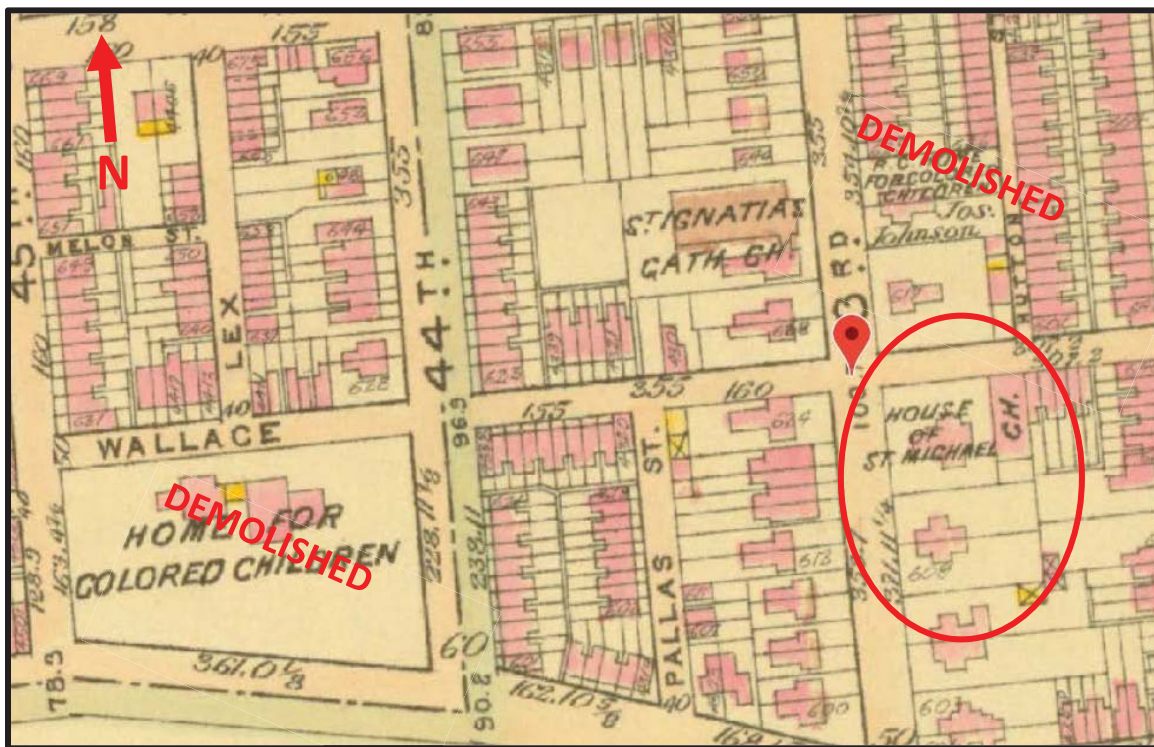


Figure 13. 1910 Philadelphia Atlas. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

In addition to being one of the first institutions of its kind in the United States, the House of SMAACCC is also a rare surviving historic campus of an institution that exclusively served the African American community in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Philadelphia. In the immediate vicinity of the subject historic district, there were two other institutions that served African American children—specifically orphans. The Home for Colored Children was a large institutional complex on Haverford Avenue between North 44th and North 45th Streets that was demolished between 1965 and 1967. Additionally, the Roman Catholic Home for Colored Children was less than one block north of the subject historic district, occupying the northerly half of a twin on North 43rd Street. Between 1967 and 1971, this building was also demolished. Perhaps one of the largest church-sponsored institutions for African American children in Philadelphia was the St. Mary Magdalen Asylum for Colored Girls on Chew Avenue below Church Lane, a site that was almost entirely obliterated between 1981 and 1992. Another institution, the Frederick Douglas Memorial Hospital and Training School at 1522 Lombard Street, has also been demolished. And

⁸ W.E.B. Du Bois. *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*. (1897), 356.

⁹ *The Crisis*, December 1913, 62.

¹⁰ *American Journal of Care for Cripples*. (Federation of Associations for Cripples, 1915), 129.

even more recently, the original building of the Stephen Smith Home, the Home for Aged & Infirm Colored Persons, at Belmont and Girard Avenues was demolished in 2009.

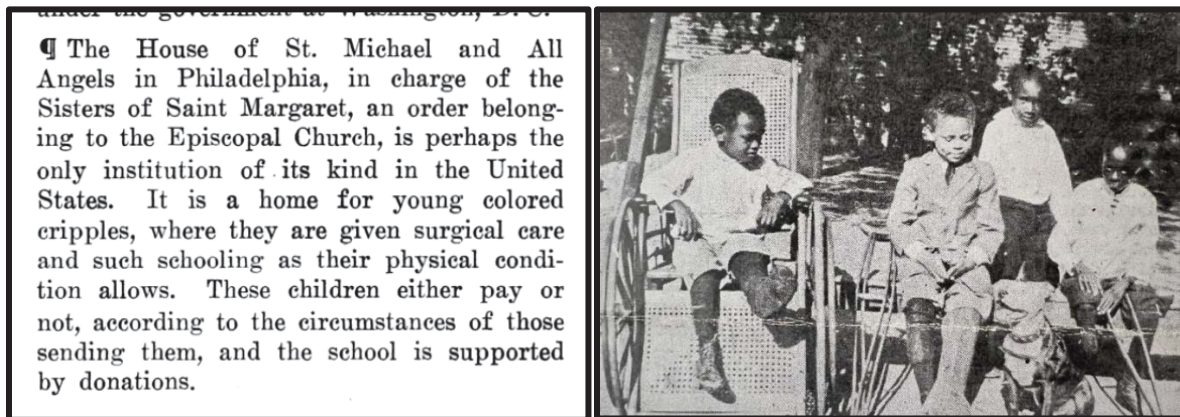


Figure 14. Left: A description of the House of SMAACCC in *The Crisis*, a publication edited by W.E.B. Du Bois. Source: *The Crisis*, December 1913, 62. Figure 15. Right: Children of the House of SMAACCC in 1912. Source: "The House of St. Michael and All Angels," *The Sword of St. Michael*, Michaelas, 1912, 5-6.

Most importantly, between 1887 and 1938, the House of SMAACCC provided residents essential services in an era before government assistance: medical care—specifically surgery and nursing; education—both general and religious; manual training—developing domestic and/or industrial skillsets; and domicile, including housing, sustenance, and opportunities for social discourse. Throughout the history of the United States, African Americans and most people with physical disabilities were marginalized and largely underserved prior to the social progress achieved in the twentieth century. While there were certainly institutions to aid children with disabilities, very few admitted people of color, specifically black and brown people. While the House of SMAACCC was limited to thirty occupants in its early years, its establishment and operation represents the early efforts of the Protestant Episcopal Church to provide medical and social services to African American children with physical disabilities. Additionally, the subject buildings are associated with the lives of residents who were treated, educated, and housed at the House of SMAACCC. As a result, the House of SMAACCC has significant character, interest, and value as part of the development and heritage of medical and social services for African Americans, the physically disabled, and, specifically, physically disabled African American children in the city, commonwealth, and nation. Additionally, the subject properties exemplify the cultural, political, economic, social, and historical heritage of the said marginalized communities.



Figure 16. Building 1 at the southeast corner of North 43rd and Wallace Streets in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS FOR COLORED CRIPPLED CHILDREN

The House of SMAACCC originated due to the grassroots efforts of one woman—Sister Sarah Maria Kirke (1827-1913).¹¹ A native of Wagontown, Chester County, Pennsylvania, Sister Sarah was a nun in the Society of Saint Margaret, a nursing order originally founded in 1855 by Reverend John Mason Neale to serve rural communities in Sussex, England. After several years serving communities outside the city, Sister Sarah arrived at Philadelphia in the mid-1880s, where she resumed “parochial nursing at St. Michael’s Church, Germantown, where she worked with Rev. and Mrs. R.F. Innes, the latter of whom had been active in mission and social work with the African American community at Downingtown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.”¹² Having previously established a mission for the African American community at Reading, Pennsylvania, Sister Sarah was required by Mrs. Innes to consider ministering “a coloured crippled boy, incurable, shut out on account of his age from institutions for children, and precluded from treatment in other hospitals” because of racial discrimination and prejudice.¹³ After accepting the charge, she attempted to locate the potential patient, which led to the following, as described by Sister Sarah:

Having learned this evening of a destitute, crippled negro child in the lower part of the city, I at once set out to minister to it. After difficulty in locating the house to which I had been directed, in a miserable abode and a wretched neighborhood, I

¹¹ Pennsylvania (State). Death certificates, 1906–1968. Series 11.90 (1,905 cartons). Records of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

¹² Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God’s Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915).

¹³ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God’s Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915).

found it to be occupied by several families. Ascending rickety stairs and through a narrow, dark, musty passage, I entered a small dark room entirely destitute of furniture. The atmosphere was sickening. On rags in one corner of this closet (it might be called) - a boy of about nine lay on the floor. Beside him was a piece of stale bread and a tin cup with some water. I spoke, but received no reply. I knelt by his side, taking his crooked fingers in my hand, but they were cold and stiff. I passed my fingers over his forehead and through his crisp hair, but he felt it not. The Angel of Death had borne the spirit of this weary child from a world in which he had known nothing but sorrow, pain and want. The Angels rejoice over the recovery of one penitent sinner. Do they weep over the victims of cruelty and wrong-doing?¹⁴

As a result of this experience, Sister Sarah was compelled to start a home for disabled African American children, the House of SMAACCC, on a Monday in August 1886 with a pledge of \$1,000 in initial support from generous donors. The institution's first home was at 4012 Ludlow Street in West Philadelphia, where Sister Sarah began her work with Helen Loyd, who is recognized as a co-founder of the House of SMAACCC in some historic accounts. According to one source, "There was very little furniture; the kitchen had, as its equipment, a small oil stove and some tomato cans."¹⁵



Figure 17. Left: Sister Sarah, "taken in 1890, her last year at St. Michael and All Angels, Philadelphia." Source: Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God's Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 45-46.
 Figure 18. Right: "Sister Sarah's Work," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 27 October 1896, 11.

¹⁴ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God's Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 45-46.

¹⁵ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God's Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 46-47.

By April 1886, institutional leadership included “Sister in Charge—Sister Sarah. Chaplain—Rev. I.L. Nicholson. D.D. Consulting Surgeon—Dr. De Forrest Willard. House Surgeon—Dr. F. H. Miliken. House Physician—Dr. Wm. Lott.”¹⁶ The involvement of Rev. Nicholson of St. Mark’s, one Philadelphia’s most fashionable congregations, seems to have served as a major endorsement for other physicians to get involved with the House of the SMAACC. That year, three established physicians became intimately involved with the institution, a truly remarkable accomplishment, especially when considering the absence of such services for the effected community just one year prior. Another early establishment was the Guild of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Crippled Children, founded on St. Andrew’s Day in 1886, serving primarily as the fundraising arm of the institution.¹⁷ The earliest officers included: “Chaplain, Rev. I.L. Nicholson, D.D. Almoner, Mrs. Wm. H. Lloyd, 4309 Spruce St. Secretary, Mrs. Samuel William, 220 St. Mark’s Sq.” Early committees and their leadership included: “ON THE HOUSE. Miss Toland, Chairman. ON PUBLICATION. Sister Sarah, Chairman. ON FINANCE AND BUILDING FUND. Mrs. Wm. H. Lloyd, Chairman.”

¹⁶ *The Cripple News*, April 1887, No. 5. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

¹⁷ *American Journal of Care for Cripples*. (Federation of Associations for Cripples, 1915), 129.

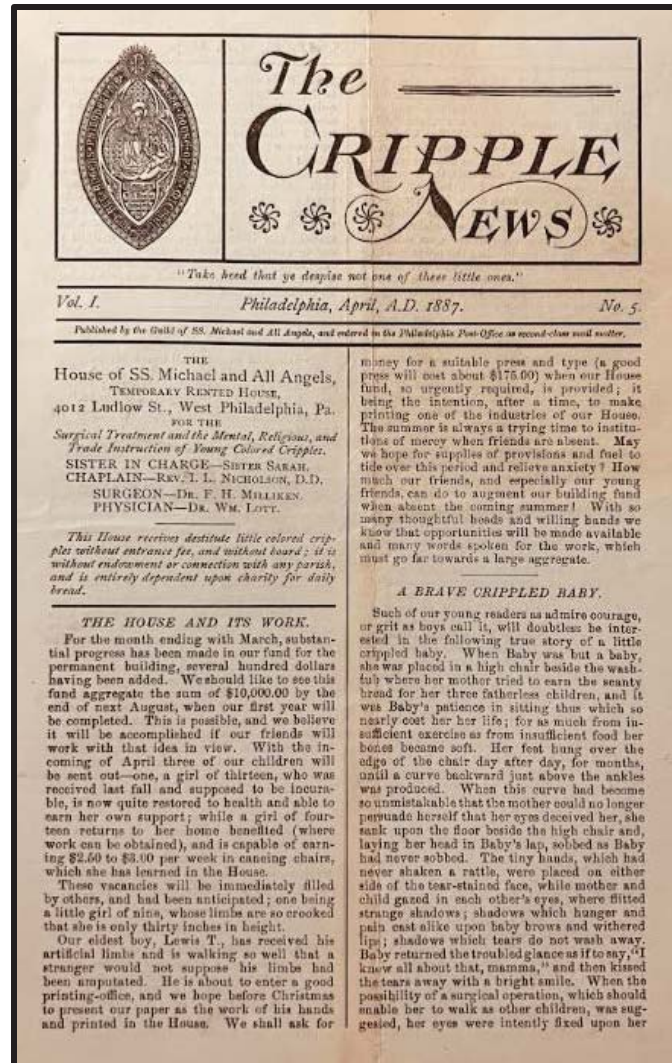


Figure 19. *The Cripple News*, April 1887, No. 5. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

By the close of 1886, the nascent institution launched *The Cripple News*, their own four page monthly newspaper that included reports on the financial and organizational matters; accounts of the background, medical needs, and treatment of their residents; advertisements; institutional requirements; appeals for fundraising; poetry; cartoons; and occasional photographs of the residents.¹⁸ In fact, the publication attracted several important benefactors to the institution, including Pauline Henry and Elizabeth S. Shippen.

Even before the House of SMAACCC had applied for its charter, there were success stories among the African American youth being served. Accounts of various residents were published in *The Cripple News* as early as April 1886:

Our eldest boy, Lewis T., has received his artificial limbs and is walking so well that a stranger would not suppose his limbs had been amputated. He is about to enter a good printing-office, and we hope before Christmas to represent our paper

¹⁸ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God's Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 50.

as the work of his hands and printed in the House. We shall ask for money for a suitable press and type (a good press will cost about \$175.00) when our House fund, so urgently required, is provided; it being the intention, after a time, to make printing one of the industries of our House.¹⁹

Working as a real estate conveyancer prior to becoming a priest, Reverend Nicholson drafted the application for a charter from the government with the following signers: “Isaac L. Nicholson, John K. Murphy, Sarah M. Kirke, Geo. Wistar Kirke, Charles E. Lex, G. Theodore Roberts, and Samuel Williams.”²⁰ The higher Courts of Philadelphia approved the charter as an “Institution of the Church” on July 11, 1887.²¹ The official charter led to additional leadership: “President—Rev. I.L. Nicholson, D.D. Vice President—Rev. John K. Murphy. Treasurer—Mrs. Wm. H. Lloyd. Secretary—Mrs. Samuel Williams.” Naturally, as this was affiliated with the Protestant Episcopal Church of nineteenth century Philadelphia, there appear to have been no African American board members among these early efforts to serve the disabled African American children. In addition, there was no endowment, and, without question, no government funds. In every issue of *The Cripple News*, those who donated were recognized: “Cash—Mrs. Dr. Strawbridge, \$25; Mrs. Franklin Taylor, \$5...” and “KIND—Mrs. Weir, ton coal; Mr. G.H., carving knife and fork; Mrs. Bonzano, 10 lb can lard; Mrs. Cope, turkey and plum pudding; Kate Donaldson and Cora, coats and toys; Mrs. Vandyke, clothing...”²²

With the Ludlow Street house at capacity almost immediately, the House of SMAACCC was compelled to turn away people who genuinely needed their services. A truly horrible event occurred in their first year that would ultimately expedite the procurement of the first building associated with the subject property:

One boy appeared with clothing torn and ragged. He had hobbled on a crutch from South Street, miles away. His mother was dead and the woman with whom he had been staying wouldn't keep him any longer. The House was overflowing and he could not be received.²³ Silently and with tears streaming down his face, the boy was turned away.²⁴ His body was taken from the river the next morning.²⁵

The news of this tragic death caused uproar related to a key institutional failing, highlighting the immediate need for an enlarged capacity. This ultimately led to the purchase of a larger building to accommodate more children. Once sufficient funds had been raised, the House of SMAACCC purchased Building 1 at 615 North 43rd Street, the northerly half of an Italianate style twin, a process that began in the summer of 1887. Representing the House, J. Campbell Lancaster, an attorney, purchased the property from Edward M. and Florence V. Hardrich for \$9,000 in July

¹⁹ “The House and Its Work.” *The Cripple News*. April 1887.

²⁰ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God's Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 49-50.

²¹ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God's Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 49-50.

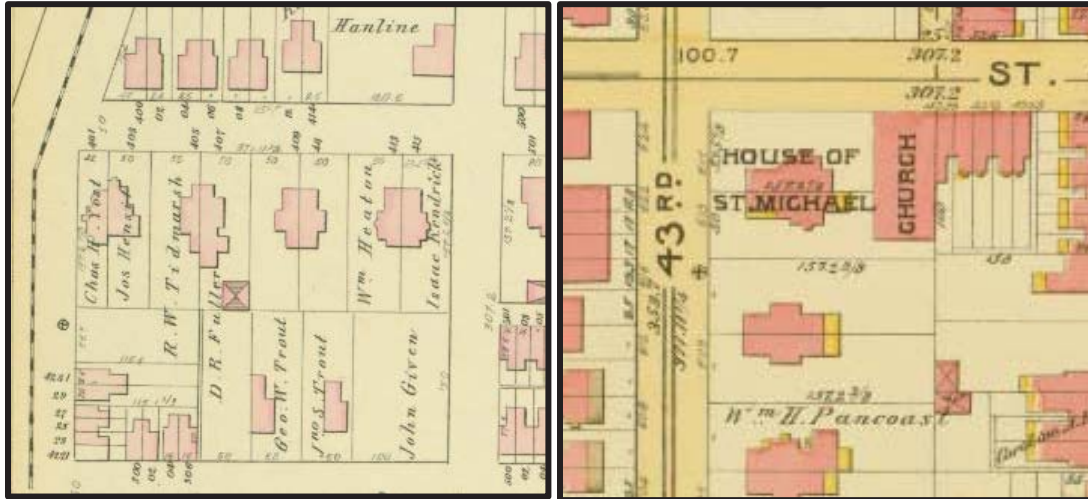
²² “Donations for December.” *The Cripple News*, January 1888, 10.

²³ *Thirty-seventh Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 1923).

²⁴ “The House of St. Michael and All Angles,” *The Sword of St. Michael*, Michaelas, 1912, 5-6.

²⁵ *Thirty-seventh Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 1923).

1887. A few months later, in November, Lancaster transferred the property to the House of SMAACCC for \$4,000 cash, leaving a mortgage of \$5,000.²⁶ Standing the southeast corner of North 43rd and Wallace Streets, Building 1 had “ample grounds” and “plenty of air and shade” for the residents.²⁷



Philadelphia Atlases illustrating the shift from residential to institutional for Building 1 and Building 2. Figure 20. Left: 1878 Philadelphia Atlas. Figure 21. Right: 1892 Philadelphia Atlas. Source: West Philadelphia Community History Center, University of Pennsylvania.

With the new facility came the ability to undergo a more effective medical treatment program, which included various forms of surgery. The House of SMAACCC touted the following cases in its literature:

Children came in, not only from the city, but also from various parts of the country. One little girl whose legs had become crooked and stiff from having for nearly two years been daily tied in a chair to be “safe and out of the way” while her mother toiled over a washtub.

Another child was ticketed and expressed from Georgia. A third, paralyzed and helpless was sent from an almshouse in Hagerstown, Md. This child was sent in a basket with a bottle of milk to feed on by the way. Two boys and a girl were sent from Mrs. Bufort’s Hospital, Virginia. One of the girls was blind. She was ultimately treated in Wills’ Eye Hospital for the Blind and her sight was restored. The other, a girl of seventeen, had long been a greater suffered from some bone disease, and was obliged to go on crutches. She became a remarkable example of surgical skill. She was operated upon by Dr. Willard. The third, a boy of sixteen was a case of club feet, and had never walked without crutches. He was successfully

²⁶ Deed: J. Campbell Lancaster to House of Saint Michael & All Angels, 2 November 1887, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 299, p. 366, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 615 North 43rd Street.

²⁷ Sarah M. Kirke. *The Life of One of God’s Saints, Notes By The Way or Glimpses of a Busy Life*. (1915), 50.; *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder’s Guide*, 7 November 1887, 524.

treated, and in a few months enabled to return home without crutches. This boy now owns a small house and ten acres of land, has a wife and six children.²⁸

These critical services to African American children continued to justify the need to expand so much so that just one year after the purchase of Building 1, the House of SMAACCC was able to purchase the southerly half of the twin attached to Building 1 (Building 2; 613 North 43rd Street) from William and Emma M. Heaton, Jr. for \$9,200 on December 14, 1888.²⁹ This investment ultimately doubled the House of SMAACCC's interior and exterior space for the purposes of their mission.³⁰



Figure 22. Building 1 and Building 2 of the House of SMAACCC, showing a carriage out front and young children on the porch in the 1880s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.

In addition to being head of the House of SMAACCC, Sister Sarah was also dedicated to the organization's fledgling publication: *The Cripple News*. Despite the disparagement currently heard in the name, her investment was a smart one especially after the monthly periodical fell into the hands of one Germantown resident Mrs. Bernard Henry (1835-1902), the widow of Dr. Bernard Henry (1820-1860). Born Pauline Elizabeth Vanderkemp, she was the daughter of John Jacob Vanderkemp (1783-1855), Agent General of the Holland Land Company, and Elizabeth Hepburn. A well-known philanthropist in Philadelphia, she attained fame as a young child, sitting with her

²⁸ "The House of St. Michael and All Angles," *The Sword of St. Michael*, Michaelas, 1912, 5-6.

²⁹ Deed: William Heaton, Jr., to House of St. Michael and All Angels, 14 December 1888, Philadelphia Deed Book G.G.P., No. 449, p. 247, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 613 North 43rd Street.

³⁰ *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide*, 24 December 1888, 629.

siblings for *The Vanderkemp Children* by Thomas Sully, the famous artist. Dr. Henry, a naval surgeon, was lost at sea during their honeymoon, leaving her a widow almost immediately after their marriage and apparently brought on a psychosomatic spinal disability. After more than twenty years confined to her bed in a villa on Wayne Avenue above Walnut Lane, she was apparently cured.³¹ As her parents endowed her with the financial resources required to both live in charity and take up philanthropy, she ultimately founded the Germantown Dispensary and Hospital in 1870, as well as the Pauline Home, among other charitable endeavors. In 1889, she visited the House of SMAACCC, observing a small chapel set up within the facility, then comprised of both Buildings 1 and 2. Finding that accommodation deficient, she pledged to finance the erection of a small detached chapel, which would ultimately occupy a small portion of grounds at the rear of 613 and 615 North 43rd Street (Building 3). William Masters Camac, architect, was commissioned to design the new building.³² The consecration services were held on June 18, 1890 and conducted by Bishop Whitaker and Bishop Coleman of Delaware. Rev. H.L. Phillips of the Church of the Crucifixion and Rev. John P. Williams of St. Thomas' P.E. Church participated in the ceremony.³³ The building was dedicated to the memory of Margaret Connor, who Pauline Henry had adopted after the death of her maid and Margaret's mother, Mary Connor. Despite being named after the presumptive daughter of an Irish servant, the building was built for the expressed use of the African American children of the House, as well as the potential African American parishioners of the associated mission congregation. Pauline Henry transferred the property to the House of SMAACCC in 1894.³⁴ Ultimately, this well-meaning gesture was subject to several years of legal controversy and confusion regarding the ownership of the building. At the time of Pauline Henry's death in 1905, she left special bequests of funds to the institution, as well as a mandate that her funeral was to be held in the chapel.³⁵

³¹ "Homes For The Babies. The Pauline Home Anxious to Rear the Foundlings From the Almshouse." *The Philadelphia Times*. 10 February 1882, 3.

³² John Charles Manton and Joseph J. Menkevich. *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: The Chapel of Saint Michael & All Angels Home for Crippled Coloured Children, 4238-40 Wallace Street*. (Philadelphia: 2017).

³³ "Care for Crippled Children. Consecration of St. Michael and All Angels' Home for Colored Little Ones." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 19 June 1890, 6.

³⁴ Deed: Pauline E. Henry, widow, to House of St. Michael and All Angels, 22 May 1894, Philadelphia Deed Book T.G., No. 385, p. 526, CAP. This deed is related to the creation of the lot and the building upon it at 4238-40 Wallace Street.

³⁵ John Charles Manton and Joseph J. Menkevich. *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places Nomination: The Chapel of Saint Michael & All Angels Home for Crippled Coloured Children, 4238-40 Wallace Street*. (Philadelphia: 2017).

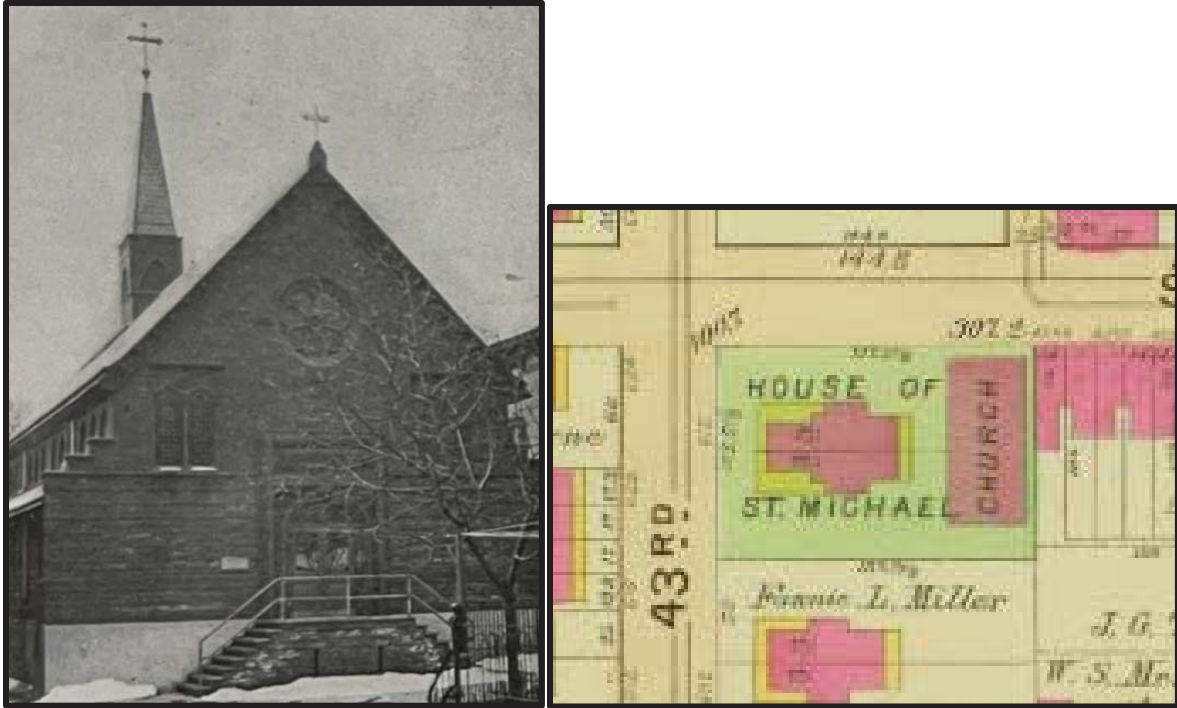


Figure 23. Left: The primary (north) elevation of Building 3 in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania. Figure 24. Right: 1911 Philadelphia Atlas. Source: West Philadelphia Community Archives Center, University of Pennsylvania.

Another dwelling was added to the campus in 1894 with the purchase of 609 North 43rd Street (Building 4), southerly half of a twin at 611 and 609 North 43rd Street, from the Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives and Granting Annuities.³⁶ In 1911, the trustees purchased a house and grounds at Sea Isle City, New Jersey, which was procured to allow the residents of the institution to experience a summer vacation at the seashore.³⁷ While summer camp and/or vacation, even summer houses, was a common feature of such institutions during this period, it was a less common amenity in the African American community.³⁸ In the *Twenty-ninth Annual Report* in 1915, a photo essay was published as an attractive pamphlet, no doubt created as part of the larger fundraising appeal, which provides some details on the residents of the institution at that time:

³⁶ Deed: Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on Lives and Granting Annuities to The House of St. Michael and All Angels, 16 October 1894, Philadelphia Deed Book J.J.C., No. 9, p. 147, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 609 North 43rd Street.

³⁷ *American Journal of Care for Cripples*. (Federation of Associations for Cripples, 1915), 129.

³⁸ *Twenty-Sixth Annual Report of the House of St. Michael and All Angels for Young Colored Cripples*. (Philadelphia: 31 August 1913), 12.



Figure 25. Coming Through The Gate. Source: House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

SOME PICTURES OF HOME LIFE

WITH NOTES BY SISTER KATHERINE.

[FIGURE 25.] COMING THROUGH THE GATE.

Of the four in the group on the page opposite, three are almost ready to "graduate," as they have had their deformities removed. Helen, the child in the middle, had dreadfully clubbed feet, which are now so straight no one would know they were ever deformed. Hannah, on Helen's left, is one of two sisters sent to us by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The elder of the two children, eleven years old, is badly deformed and has never been to school. The younger one, here pictured, had very bowed legs, which have now been straightened. They were found in a filthy tenement, their only caretaker an old grandfather; both parents are dead.

Katharine, the foremost of the group, and on the reader's left, was one of the most deformed children ever admitted to the institution. She was then ten years old, and only thirty-six inches tall. Her knees nearly touched the ground, and she walled, as one observer said, "like a centipede." Now, after several operations, her lower limbs are fairly straight, and she has gained three and a half inches in height. She is

learning to read at home, but we hope before long to have a special class in one of the schools for our crippled children, and Katharine is eagerly looking forward to going to a "real" school.



Figure 26. Left: The Twins. Figure 27. Right: John. Source: *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 1915), 14-20. Source: House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

[FIGURE 26.] THE TWINS.

The twins (on the left of this picture) were two babies who came to us in the Spring of 1914, both rachitic and unable to stand, although they were two years old. At the end of the summer Josephine (the one lying down) was able to go home, quite well and straight, and Frances left in March of this year as healthy and bonnie a baby as one would wish to see.

Little Alfred (in the middle of the group) was left here by his mother in December, 1913, when he was a year and a half old. The mother disappeared two weeks later. He is very rachitic and has chronic bronchitis, but is a merry little chap and a great pet in the nursery; he cannot walk yet. Little Margaret, the last of the group, has just entered from the hospital, where both legs were operated on for "knock knee." She is five years old, but only began to walk while at the seashore last summer.

[FIGURE 27.] JOHN.

John has been with us two years. His hands were in plaster for some weeks, with the hope of straightening the wrists prior to operation. During that time he would pick up anything he wanted with his teeth. In spite of his deformity he can get into more mischief than any child in the house.

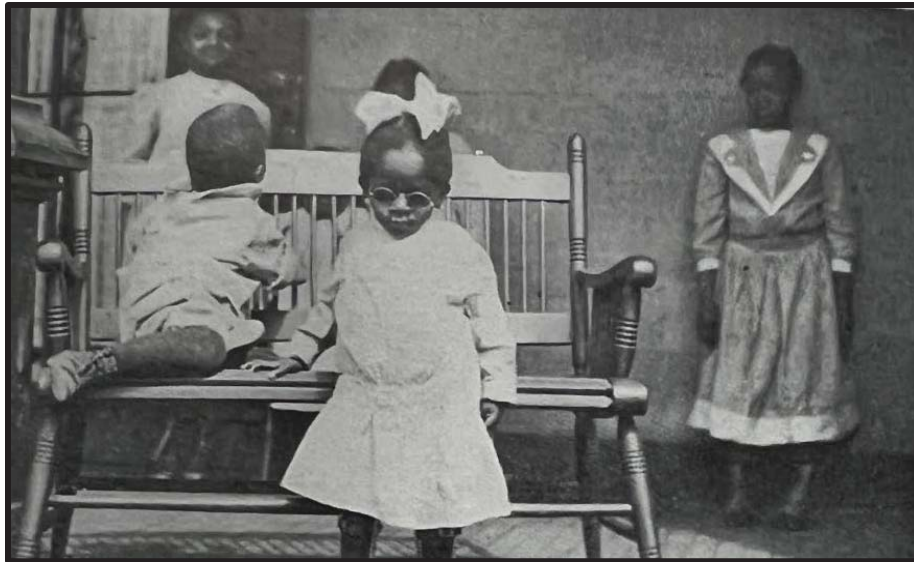


Figure 28. Top: On The Porch. Figure 29. Bottom: Another Scene On The Porch. Source: *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 1915), 14-20. Source: House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

[FIGURE 28.] ON THE PORCH.

Elizabeth, the larger of the two children, is eight years old. She has one paralyzed leg, but with her new brace is able to get to school. She has only been with us for a few months, and before she came she had received very little attention of any kind. Rosie, the other child, is six years old, and is a dear little girl.

[FIGURE 29.] ANOTHER SCENE ON THE PORCH.

Little Lillian, in the foreground, is a pathetic little scrap with very crooked legs and scarcely any sight. Her mother, a hard working respectable woman, has cataracts on both eyes, and the doctors give her no hope of saving her sight. She is very worried for fear her little girl has inherited her trouble. The children in the back are some of our older girls. The one on the right of the picture has a tubercular spine.

Of the gratitude of the children themselves for the care they have received we have frequent testimony. One of our girls who went out to service a year ago, and is earning \$3.50 a week, has decided to give 75 cents a week to the support of the Home. Another terribly deformed girl, who has been out for fifteen years living in one place, where she earns her board and clothing and a little pocket money, always comes to spend her holidays and brings some little gifts for the children, paper dolls or odds and ends for dolls' clothes, etc.

A few weeks ago we admitted a child twelve years old who is almost blind. Her mother did not come to see her for two weeks, as she said whenever she had visited her in the hospital she had cried so at being left that it made her feel very badly.

Marie was called to see her and seemed very pleased, but after talking to her for a few moments she said, "Mamma, are you going soon?" Her mother said, "Yes, in a few minutes." "Very well then, I'll say good-bye," and off she went back to the other children. Her mother looked after her in amazement, and said, "Well, now, don't that tell a tale!"³⁹

The residents described were present at a moment in the mid-1910s when issues related to child welfare, including disabled children, were gaining priority in the medical and charitable communities. It was around 1914-15 that the Russell Sage Foundation, founded in 1907 for "the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States" by Margaret Olivia Sage, visited the House of SMAACCC as part of a larger study—*Child Welfare Work in Pennsylvania*. They found a facility "valued at \$13,600" with an endowment of \$35,000 with a maximum capacity of 40.⁴⁰ While some institutions in Pennsylvania were racially integrated, many more were white only, and those that were somewhat liberal accepted many fewer African Americans in need.

³⁹ *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 1915), 14-20. Source: House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

⁴⁰ William Henry Slingerland. *Child Welfare Work in Pennsylvania*. (The Russell Sage Foundation, Dept. of Child-helping, 1915), 106.

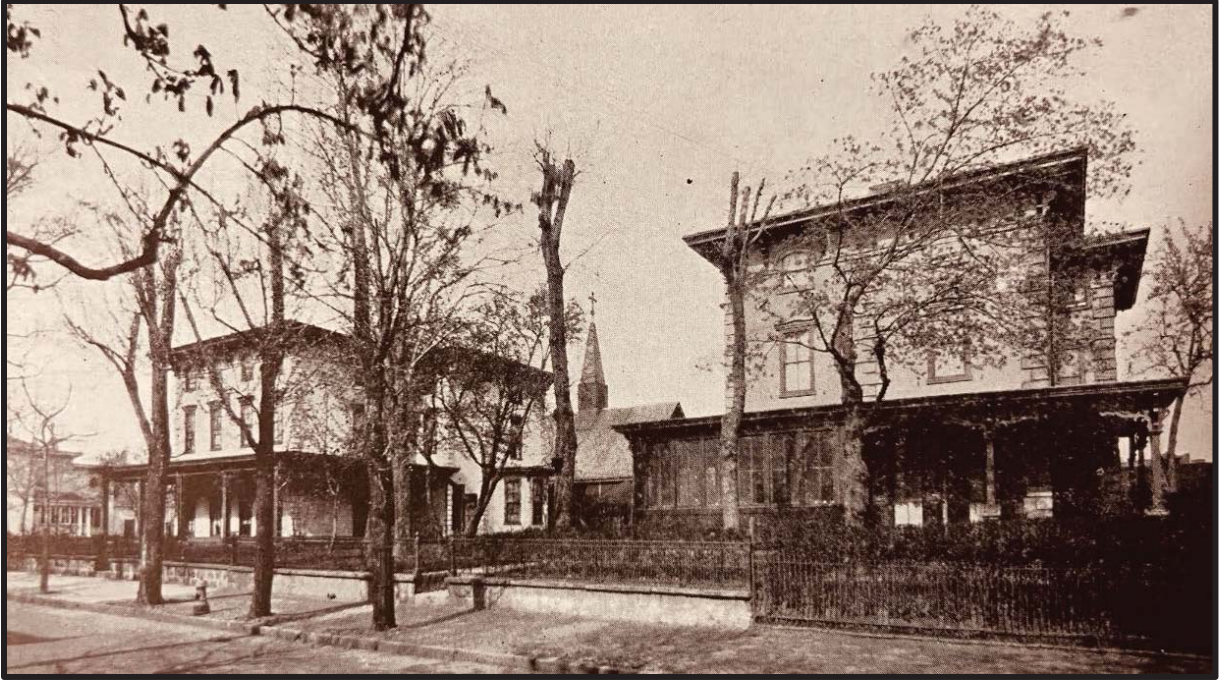


Figure 30. The institution as it stood in 1915, with the purchase of Building 5. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

The study found the following institutions dedicated exclusively to serving African American children by 1915 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

- Allegheny Institution (Avery College), Pittsburgh;
- Bethany's Orphan's Home, Philadelphia, serving 35;
- Coleman Industrial Home for Colored Boys, Pittsburgh, serving 149;
- Colored Women's Relief Association Home, Pittsburgh;
- Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School, Downingtown, near Philadelphia;
- Eastbrooke Home for Destitute Negro Children, Eastbrook, serving 20;
- Holy Provident House, Cornwells, serving 215;
- Home for Colored Children, Termon Avenue, Pittsburgh, serving 60;
- Home for Destitute Colored Children, Philadelphia, serving 34;
- Home of Association for Colored Women, Philadelphia, serving 39;
- House of SMAACCC, Philadelphia, serving 37;
- House of the Holy Child, "a negro orphanage," Philadelphia;
- Pennsylvania Industrial School, Eagleville;
- Shelter for Colored Orphans, serving Philadelphia, serving 57; and
- St. Mary Magdalen Asylum for Colored Girls, at Germantown in Philadelphia, serving 135.⁴¹

⁴¹ William Henry Slingerland. *Child Welfare Work in Pennsylvania*. (The Russell Sage Foundation, Dept. of Child-helping, 1915).

Of these institutions, there were just six in Pennsylvania “devoted entirely to the orthopedic care and vocation and other training of crippled children,” including Children’s House of the Home for Incurables, Home of the Merciful Saviour for Crippled Children, House of St. Michael and All Angels, Widener Memorial School, Industrial Home for Crippled Children, and Sewickley Fresh Air Home.⁴² The House of SMAACCC was the only one of those institutions devoted entirely to the care of African American children with physical disabilities.



Figure 31. The female residents of the House of SMAACCC. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.

Perhaps the most illustrative metaphor on the insufficient resources available for the African American community can be found through a cost comparison with institutions with similar missions. Comparing three institutions for crippled children in Philadelphia, the House of SMAACCC had the lowest cost per bed at \$453 compared to the other two at \$2,739 and \$1,936.⁴³ While from an accounting perspective this may appear to be efficient, the fact is the other two organizations served white people, meaning that there were much greater resources available for both accommodation and treatment.

The Russell Sage Foundation’s study also documented acceptance standards of the House of SMAACCC, allowing “boys from two to nine years, and girls of any age, from two years up,” though the male children were usually “dismissed at age ten,” while the females were able to stay

⁴² William Henry Slingerland. *Child Welfare Work in Pennsylvania*. (The Russell Sage Foundation, Dept. of Child-helping, 1915), 105-08.

⁴³ William Henry Slingerland. *Child Welfare Work in Pennsylvania*. (The Russell Sage Foundation, Dept. of Child-helping, 1915), 110.

until eighteen years of age.⁴⁴⁴⁵ Those being served were “usually kept at the home for several years and given the best of medical and surgical attention by prominent Philadelphia specialists, the aim being to make them physically fit for the battle of life.”⁴⁶ In October 1915, “a bequest of Miss Elizabeth S. Shippen enabled the Trustees to purchase” the House of SMAACCC purchased 611 North 43rd Street (Building 5 and the northerly half of the 609 North. 43rd Street twin), from John Ennis, Jr.⁴⁷

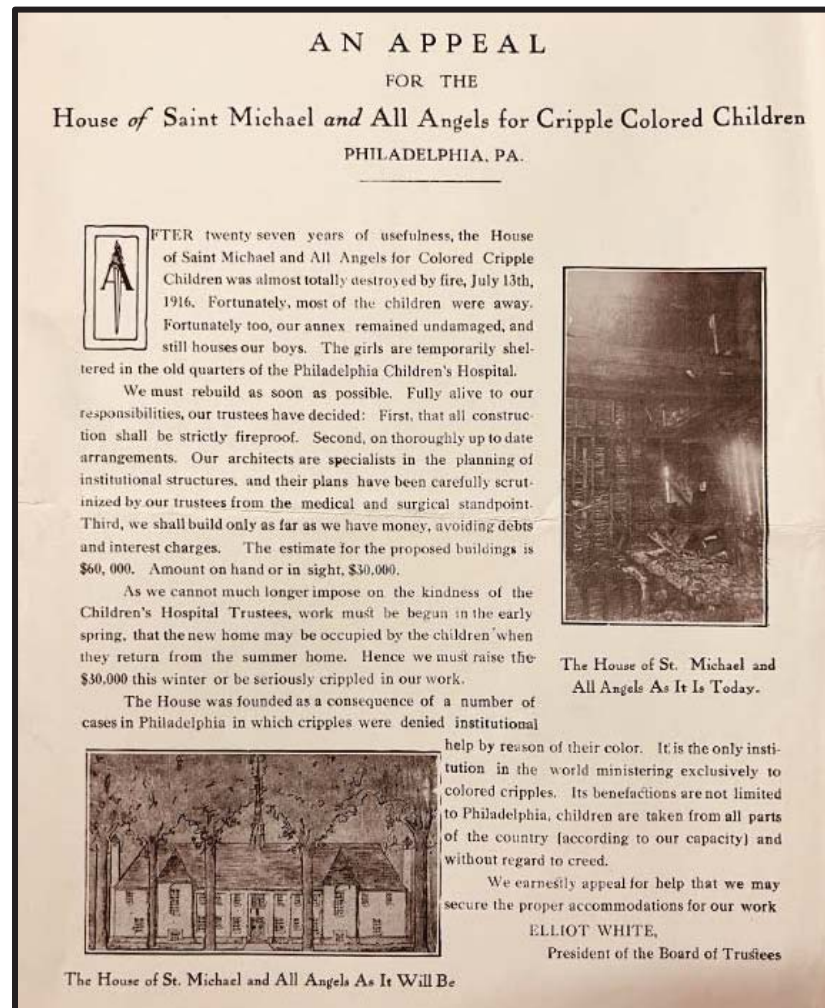


Figure 32. Pamphlet: An Appeal for the House of Saint Michael and All Angels for Cripple Colored Children, Philadelphia, PA. (1916). Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.

⁴⁴ William Henry Slingerland. *Child Welfare Work in Pennsylvania*. (The Russell Sage Foundation, Dept. of Child-helping, 1915), 106.

⁴⁵ *American Journal of Care for Cripples*. (Federation of Associations for Cripples, 1915), 129.

⁴⁶ *American Journal of Care for Cripples*. (Federation of Associations for Cripples, 1915), 129.

⁴⁷ *Thirtieth Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 31 October 1916). Source: House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.; Deed: John Ennis, Jr., et. ux., to House of St. Michael & All Angels, 7 October 1915, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 538, p. 336, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 611 North 43rd Street.

Catastrophe struck the House of SMAACCC in July 1916, when at least one of the twin dwellings suffered a major fire, destroying the building's interior. The only immediate reprieve was that the children were away at the Sea Isle City house at the time of the fire, though this occurrence certainly put a damper on their operations and any plans for expansion.⁴⁸ This led to extensive fundraising with a greater hope for a large institutional building.⁴⁹ While these plans were never fully realized, sufficient funds were raised to repair the damage.

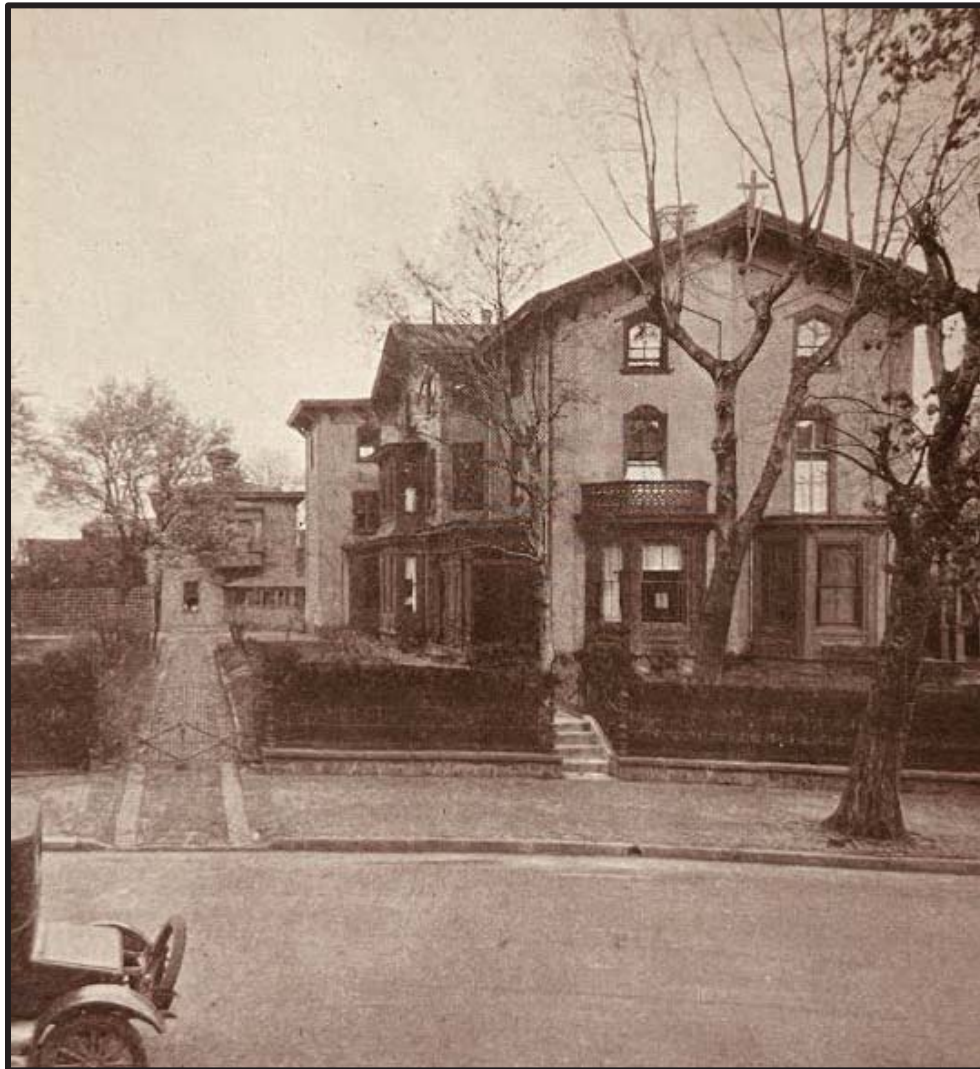


Figure 33. A photograph of Building 8 in the rear, Building 7 (half of the twin), Building 6 (half of the twin), no longer extant, in the late 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

⁴⁸ "Fire Sweeps Negro Home For Children, Absence of Inmates at Sea Isle City Prevents Tragedy Here," *Evening Public Ledger*, 14 July 1916, 3.

⁴⁹ Pamphlet: *An Appeal for the House of Saint Michael and All Angels for Cripple Colored Children*, Philadelphia, PA. (ca.1916). Source: House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

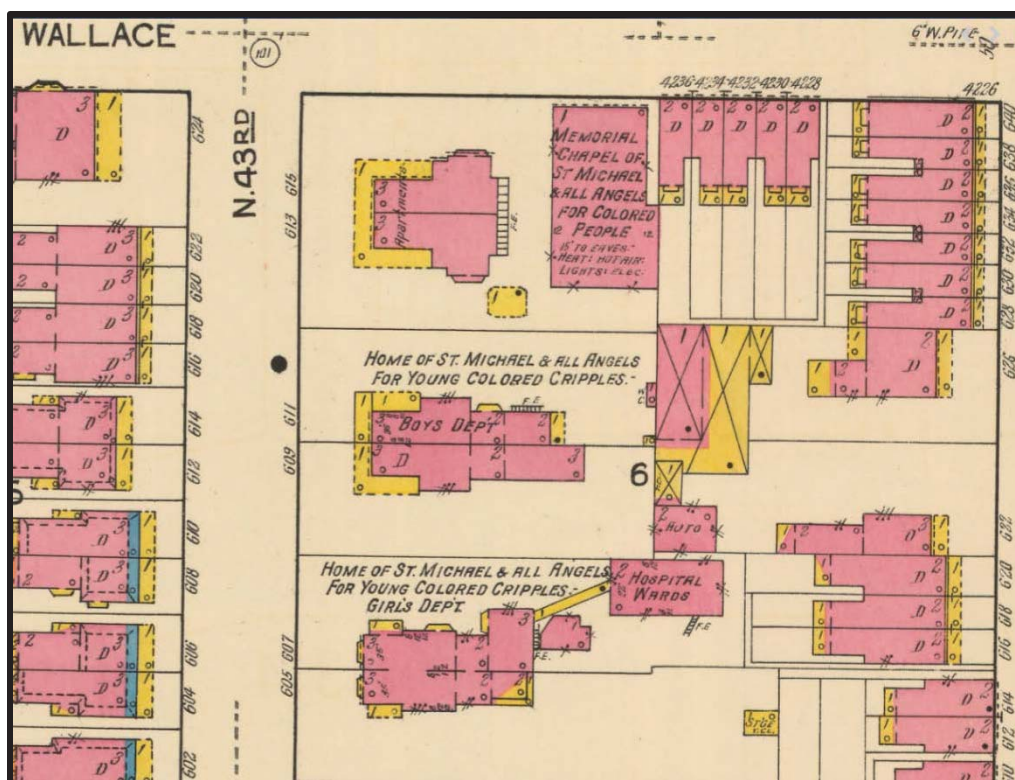


Figure 34. 1922 Philadelphia Atlas. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

By 1918, the appropriate funds were raised to purchase the twin dwellings at 605 and 607 North 43rd Street, which included a large carriage house at 607 North 43rd Street.⁵⁰ In sequence, these buildings would have comprised Buildings 6, 7, and 8; however, since these buildings have been demolished, the associated parcels are not included in the nomination. The addition of these buildings to the larger facility led to a reorganization of the property and its uses. Buildings 1 and 2 were converted to affordable apartments for African American families, Buildings 3 and 4 were used as the Boy's House, Buildings 6 and 7 were converted to the Girls' House, and Building 8, the carriage house, became the Infirmary.⁵¹ These improvements expanded the institution's capacity to 50 children⁵²

While there was always a growing need for the House of SMAACCC to serve more children, there was some racial integration by the 1910s and 1920s. Nevertheless, the primary organizations that exclusively served African American children continued to expand and evolve. By 1929, the following institutions were engaged in serving African American children in Philadelphia: Women's Christian Alliance, Robert Woods Industrial Home, House of the Holy Child, House of

⁵⁰ Deed: John McAllister, et. ux. to House of St. Michael & All Angels, 14 June 1918, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 409, p. 6, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 607 North 43rd Street.; and Deed: Ebenezer Adams, et.ux. to House of St. Michael & All Angels, 20 August 1918, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 381, p. 309, CAP. This deed is related to the house at 605 North 43rd Street.

⁵¹ *Thirty-seventh Annual Report of The House of St. Michael and All Angels for Colored Cripple Children*. (Philadelphia: 1923).

⁵² *Bulletin*. United States, n.p, 1926.

St. Michael and All Angels, Shelter for Colored Orphans (Cheyney), and St. Mary's Home for Girls. The total capacity of all of these institutions was 380.⁵³

In 1933, there were "55 inmates" at the House of SMAACCC and the buildings that comprised the historic campus proved insufficient to serve the occupants and accommodate expansion. That same year, an effort to raise "funds to erect new home in Ambler, Pa.," where six - acres of land had been previously acquired.⁵⁴ This movement began when the subject property included a house for boys; a house for girls; a priest's house; a church building, seating 350 persons; a Church school; an Apartment house with six units – rentals \$30 to \$38 a month.⁵⁵

By the mid-1930s, the House of SMAACCC, along with many other institutions, were feeling the effects of the Great Depression. In fact, the organization's finances declined so significantly that seven members of the Board of Trustees resigned in February 1935.⁵⁶ As a result, an entirely new board was formed, including old Philadelphia names like Mrs. Edward Ingersoll, Mrs. B. Franklin Pepper, George Wharton Pepper, E. Washington Rhoads, and Rev. C.E. Snowden. The officers were John T. Custis, President; Herbert Church, Vice-President, Ernest Scott, Secretary; and Charles P. Maule, Trustees. The Sisters of St. Margaret continued to manage the daily operations of the institution with Sister Katherine as Sister in Charge.⁵⁷ Eventually, at least one woman of color joined the board: Crystal Bird Fauset, the "First Negro Woman Nominee For Legislature" in Philadelphia.⁵⁸

In July 1938, John T. Custis, President of the Board of Trustees, announced that the institution's historic campus would be vacated and that "some the crippled children...[had been] transferred to the House of the Holy Child near Ambler, Pa., some placed in foster homes, and the remainder returned to their own homes."⁵⁹

⁵³ "Negroes in Position to Help in Situation Are Criminally Indifferent, City Official Points Out in Interview, Church is Not Measuring Up," *Philadelphia Tribune*, 18 July 1929, 9.

⁵⁴ "55 INMATES IN PRESENT W. PHILA. HOME, St. Michael and All Angels Home For Crippled Children Seeking Funds to Erect New Home in Ambler, Pa." *Philadelphia Tribune*, 2 February 1933, 7.

⁵⁵ "55 INMATES IN PRESENT W. PHILA. HOME, St. Michael and All Angels Home For Crippled Children Seeking Funds to Erect New Home in Ambler, Pa." *Philadelphia Tribune*, 2 February 1933, 7.

⁵⁶ Letter: Ernest Scott of the Law Offices of Pepper, Bodine, Stokes & Schoch to The Rt. Rev. Francis M. Taitt, Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, 25 February 1935. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

⁵⁷ Pamphlet: What has happened to your money? (Philadelphia: House of St. Michael and All Angels, 1935). Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

⁵⁸ First Negro Woman Nominee For Legislature Sought By Party Leaders," *Philadelphia Tribune*, 2 June 1938, 8.

⁵⁹ "Going Out of Business?", No! Crippled Home Aide Reply, St. Michael And All Angels Will Continue For Colored Crippled Children," *Philadelphia Tribune*, 21 July 1938, 3.



Figure 35. The House of SMAACCC Summer Home at Sea Isle City, New Jersey in the 1910s. Source: Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania.

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This nomination was completed through a partnership between the University City Historical Society and the Keeping Society of Philadelphia with the primary author as Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian and Historic Preservationist, with assistance from J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian, and Kelly E. Wiles, Architectural Historian. The nominator and the author appreciate the assistance of Michael Krasulski, Archivist, who provided access to the House of St. Michael and All Angels Colored Cripple Children Collection, Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. In addition, both the nominator and the author appreciate the review and comment conducted by Deborah Gary, Founder of the Society to Preserve Philadelphia African American Assets.

The following sites were used to create the nomination:

Archives of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network
Newspapers.com

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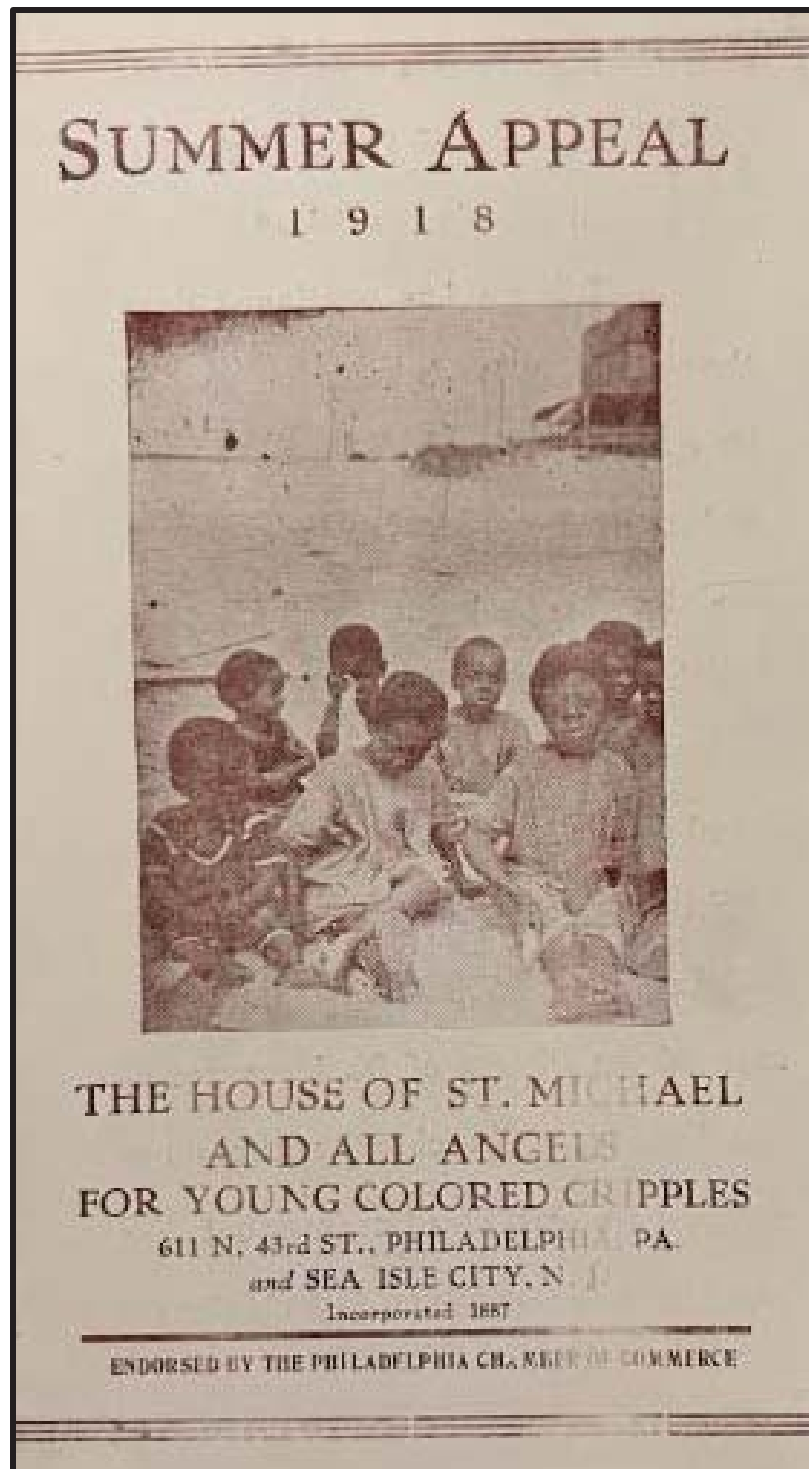


Figure 36. Pamphlet: Summer Appeal 1918. (Philadelphia: The House of St. Michael and All Angels For Young Colored Cripples, 1918). Source: Archives of the Episcopal Dioceses of Pennsylvania.