

**NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE *(must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)*

Street address: 6700 Lincoln Drive

Postal code: 19119

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: _____

Current/Common Name: C. DeLores Tucker house

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building

Structure

Site

Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: excellent good fair poor ruins

Occupancy: occupied vacant under construction unknown

Current use: Single-family residence

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 1917 to 2005

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1917

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: W. Frisbey Smith

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: James N. Mitchell

Original owner: Henry C. Rentschler

Other significant persons: Cynthia DeLores Tucker

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

9. NOMINATOR

Organization Historical Commission staff Date 4/20/2023

Name with Title Laura DiPasquale, Historic Preservation Planner Email laura.dipasquale@phila.gov

Street Address 1515 Arch St, 13th Floor Telephone 215-686-7660

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19102

Nominator is is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 4/20/2023

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 4/20/2023

Date of Notice Issuance: 4/21/2023

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Frank and Kim Dempsey Miller

Address: 6700 Lincoln Drive

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19119

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 5/24/2023

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 6/9/2023

Date of Final Action: 6/9/2023

Designated Rejected

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the Westerly side of Lincoln Avenue with the Northeasterly side of McCallum Street; thence extending North 20 degrees 12 minutes 14 seconds East along the said side of Lincoln Avenue 50 feet to a point; Thence extending still further Northeastwardly on a line curving to the left with a radius of 798 feet 5 5/8 inches and including an angle of 3 degrees 35 minutes 16 seconds along the said side of Lincoln Avenue 50 feet to a point; thence extending North 73 degrees 23 minutes 2 seconds West 132 feet 5.5 inches to a point; thence extending North 24 degrees 48 minutes 58 seconds East 11 feet 6 inches to a point; thence extending North 65 degrees 11 minutes 2 seconds West 20 feet 3 3/8 inches to a point; thence extending South 24 degrees 48 minutes 58 seconds West 32 feet 1 3/8 inches to a point on the said side of McCallum Street; and thence extending along the same South 44 degrees 44 minutes 23 seconds East 171 feet 9 5/8 inches to the first mentioned point and place of beginning.¹

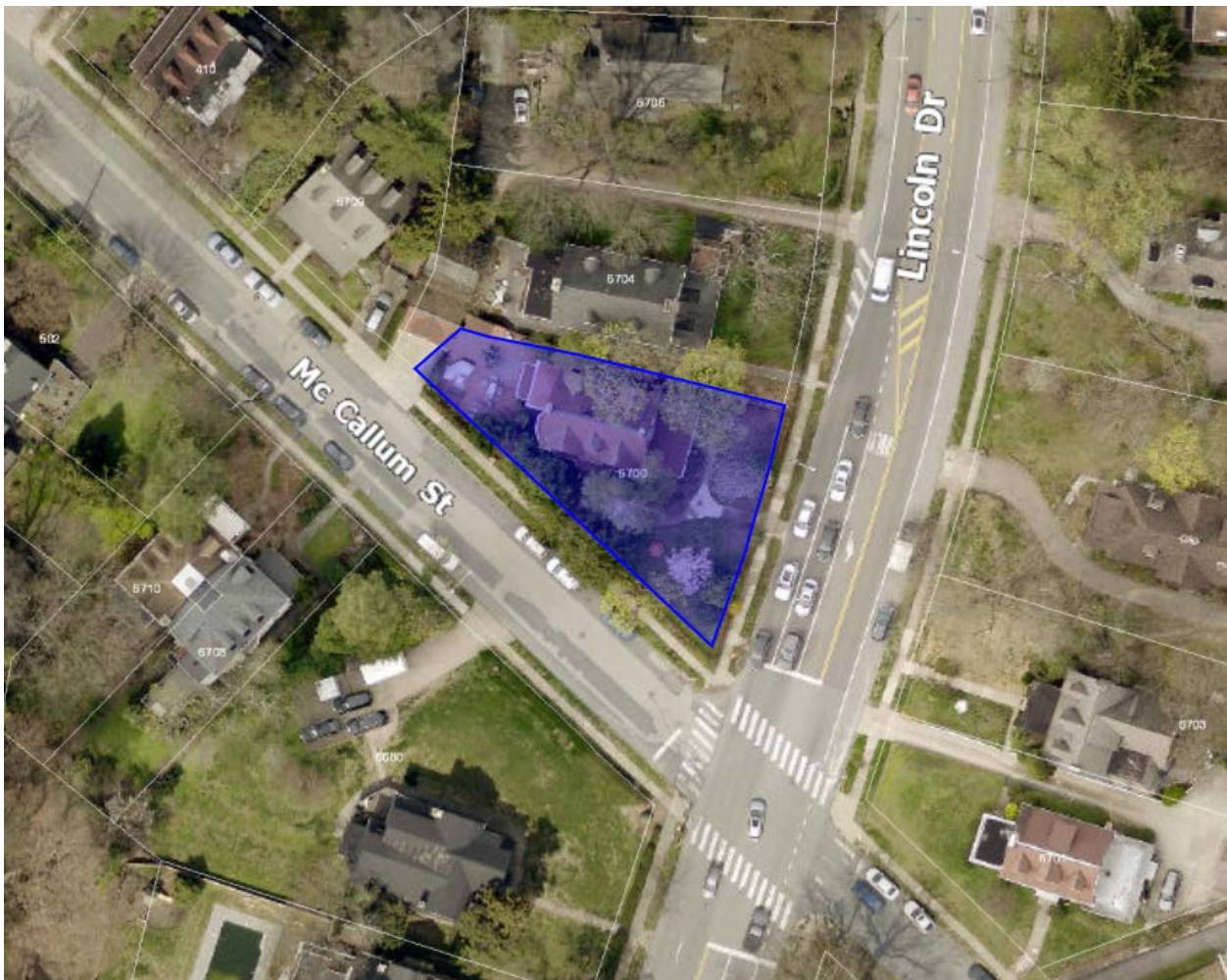


Figure 1: Aerial view of the property at 6700 Lincoln Drive. Source: Atlas.phila.gov

¹ City of Philadelphia, PhilaDox Eweb, Doc. 53540659, 7/8/2019.

6. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The C. Delores Tucker residence at 6700 Lincoln Drive is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of McCallum Street and Lincoln Drive in the Mount Airy neighborhood of Northwest Philadelphia. The free-standing Tudor Revival residence is set on a sizable triangular lot in the context of similar early-twentieth century single-family and twin dwellings on large lots. The primary façade of the house faces southwest towards McCallum Street, while the east elevation is parallel to Lincoln Drive. The freestanding house is set back from both streets and obstructed from direct view by large evergreen trees of varying species, the tallest of which is an estimated 140 feet tall while the house is approximately 33 feet tall. On McCallum Street there is an entrance via a front gate in a wood fence that surrounds the property.

The dwelling is a 3-bay wide by 4-bay deep, 2.5-story Tudor Revival house. The first floor is clad in rubble stone (likely Wissahickon schist or gneiss) set to course, while the upper floors are pebble-dashed stucco with faux half-timbering over brick, meant to resemble wattle and daub construction, popular in the Tudor Revival style. The building has a red terra cotta tiled side-gabled roof that is intersected by symmetrical gabled wall dormers, between which are set smaller hipped dormers. Stone chimneys rise along the centers of the exterior side walls of the main block. A one-story stone extension with a hipped roof spans the width of the east elevation of the main block. A two-story stone and half-timbered addition rises along the northern half of the west elevation, and a shallow, one-story, three-sided bay—added to the dining room in 1924 by the original owner Henry C. Rentschler—is located along the southern half of the west elevation of the main block.



Figure 2: MLS photograph, c. 2019. Source: Zillow.com



Figure 3: Looking northwest towards the south and east elevations. Source: Spencer Rubino, 2021.



Figure 4: Broad view of property from McCallum Street, looking north. Source: Cyclomedia, January 2023.



Figure 5: View from the intersection of McCallum Street (left) and Lincoln Drive (right). Source: Cyclomedia, January 2023.

Front (McCallum Street) Elevation

The primary façade of the building, which faces towards McCallum Street, is accessed by a series of stone steps leading to a slate patio, partially covered by a central gabled porch with a faux timbering held up by two timber posts. Built-in benches with decorative carvings form the railings of the porch extension behind the columns. A pent roof extends to either side of the porch roof, spanning most of the front façade, and is supported by large decorative brackets. The porch roof and flanking pent roof are clad in asphalt shingles. The first-floor entry features a centered 9-lite wood front door with nine panels below. There are two multi-pane sidelites that flank the front door as well as multi-lite transoms over the door and sidelites. To either side of the entrance bay are three sets of 4-over-4 wood windows below continuous flat arch lintels.

On the second floor there is a central tripartite bay window with four vertically-oriented 10-lite (2-by-5) casement windows. Like the first floor below, the flanking bays feature three sets of 4-over-4 windows.

At the third floor, the central hipped dormer features a 6-over-6 window. Two 6-lite casements sit below the peak of the gabled wall dormers, which feature exposed rafter tails and decorative verge boards with detailing matching that of the gabled porch.



Figure 6: Front façade of 6700 Lincoln Drive, from McCallum Street, February 2023.



Figure 7: McCallum Street façade, February 2023.



Figure 8: Details of front entry. Source: Zillow.com, MLS photographs, c. 2019.

East (Lincoln Drive) Elevation

The first floor of the east elevation is covered by a wide extension constructed out of ashlar stone, off of the original living room. The extension's south elevation features four 4-over-6 lite windows. The center two windows are slightly wider than the flanking windows. The east elevation of the extension features a centered, 8-lite wood door with a 3-lite transom. Flanking the doorway are sets of four multi-lite windows. The hipped roof of the extension meets the stone chimney mounted centrally to the east elevation of the main block.

The second floor of the east elevation features a central stone chimney that extends past the roof ridge. There is an ornate diamond pattern that sits centrally in the chimney. Flanking the chimney are two 6-over-6 double-hung windows spaced symmetrically on either side. In the gable end of the east elevation, single 6-over-6 double-hung windows flank the chimney.



Figure 9: East elevation, from Lincoln Drive. Source: Cyclomedia, January 2023.

West Elevation

The first floor of the west elevation features a bay window addition with a hipped roof on the southern end with a central 8-over-8 double-hung window flanked by two 6-over-6 double-hung windows on the other sides of the bay. Above the bay is a wood cornice that runs the length of the bay. A central stone chimney rises the height of the west elevation of the main block, extending past the roof ridge. On the northern end of the west elevation is a two-story extension with an attached one-story infilled porch. The first floor of the extension is stone, while the second floor is stucco and half-timbered. The infilled porch extension features pairs of 8-lite casements set within arched wood columns. Below the windows sits a wood rail supported by baulsters. The porch has a hipped roof with red asphalt shingles. At the second floor of the west elevation, there are two individual 6-over-6 double hung windows in both the west wall of the addition and in the side wall of the main block. Individual 6-over-6 double hung windows also flank the chimney at the third floor of the main block west elevation. The gable end has decorative verge boards.



Figure 10: West elevation, from McCallum Street. Source: Cyclomedia, January 2023.

North (Rear) Elevation

The first floor of the north elevation features 6-over-6 double-hung windows with flat arches. The second floor, which is divided from the first by a thick band, likewise features 6-over-6 double-hung windows. A pair of 6-over-6 double hung windows is located below the overhanging eave at the center of the second floor. Pairs of 6-lite casements can be found below the gable ends of the wall dormers at the third floor, as can a hipped dormer that matches that on the front elevation. At the western end of the north elevation of the main block, the second-floor wall continues in a flat plane into the north elevation of the two-story western extension.



Figure 11: North elevation, from Lincoln Drive, looking south towards McCallum Street. Source: Spencer Rubino, 2021.

Garage

Northwest of the house along McCallum Street is a 1.5-story garage designed in the same Tudor Revival style as the house, with a side-gable form, stone walls at the first floor and stucco and decorative half-timbering above, and a red tile roof. The garage was constructed one year after the main house, in 1918, and designed by the same architect.² The primary façade of the garage has a set of large paneled wood garage doors. Each door has three 4-lite windows. Strap hinges connect the doors to the stone walls. Set into the front slope of the roof above is a wide gabled dormer with a pair of 6-over-6 double-hung wood windows. The red asphalt roof of the dormer has overhanging eaves and decorative vergeboards.

The east elevation of the garage has a door into the fenced yard of the property at the first floor and a single 6-over-6 double-hung window located below gable of the roof.

The west elevation of the garage has two 6-over-6 double-hung windows with plank frames and flat headers at the first floor.

The north elevation of the garage is attached to the garage of the neighboring property.

² Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide, v. 33, 11/27/1918, p. 649: "Garage, McCallum street west of Lincoln drive, \$2,500. Architect, W. Frisbey Smith, northeast corner Broad and Arch streets. Owner, Jas. N. Mitchell, 4 S. Farragut terrace, Philadelphia. Stone, 1 story and attic, 20x20 1/2 ft., tile roof, cement and wood floor, electric lighting. Owner will build."



Figure 12: South and west elevations of the garage. Source: Cyclomedia, January 2023.



Figure 13: South and east elevations of the garage. Source: Cyclomedia, January 2023.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1917 on a design by architect W. Frisbey Smith, the property at 6700 Lincoln Drive is historically significant and should be listed individually on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Pursuant to Section 14-1004(1) of the Philadelphia Code, the property satisfies Criteria for Designation A and D. The property:

- 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,
- D. Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen.

Under Criterion A, the property is significant for its association with C. DeLores Tucker, a civil rights activist and first female African American Secretary of State in the nation, who owned and lived in the property from 1959 until her death in 2005. Under Criterion D, the residence is a prime example of Tudor Revival residential architecture in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of the larger Germantown section of Philadelphia.

Development and Construction of 6700 Lincoln Drive

The construction of 6700 Lincoln Drive and development of it and its surrounding context was a result of a few factors in the history of the Mt. Airy and larger Germantown neighborhoods. By the mid-nineteenth century, Germantown was experiencing a development boom due to the prospects of the railroad which now ran through Germantown, providing transportation to those seeking to flee the crowded city center for the peace of the suburbs for new beginnings or stately homes. Despite an influx of residents of all different creeds, Germantown kept its quaint village characteristics with small stone buildings and cottage-like appeal well into the nineteenth century.³ This provided wealthy individuals and developers with an existing context to design within. Lincoln Drive, a road characterized by its twists and turns, scenic views, and historical surroundings, did a great deal in developing the Mt. Airy and Germantown neighborhoods. Established in the 1850s, the first section of Lincoln Drive was built as a private toll road between East Falls and Rittenhouse Town known as the

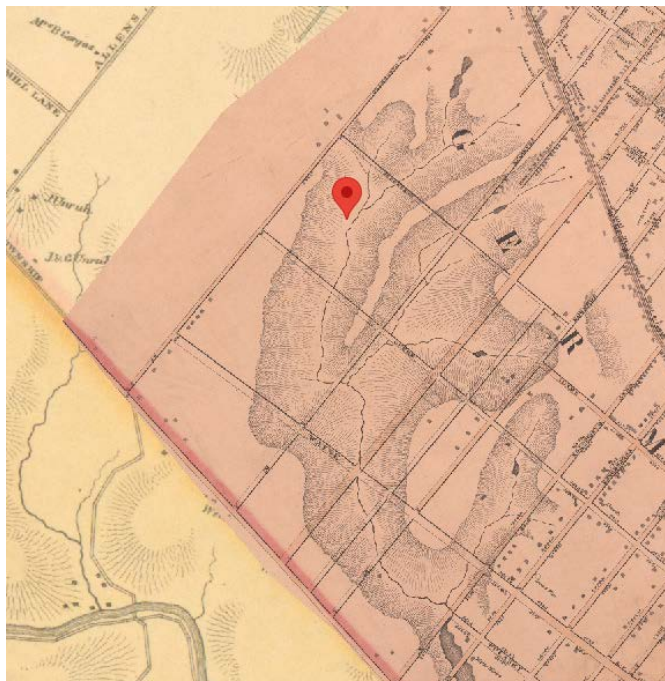


Figure 14: Detail of the 1862 Samuel Smedley Atlas of the City of Philadelphia showing the future location of 6700 Lincoln Drive along the Monoshone Creek, a tributary to the Wissahickon Creek. Germantown Avenue is the developed road cutting diagonally across the right-hand side of the map. Some early streets in the area have been plotted but not yet constructed. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

³ John Palmer Garber et al., *History of Old Germantown: with a Description of Its Settlement and Some Account of Its Important Persons, Buildings and Places Connected with Its Development* (H.F. McCann, 1907), 116.

Wissahickon Turnpike, and provided access to the mills along the Wissahickon Creek. After the city's Fairmount Park Commission acquired the land and razed the mills along the Wissahickon in 1870, Wissahickon Turnpike was renamed Wissahickon Lane and provided access to the growing park system as well as the lower portion of Germantown.⁴

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the demand for good roads following the explosion in automobile ownership coupled with the need for a modern sewer system between Germantown and Chestnut Hill culminated in the expansion of Wissahickon Lane into the Mt. Airy neighborhood. Renamed Lincoln Avenue (Avenue was changed to Drive in 1931), the winding road took its form from a small stream known as Monoshone Creek that was channelized and buried in sewer pipes beneath it. Built in the City Beautiful tradition, the new road served both functional and aesthetic purposes, providing a faster, smoother, and more verdant connection to Center City than the cobblestoned Germantown Avenue.⁵

During this time of transportation expansion, investors and real estate magnates started buying up unused farmland and properties to sell to developers. Edward T. Stotesbury and John H. McClatchy were key figures in the development of Mt. Airy/Germantown, and both had their hands in the creation of 6700 Lincoln Drive. Edward T. Stotesbury (1849-1938) was a businessman and lead financier of Drexel & Co. and partner in Drexel, Morgan & Co., which were important companies in railroad construction.⁶ Stotesbury bought up land around the railroad, including the land on the west side of the Philadelphia, Germantown & Chestnut Hill line, where 6700 Lincoln Drive and its surrounding neighbors were developed.⁷

In 1912, John H. McClatchy, a notable developer in northwest Philadelphia, bought the land that 6700 Lincoln Drive was built upon from Edward T. Stotesbury. Though McClatchy had developed and built a few houses on the 6900 block of Lincoln Drive, he did not develop it himself.⁸ The property changed hands a few times in the 1910s, between John McClatchy, John Donlan, and James N. Mitchell, who developed the property in 1917.⁹ Scottish-born, Mitchell originally started in general construction before moving to London and then Philadelphia in 1900. By the 1910s, Mitchell had established himself in the area as a specialist in residential construction.¹⁰ While James Mitchell financed the construction and permit for 6700 Lincoln Drive, he relied on an architect for its design. Mitchell hired architect W. Frisbey Smith, among whose most notable local work was the monolithic Georgian Revival apartment building The Wissahickon at 5215-31 Schuyler Street, constructed in 1911.¹¹

⁴ Bradly Flamm, "Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia," in *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia* (Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia), accessed April 1, 2021, <https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/lincoln-drive/>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Edward Townsend Stotesbury." In *Dictionary of American Biography*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944. *Gale In Context: Biography* (accessed April 8, 2021).

⁷ Geo W. Bromley and Walter S. Bromley, *Athenaeum of Philadelphia, Athenaeum of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley & Co., 1895 and 1910).

⁸ "Real Estate For Sale." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 1, 1925.

⁹ City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, 1917-4002. 7/20/1917.

¹⁰ "Mitchell, James N.," Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (The Athenaeum of Philadelphia), accessed March 25, 2021, https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/92928.

¹¹ "Smith, W. Frisbey (fl. 1890-1927)," Philadelphia Architects and Buildings (The Athenaeum of Philadelphia), accessed April 19, 2023, https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display_projects.cfm/25649.



Figure 15: Detail of the 1910 G.W. Bromley Atlas of the City of Philadelphia showing the development of and around Lincoln Drive. The land on which 6700 Lincoln Drive would be constructed seven years later was then owned by Edward T. Stotesbury. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

Criterion D: Tudor Revival style

For the design of 6700 Lincoln Drive, W. Frisbey Smith chose the Tudor Revival, one of several revival styles popular at the time. The Tudor Revival style of architecture made its way from the United Kingdom to the United States in the last decades of the nineteenth century, a time when a variety of period revivals were increasing in popularity and architects borrowed freely from historic styles. The Tudor Revival style was particularly popular at the turn of the century in suburban neighborhoods such as Mt. Airy and Overbrook Farms, which were developed in opposition to the mass production of the industrial city. Despite the Tudor name, the style was actually based loosely on a variety the late Medieval English prototypes, and is characterized by steeply pitched roofs, half-timbering, tall mullioned windows, high chimneys, dormer windows, and sometimes even thatched



Figure 16: This 1911 Tudor Revival design by Horace Trumbauer in Overbrook Farms shares many similar characteristics to 6700 Lincoln Drive, including its materials, form, massing, and fenestration.

roofs.¹² In the United States, unlike Medieval England, half-timbering is almost exclusively a decorative element, with false timbers and stucco applied over frame or brick construction, as was the case for 6700 Lincoln Drive.¹³ According to the 1917 building permit for the construction of 6700 Lincoln Drive, the building was to be a three-story stone and brick dwelling.¹⁴ The first story was to be stone while the second and third were brick, and it was to have a slate roof in a “peak” or gable formation as it is referred to today.

The property at 6700 Lincoln Drive embodies key characteristics of the Tudor Revival style in its steeply-pitched roof with a multi-gabled front facade, overhanging eaves, central hexagonal bay window, multi-pane windows, gabled entry porch, and, most apparently, half-timbering.



Figure 17: Left: “Fairelawn” at 30 Pelham Road in the Pelham section of the larger Mt. Airy neighborhood, designed in 1902 by the Hewitt Brothers. Right: The Frank Yuengling house, Pottsville, PA, 1913. Harry Maurer, architect.

Early Ownership and Alterations (1917-1959)

After James Mitchell finished construction, the house at 6700 Lincoln Drive sat until Henry C. Rentschler purchased the property in April of 1919.¹⁵ Henry C. Rentschler was the vice-president of the Supply-Wills-Jones Milk Company and life-long resident of Philadelphia.¹⁶ He lived with his wife, Mary, daughter Carolyn and her husband Edgar Layton Longaker, granddaughter Mary, nephew Frank Stanford, and an Austrian servant Catherine Shaub.¹⁷ Rentschler’s son-in-law Edgar Longaker (1883-1957) was an interesting figure, responsible for building one of the first starter batteries for automobiles as well as going on to develop submarine batteries in World War II. Longaker worked as a draftsman at Electric Storage Battery Company (Exide).¹⁸ Between 1920 and 1922, he and Carolyn divorced, and he went on to marry Doris Pocock and live in Trappe, Pennsylvania.¹⁹

¹² Lee Goff and Paul Rocheleau, *Tudor style: Tudor revival houses in America from 1890 to the present* (New York: Universe, 2002).

¹³ Virginia McAlester and A. Lee McAlester, *A field guide to American houses: the definitive guide to identifying and understanding America's domestic architecture* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2015).

¹⁴ City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, 1917-4002. 7/20/1917.

¹⁵ City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, Transfer Sheet 83-N-65, 82. 4/6/1919.

¹⁶ “H.C. Rentschler Dies at Home of Daughter.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 11, 1925.

¹⁷ “United States Census, 1920,” database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9RNF-9MV9?cc=1488411&wc=QZJYQ9H%3A1036473501%2C1039888701%2C1039974601%2C1589336212> : 13 September 2019), Pennsylvania > Philadelphia > Philadelphia Ward 22 > ED 620 > image 24 of 24; citing NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

¹⁸ “Battery Designer to Retire, Maybe.” *The Charlotte Observer*, June 11, 1951.

¹⁹ “Divorces Granted.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 18, 1922.

Henry Rentschler made one addition to the property in June of 1924, which was to construct a bay window in the dining room. A year later on December 8, 1925, Henry Rentschler died, bequeathing the property to his only daughter Carolyn. Carolyn, who did not remarry, lived in the house until 1943, when Montague J. McGill and his wife bought the property for \$12,500.²⁰ In 1950, Montague McGill's mother Rose and his adoptive father Connell McGill Sr. were living at the property with his half-brothers Robert and Donald.²¹ The McGills sold the property in 1959 to Cynthia DeLores Tucker, famous civil rights activist and Pennsylvania stateswoman, and her husband William Tucker, for \$18,000.²²

Criterion A: C. DeLores Tucker (1927-2005)

Cynthia DeLores Tucker was born in North Philadelphia in 1927 to Bahamian parents Rev. Whitfield and Captilda (nee Gardiner) Nottage.²³ The tenth of eleven children, she graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1946.²⁴ Her father did not accept a salary for his post as pastor of old Ebenezer Community Tabernacle in North Philadelphia, so Ms. Tucker's mother became the breadwinner of the family, founding an employment agency for Southern blacks migrating north, running a grocery store, and becoming a landlord. Ms. Tucker began advocating for civil rights as a teen, protesting from the back of a flatbed truck outside the Bellevue Stratford hotel because it refused entrance to black athletes.²⁵ She matriculated to Temple University, where she studied finance and real estate for a time but did not receive a degree. In 1951, she married William Tucker, a construction and real estate executive, and they purchased the property at 6700 Lincoln Drive in 1959. She became involved with Democratic politics during the 1950 mayoral race, helping register black voters in support of Joseph Clark, whose election marked the end of nearly a century of Republican governance in Philadelphia.²⁶ An expert fundraiser, she opened a public relations firm bearing her own name, and would go on to be active in the presidential campaigns of presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Hubert H. Humphrey, as well as local and state elections. She maintained a successful career in real estate during the 1950s, by the



Figure 18: C. DeLores Tucker (center), marches arm-in-arm with John Lewis and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on March 9, 1965, in Selma, Alabama. Source: Philadelphia Tribune, "Philly's C. DeLores Tucker was a driving force," January 19, 2020.

1960s, she served as an officer in the Philadelphia NAACP, where she worked closely with local branch president Cecil B. Moore to end racist practices in the city's post offices and construction trades. After witnessing the violent attacks on peaceful protestors in Selma, Alabama on March 7, 1965, Tucker led a Philadelphia delegation

²⁰ City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, Notary initials book CJP b. 248, p.401. 6/3/1943.

²¹ "United States Census, 1950," Ancestry.com.

²² City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, Notary initials book CAB b. 1137, p.162. 8/6/1959.

²³ The 1930 United States Census lists the Nottage residence as 1929 N 22nd Street, and the 1940 Census as 2123 N 20th Street.

²⁴ "C. DeLores Tucker, a Voice for Minorities and Women, Is Dead at 78," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2005.

²⁵ "C. DeLores Tucker, pioneering civil rights activist, dies at 78," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 13, 2005, p. A08.

²⁶ "Distaff Appointee: A Political Veteran," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 15, 1970, p. 3.

south, joining Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. two days later for a second protest, again across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.²⁷

In 1968, she was appointed as the first black and first female member of the Philadelphia Zoning Board of Adjustment. Several prestigious political appointments followed, including that of vice chair of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party in 1970, and, the following year, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, where she became the highest-ranking woman in any state government at the time.²⁸ Under her leadership as secretary, Pennsylvania became one of the first states to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, institute voter registration by mail, and to lower the voting age to 18.²⁹ She was relieved of her position in 1977, but continued to be an active force in politics and civil rights, although she never again held political office.

In 1984, Ms. Tucker and New York Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm founded the National Political Congress of Black Women, and in 1990, she helped found the organization African American Women for Reproductive Freedom. Much of her later life was embroiled in a campaign against the obscenity and misogyny of “gangsta rap,” which she deemed “pornographic filth.”³⁰ She picketed stores that sold rap music, and bought stock in corporations such as Sony and Time Warner to protest lyrics at their shareholder meetings.³¹ So vocal and visible was her opposition to the messages conveyed in rap music that numerous rappers took to ridiculing her in their songs; she in turn filed a \$10 million defamation lawsuit against the estate of Tupac Shakur, which was dismissed.³²

Cynthia DeLores Tucker passed away in 2005, having lived at 6700 Lincoln Drive for 46 years—over half of her life, and through nearly the entirety of her significant and storied career. Her husband, who called her “the best woman God placed on this earth,” continued to live there until 2019.³³ An important figure in local, state, and national politics, civil rights, and the African American community of Philadelphia, C. DeLores Tucker was heralded as “an unstoppable bell ringer for social change.”³⁴ Erected in 2006, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker outside her home



Figure 19: C. DeLores Tucker in 1996 at a Washington D.C. Black caucus event. Source: John Matthew Smith, Wikipedia.org.

²⁷ Her husband Bill Tucker said in an interview that her desire to join the Selma protestors was “the only time I told her no... I never denied her anything, but if I’d let her go and she were to be harmed, it would have been my fault and my life would have been over.” A group of ministers ultimately persuaded him to let her go, saying they would protect her. Bill Tucker called his wife “the most fearless woman I know.” Source: Ariel Medley, “Paying Tribute to C. DeLores Tucker.” <https://afro.com/paying-tribute-to-c-delores-tucker/>

²⁸ Douglas Martin, “C. DeLores Tucker, a Voice for Minorities and Women, Is Dead at 78,” *The New York Times*, November 6, 2005.

²⁹ Meili Powell, “C. DeLores Tucker (1927-2005),” BlackPast, July 8, 2018. Available: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/c-delores-tucker-1927-2005/>

³⁰ “C. DeLores Tucker, pioneering civil rights activist, dies at 78,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 13, 2005, p. A08.

³¹ Meili Powell, “C. DeLores Tucker (1927-2005),” BlackPast, July 8, 2018.

³² Ibid.

³³ Afea Tucker, “Philly’s C. DeLores Tucker was a driving force,” *The Philadelphia Tribune*, January 10, 2020.

³⁴ “Lifetime of activism with many first,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 13, 2005, p. A01.

at 6700 Lincoln Drive commemorates her legacy, reading: "C. DeLores Tucker, 1927-2005, Civil rights leader and activist for women, she was the first African American Secretary of State in the nation. Championed the PA Equal Rights Amendment and policies on affirmative action, voter registration by mail, and lowering the voting age to 18. Spearheaded the creation of the Commission on the Status of Women & led a successful crusade critical of the music industry and lyrics demeaning to women, African Americans, and children." Largely unchanged since its construction in 1917, the Tudor Revival house at 6700 Lincoln Drive is a landmark not only for its architecture but as the home of C. DeLores Tucker, its most significant occupant.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES

** Special Acknowledgement: This nomination borrows from and builds upon the work of Spencer Rubino, student of Dr. David Breiner, Thomas Jefferson University— East Falls Campus, whose unsubmitted nomination for the C. DeLores Tucker house at 6700 Lincoln Drive provided a jumping off point for the Historical Commission staff.

"Battery Designer to Retire, Maybe." *The Charlotte Observer*, June 11, 1951.

"C. DeLores Tucker." In *Notable Black American Women*. Detroit, MI: Gale, 1992. *Gale In Context: Biography* (accessed April 8, 2021).
<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/K1623000451/BIC?u=phil37611&sid=BIC&xid=b5d4acf7>.

City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, 1917-4002. 7/20/1917.

City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, 1924-7326. 6/11/1924.

City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, Notary initials book CAB b. 1137, p.162. 8/6/1959.

City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, Notary initials book CJP b. 248, p.401. 6/3/1943.

City of Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives, Transfer Sheet 83-N-65, 82. 4/6/1919.

City of Philadelphia, PhilaDox Eweb, Doc. 53540659, 7/8/2019.

"Divorces Granted." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 18, 1922.

"Edward Townsend Stotesbury." In *Dictionary of American Biography*. New York, NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944. *Gale In Context: Biography* (accessed April 8, 2021).
<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/BT2310002629/BIC?u=phil37611&sid=BIC&xid=46b30a58>.

Flamm, Bradly. "Lincoln Drive." In *Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. Encyclopedia of

Greater Philadelphia. Accessed April 1, 2021.
<https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/lincoln-drive/>.

Garber, John Palmer, Namaan Henry Keyser, C. Henry Kain, and Horace Ferdinand McCann. *History of Old Germantown: with a Description of Its Settlement and Some Account of Its Important Persons, Buildings and Places Connected with Its Development*. H.F. McCann, 1907.

Goode, Gloria Davis. "African American Heritage Guide to Philadelphia's Historic Northwest." Philadelphia: Germantown Historical Society, 2007.

"H.C. Rentschler Dies at Home of Daughter." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 11, 1925.
John Palmer Garber et al., *History of Old Germantown: with a Description of Its Settlement and Some Account of Its Important Persons, Buildings and Places Connected with Its Development* (H.F. McCann, 1907)

Martin, Douglas. "C. DeLores Tucker, a Voice for Minorities and Women, Is Dead at 78," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2005.

"Mitchell, James N. ." Philadelphia Architects and Buildings. The Athenaeum of Philadelphia. Accessed March 25, 2021.
https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/92928.

Morfe, Don. "C. Delores Tucker (1927 -2005)," March 28, 2015.
<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=82041>.

Powell, Meili. "C. Delores Tucker (1927-2005)," BlackPast, July 8, 2018. Available:
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/c-delores-tucker-1927-2005/>

Savage, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Tatman, Sandra L. "Mitchell, James N. (b. 1878) ," n.d.
https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/92928.

Tucker, Afea. "Philly's C. DeLores Tucker was a driving force," *The Philadelphia Tribune*, January 10, 2020.