

**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: 606 S. 9th Street (part of 604-06 S. 9th Street)

Postal code: 19147

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: Tripoli Barber Supply Company

Current/Common Name: The Pet Snobs Boutique and condominiums

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: retail store and condominiums

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 1923 to 1973

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1924-1925

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Enrico (Henry) Coscia

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: William R. Watt (engineer); Felix Claro (contractor)

Original owner: Charles, Frank and Angelo DiPuppo

Other significant persons: _____

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

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

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to 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 Bella Vista Neighborhood Association Date November 21, 2023

Name with Title Barbara Hauck-Mah, member Email hauckmah@gmail.com

Street Address 801 S Darien Street Telephone 973-818-4703

City, State, and Postal Code 19147

Nominator is is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: November 21, 2023

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: December 13, 2023

Date of Notice Issuance: December 14, 2023

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: KRMP 604 LLC & KRMP 606

Address: 4355 Orchard St

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19124

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: January 17, 2024

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: February 9, 2024

Date of Final Action: February 9, 2024

Designated Rejected

Tripoli Barber Supply Historic Designation Nomination

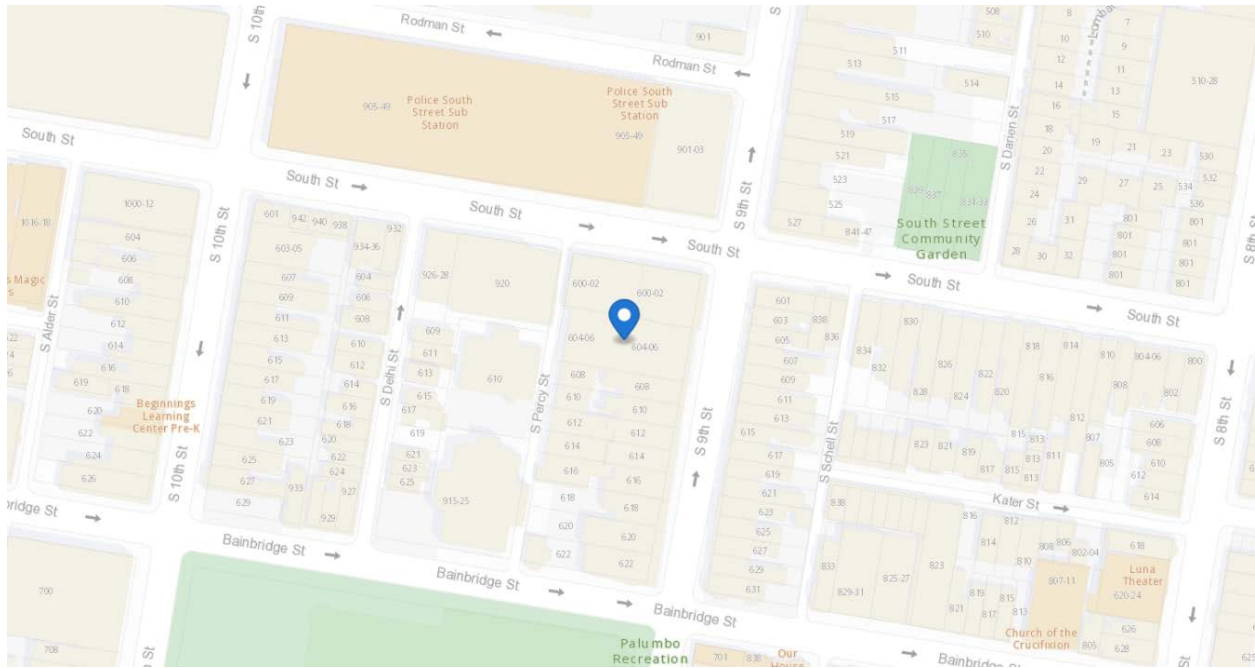


Figure 1. Location of 606 S. 9th Street. Source: City of Philadelphia, Atlas.

5. TRIPOLI BARBER SUPPLY COMPANY BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Tripoli Barber Supply building at 604-06 S. 9th Street is located on the west side of S. 9th Street between South Street and Bainbridge Streets in the Bella Vista neighborhood of Philadelphia. The building is situated in a mixed residential and commercial area. The boundary for the designation includes only the four-story building on the parcel formerly known as 606 S. 9th Street. The designation excludes the non-historic building on the parcel formerly known as 604 S. 9th Street and the non-historic building at the rear fronting S. Percy Street, although these buildings are included in the official tax parcel as shown in Figure 1 above, because of property consolidations over the years.



Figure 2. Boundary of designation to include only the four-story building outlined in red at 606 S. 9th Street. All additions at side and rear are not included in this boundary. Source: City of Philadelphia, Atlas.

The boundary description of the building at 606 S. 9th Street, to be designated as historic, is as follows:

Situate on the West side of S. 9th Street at the distance of 72 feet Southward from the South side of South Street in the 2nd Ward of the City of Philadelphia. Containing in front or breadth on the said S. 9th Street approximately 24 feet and extending of that width in length or depth Westward approximately 73 feet to the rear of the subject building. Being the property formerly known as 606 S. 9th Street prior to consolidation with the adjacent and rear property.



Figure 3. 1934 Appraisal map with Pin marking the location of Tripoli Barber Supply building. Note that the solid green overlay shows a “complete or substantially complete” concentration of Italians, with the nearby dashed green lines showing a predomination of Italians. Solid pink shows a “complete or substantially complete” concentration of Blacks. Source: J.M. Brewer Appraisal Map, <https://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/>.

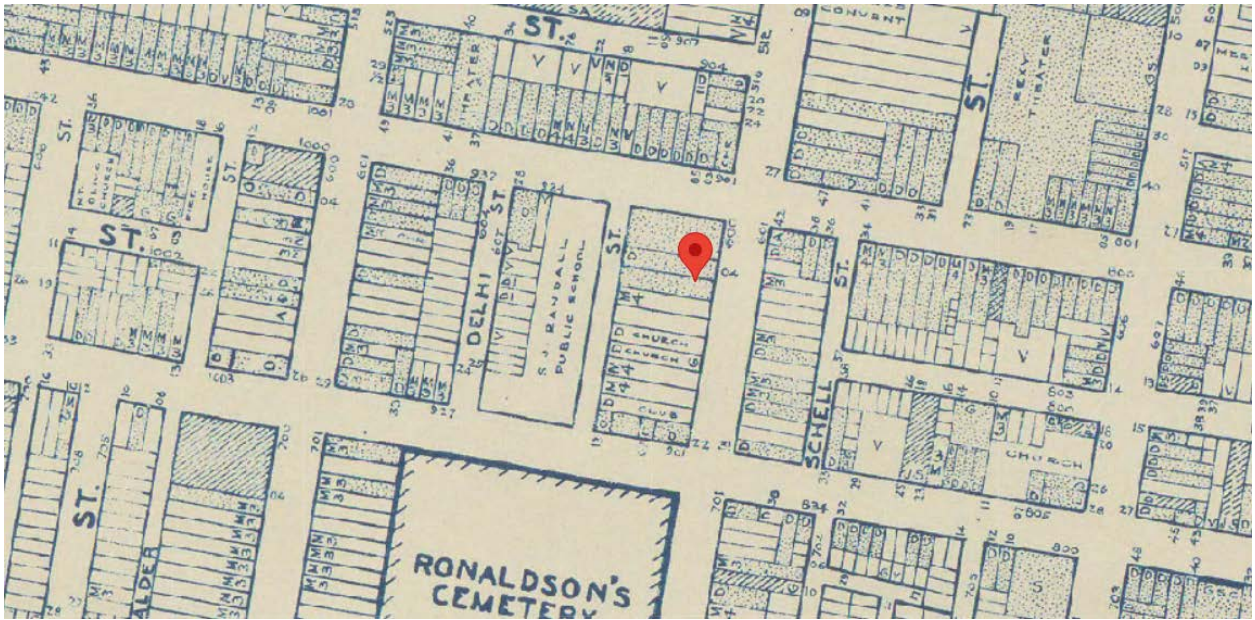


Figure 4. 1942 WPA land use map with pin showing location of Tripoli Barber Supply Company. Source: <https://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/>.

6. TRIPOLI BARBER SUPPLY COMPANY BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Tripoli Barber Supply Company building at 606 S. 9th Street was designed by local Italian American architect Enrico Coscia. This four-story building, completed in 1925, features a soaring linear façade of stone and brick construction and decorative elements that evoke the Italian Renaissance architectural style.



Figure 5. Front facade of 606 S. 9th Street, November 2023.

The building's façade for floors two through four features buff color striated bricks, symmetrical tall order pilasters and rounded arched windows characteristic of the Italian Renaissance Revival style. All windows have been replaced. The 1923 date engraving may have been slightly aspirational when compared to the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* entries.



Figure 6. Floors two through four of primary façade, November 2023.

The company name “Tripoli Barber Supply Co. Inc.” is featured prominently above the entrance, bracketed by round decorative floral plaques.



Figure 7. 606 S. 9th St. above entry, November 2023.

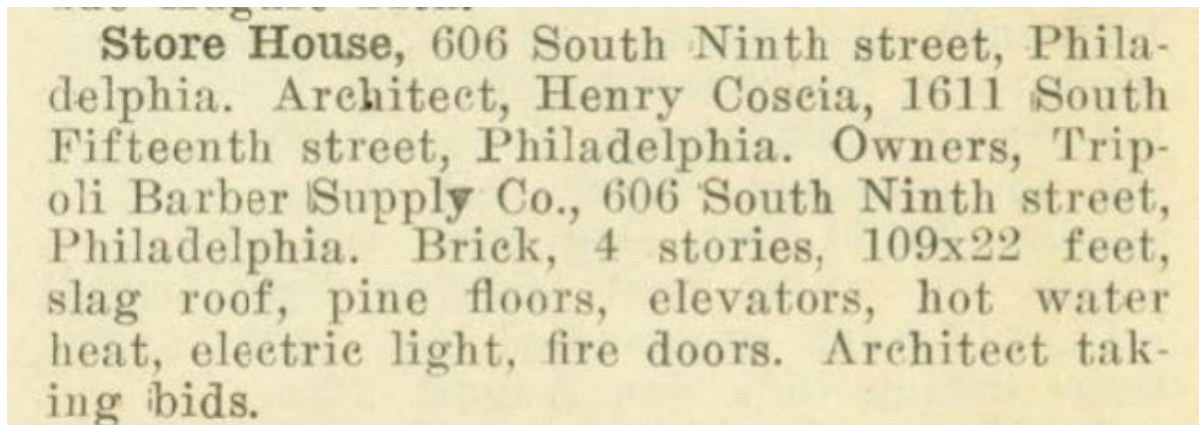
The large showroom windows on the first and second floors are supported by a limestone base sculpted with haunched ogee moldings integrated with rusticated quoining.



Figure 8. 606 S. 9th St. storefront detail, November 2023.

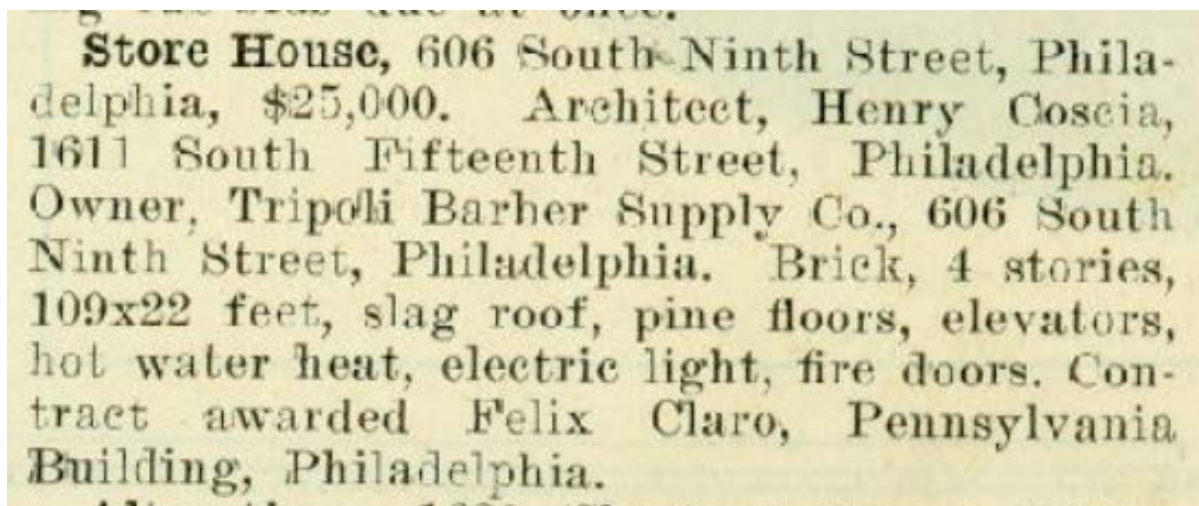
Site and Building History

In 1924, the DiPuppo Brothers (Charles, Frank and Angelo) were ready to expand their successful Philadelphia business, the Tripoli Beauty Supply Company, into a larger commercial space. They selected the firm of Watt & Coscia for their construction project. Henry (Enrico) Coscia earned his Certificate of Proficiency in Architecture in 1921 from the University of Pennsylvania. Coscia partnered with William Watt, a local engineer, on multiple projects connected to Philadelphia's Italian American community during the 1920s. Watt & Coscia were hired to transform a 1900 row home on the DiPuppo Brothers' property of 606 S. 9th Street into a multi-story commercial building. Coscia's design, completed in 1925, included a sales showroom and offices as well as a manufacturing and distribution point for the Tripoli Barber Supply business.



Store House, 606 South Ninth street, Philadelphia. Architect, Henry Coscia, 1611 South Fifteenth street, Philadelphia. Owners, Tripoli Barber Supply Co., 606 South Ninth street, Philadelphia. Brick, 4 stories, 109x22 feet, slag roof, pine floors, elevators, hot water heat, electric light, fire doors. Architect taking bids.

Figure 9. *The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide*, v.39, 1924, p.518, 08/13/1924.



Store House, 606 South Ninth Street, Philadelphia, \$25,000. Architect, Henry Coscia, 1611 South Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia. Owner, Tripoli Barber Supply Co., 606 South Ninth Street, Philadelphia. Brick, 4 stories, 109x22 feet, slag roof, pine floors, elevators, hot water heat, electric light, fire doors. Contract awarded Felix Claro, Pennsylvania Building, Philadelphia.

Figure 10. *The Philadelphia Real Estate and Builders' Guide*, v. 40, 1925, p. 346, 06/3/1925.

The Tripoli Barber Supply company was owned and managed by the DiPuppo family for decades. By the 1940s, 604 S. 9th Street was combined with the property next door to accommodate all of the extra

business. As the DiPuppo brothers died or retired, the next generation took over. Figure 11 shows the building as it looked in 1954. In the following decades, the company transitioned to beauty products and changed its name to Tripoli Barber and Beauty Supply Company, and finally to the Tripoli Beauty Supply Company. The company closed in 1973.



Figure 11. 1954 photograph of the Tripoli Barber Supply Company building. Source: City of Philadelphia, Department of Records.



Figure 12. 1954 photograph showing the southwest corner of S. 9th Street and South Street, with the Tripoli Barber Supply Company building called out with an arrow. Source: City of Philadelphia, Department of Records.

Since then, the building's ownership has changed several times. The space became a macrobiotic cooking center called The East West Foundation in the early 1980s, then an art gallery, then John Dorety Antiques until the mid-1990s. Curtis Anthony moved in his Via Bicycle business about 1998. The space was occupied by the Via Bicycle business which thrived in the Bella Vista neighborhood for over 20 years. When the building was sold in 2016, Via Bicycle moved out and removed their business sign. This revealed the original signage for Tripoli Barber Supply Co. underneath.



Figure 13. Via Bicycle, September 2016. Note the façade at 604 S. 9th Street prior to recent alterations. Source: Google Street View.

Since June 2018, the property of 604-06 S. 9th Street has been owned by KRMP LLC. The property includes condominiums on floors two through four. From 2021 to the present, the ground floor of 606 S. 9th Street has been home to the Pet Snobs Boutique business, which provides grooming and pet supplies.

7. TRIPOLI BARBER SUPPLY COMPANY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE



Figure 14. 606 S. 9th Street, April 2023. Source: Google Street View.

The Tripoli Barber Supply Company building at 606 S. 9th Street is historically significant and merits listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Pursuant to Section 14-1004(1) of the Philadelphia Code, the property satisfies **Criteria for Designation D and J**.

The Bella Vista Neighborhood Association wishes to express its thanks and gratitude to Lawrence Weintraub, AIA for researching and writing the Criteria D significance which follows.

Criterion D: Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style.

The Tripoli Barber Supply building, erected in 1925, is a distinctive example of the Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style. It exhibits an eclectic early Art Deco period revivalist display of both the Venetian and Florentine Palazzo styles of the Italian Renaissance of the mid to late 15th century, as inspired by ancient Roman and Byzantine architecture.

Unlike actual Italian Renaissance palazzos, this purpose-built commercial building has a modern early 20th century commercial glass storefront at the ground floor, with subtle Greek and Roman classical adornments, all apparently in their original form but more recently painted. Like many storefronts of the era, it has large plate glass window units set upon a raised limestone base and projecting squared limestone windowsill, with small, centered cellar windows that have been boarded over.

The glass units are framed in bronze trim to each side of an inset doorway. A horizontal structural mullion above is covered in stepped bronze flashing and capped with linear repeating stylized cast acroterion cresting. The mullion supports a level of transom windows above the entire storefront door and window assembly.

At the center of the transom level above the doorway, sits a formed bronze metal crosshead, with a restrained classical entablature, supported by a pair of corbels. The entablature is capped with elongated scrolls that frame a vertically oriented fleur-de-lis crest that altogether imply the form of a classical pediment. The entry door is likely original to the building, a highly stylized rectangular 15 light French door with a segmental arc top across the top row of glass panes and with half round curves that project from the sides of the stile frame into the top right and left side windowpanes.

The ground floor of the commercial building also exhibits stacked limestone quoins, with greatly eased edges, that frame each side of the storefront, evoking the ground level rusticated stone quoining often found on Florentine Italian Renaissance Palazzos. The overall storefront assembly is framed by a large classical ogee profile molding, also rendered in limestone, sitting upon large plinth blocks.

The upper corners of the storefront opening have dropped quarter round insets to the ogee molding that architecturally provide haunches that visually draw the eye up the building and to allow support for the seating of large, tall order, abstracted brick pilasters that frame the upper floors of the façade.

A modest projecting limestone cornice, more of a drip edge, separates the base of the building from the upper three floors. Atop the limestone storefront cornice is a continuous limestone base course with ogee capped portions that form classical inspired bases for two sets of vertical brick pilasters upon the upper floors of the overall façade.

The upper floors of the building are faced with a striated surface buff color brick, popular during the period of construction, that has darkened over time from environmental pollutants that exhibit a mottled and muddied appearance. The tooling of the mortar joints has been intentionally inset approximately one-quarter of an inch from the brick surface, as was stylistically common in this period, to form shadow lines that further enhance the surface texture and patterning of the brickwork.

The upper floors of the building form the classical appearance of a Venetian Grand Canal Palazzo, with a central vertical group of 4 matching windows flanked by single windows at each side. At the second floor (as this was also a showroom floor), instead of the four windows, a large display window was flanked by single window openings. At the top floor, much like the Venetian Palazzo style, the central four windows have arched tops to imply a loggia beyond. Above these windows, and above the arched double rowlock brick headers, the field area of brick alternates with headers set flush, and proud, to imply a rusticated diaper pattern.

All the windows, though now replaced with modern ones, were originally deeply inset Italian Renaissance style casement windows with muntins that accentuated the masonry mass of the façade. The current windows are single insulated pane bronze color framed aluminum casement style with no muntins except at the top of the second-floor tripartite display window opening. The current windows that flank the center display window appear to be tall fixed upper sashes with shorter lower operable single hung sash.

The brickwork is employed in creative ways to visually separate the overall upper façade into architectural areas that accentuate verticality with grand order pilasters at the sides of the building, narrower pilasters between the center group of windows and single ones at the sides, and stacked bond brick implied mullions between the four center windows. Above the windows, the brickwork is set with a

rowlock and soldier course to imply lintels, and another rowlock below that form windowsills. Above and below the third-floor windows the bricks are stacked in columns of headers and each rowlock frames to imply decorative spandrel panels.

The top of the fourth floor is terminated with a continuous soldier brick course. Upon this, the façade is crowned with a pedimented parapet wall containing a round medallion date stone (1923) under the apex, and with short piers above each set of pilasters, all capped with limestone coping.

Overall, though the form and geometry of the façade is directly inspired by the Palazzos of the Italian Renaissance, this building is of its time, and exhibits subtle detailing of the early Art Deco Period as exhibited by the storefront and stylized classical bronze adornments, the attenuated and nearly flush components of the brick façade, the restrained projection of the lower limestone cornice, the eased edges of the limestone quoins, the dropped quarter rounds of the top frame of the storefront windows, the highly stylized French entry door, and raised bronze letting of the type font of the company name above the storefront, and the adjacent applied round bronze floral medallions. Also, in common with the early Art Deco period, the abstraction and termination of the upper façade and parapet is also quite restrained, with no obvious classical pilaster capitals, or classical cornice shown.

Criterion J: Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

The Tripoli Barber Supply Company building has exemplified the evolving cultural, economic, social and historical heritage of the Bella Vista business community for almost 100 years. This historic building originated as a purpose-built store, manufacturing and distribution point for the DiPuppo brothers. They established their barber and beauty supply business in a South Philadelphia neighborhood that welcomed numerous immigrants and their businesses in the early 20th century. From the 1970's to the present, this building has been home to unique, iconic businesses such as Via Bicycle, which have served the changing needs of the Bella Vista community.

Charles, Frank, and Angelo DiPuppo emigrated from Italy to Philadelphia at the turn of the 20th century. Barbers by training, they established *Tripoli Barber Supply Company* at 525 S. 9th Street, near the corner of 9th and South Streets, in 1911.



Figure 15. Initial location of Tripoli Barber Supply Company at 525 S. 9th Street, being near the corner of 9th and South Streets. Source: La Libera Parola, 03 Apr 1921, p. 3.

The DiPuppo brothers all lived near their place of business, with homes listed as being on the 700 block of League Street, and the 1200 and 1300 blocks of S. Carlisle Street in the 1918 City Directory.

U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 for Charles Dipuppo		
Pennsylvania > Philadelphia > 1918 > Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, City Directory, 1918		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dipple Hyman knit gds 727 Poplar h 816 N 8th Jno G motorman h 2531 N Jessup Rose wid Chas h r 1018 Nectarine Walter steamfir h 531 Diamond Wm lab h 3065 N Water Dippold Edw lab h l r 1241 Hope D'Ipolltea Adolf upholstr h 1314 Tasker Camille shoemkr h 1314 Tasker Claude dyer h 1314 Tasker Rose wid Wm h 1314 Tasker Dippolito Adolph C trimmer h 1714 S Mole Anthony barber 1861 E Venango Frank lamplighter h 3561 Fkd av Jno grocer 1424 S 12th Savero junk 4231 Market Victor musician h 767 S 12th Vincente barber 3561 Fkd av Dippy Robt H (Dippy & Aitkin) h Chelton av ab 7th us Oak Lane Robt N USA h Chelton av ab 7th us Oak Lane & Aitkin (Robt H Dippy & A King Aitkin) adv agts 712 Heed bl DiPretoro Amedeo janitor h 424 S 60th Palmerino tailor h 424 S 60th DiPrinzio Louis lab h 519 N 64th Nicholas lab h 519 N 64th DiPrisco Carmine grocer 2012 Dickinson DiProspero Dominick lab h 2333 Cross Edw macaronimkr h 1326 S 10th Nicholas tailor h 728 Federal DiPullo Horatio carp h 1930 S Woodstock DiPuppo Angelo (Tripoli Barber Supply Co) h 718 League Chas (Tripoli Barber Supply Co) h 1208 S Carlisle Frank (Tripoli Barber Supply Co) h 1310 S Carlisle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jos hunch h 410 Remittance box Mary wid Walter h 124 Dawson Wiss Richd carder h r 4258 Ridge av Wm A meat 3578 & h 3534 Calumet Falls Dirks Alvie fireman h 2142 S 59th Leonard R clk h 4144 Girard av Marla wid Leonard h 4144 Girard av Rudolph watchman h 4258 Viola Dirmeyer Nelson lab h 2627 S Chadwick Dirmitt Chas H phys 1201 S 18th DiRocca Jos lab h 3414 Emerson Hbg DiRocci Frank A stonemason h 1220 S 13th DiRocco Jno carp h 2205 S Clarion Michael dining 762 S 10th Dirosi Vincent glasswkr h 3267 Agate Dirosa Fredk lab h 1218 Peters Robt machst h 1717 S Bancroft Dirose Jos cigarmkr h 927 McClellan DiRoso Paul lab h 710 S Sheridan Dirr Josephine wid Emil h 1901 N Hancock Dirren Jos waiter h 5455 Spring Dirringer Albert baker 1754 N 27th Dirso Gaetano contr h 6402 Vine DiRuscio Antonio oysters 825 Fitzwater Chas tailor h 1216 Tree Flore barber h 1838 S Rosewood Dirvin Elizabeth G wid Jos V h 1023 E Chelton av Gtn Herbert V clk h 1023 E Chelton av Gtn Vincent A clk h 6604 Limekiln pk Pville DiSabatino Jos tailor h 1443 S 13th DiSalvio Antonio lab h 8141 Erdrick Hbg DiSalvo Jos foreman h 1227 S Harmony Nicolo musician h 1313 S Hicks Disam Wm liquors 542 Belgrade Disamonnl Angelo lab h 612 Pemberton DiSande Petro lab h 2101 Indiana 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dise Allen J engineer h 1724 N Holly Diserafino Jno lab h 1110 S 8th (wood Diserino Carlo produce 753 S 9th DiSerio Alphonso baker h 1814 Dickinson Diseroud Benj F phys 901 Lehigh av Dishansky David huckster h 711 Emly Disharoon Chas W condtr h 6027 Whar-ton Harry T police h 2810 Decatur Hbg Henry h 2239 N Sydenham Norman machst h 2226 Bridge Fkd Saml J cook h 1750 N Woodstock Theo USA h 1249 S 53d Toutant L salesman h 1249 S 53d Disher Isabella stenogr h 433 S 43d Jas H woodwkr h 1356 S Paxon Jno W decorator h 1356 S Paxon Dishler Morris paperhgr h 1338 S 4th DiSibio Lawrence lab h 1724 Manton Vincent carp h 240 N Avondale DiSilvestro Angelo presser h 1316 S 10th A Giuseppe porter h 1243 S Juniper Jno h 1019 S 9th Jos printer 906 Carpenter Disimore Vito tailor h 1234 McKean Disipio Antonio lab h 1630 S Juniper Jno presser h 1930 S Juniper DiSippio Carmine contr h 1504 S 12th Jos watchman h 1504 S 12th DiSiro Caesar candymkr h 713 S War-nock DiSturolo Orazio barber 1021 Bainbridge Diskan Morris tailor 987 N 6th Nathan paints 1030 Poplar & 1122 Girard av Saml paperhgr h 2845 N Stillman Diskewicz Anton lab h 4506 Almond Diskin Jas USN h 2623 S Carlisle [Bdg Jas P mgr. h 42 Snyder av Jno bartndr h 108 N Edgewood Tos deveda 1206 Columbia Work Hamilt Hamilt Hamilt Dittn Henry Henry Sons File Iron DISS SON Diastc v-pres v-pres v-pres Wm E Henry Diastc Edmo Wm Diastc treas Henry cony Diastc v-pres S H Arms! Henry Jacob S Jacob S cony wand! Jacob S

Figure 16. DiPuppos' affiliation with their businesses. Source: 1918 Philadelphia City Directory.

Registered Apr. 15, 1930 **Trade-Mark 269,683**

Renewed, April 15, 1950 to Tripoli Barbers' Supply Company, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.


UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

TRIPOLI BARBER SUPPLY CO. INC., OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

ACT OF FEBRUARY 20, 1905

Application filed December 13, 1929. Serial No. 293,646.

TRIP-O-LAY



STATEMENT

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that the undersigned applicant, Tripoli Barber Supply Co. Inc., a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, located in the city of Philadelphia, county of Philadelphia, and State of Pennsylvania, and doing business at 606 South Ninth Street, in the said city of Philadelphia, has heretofore adopted and used the trade-mark shown in the accompanying drawing, for HAIRDRESSINGS, in Class No. 6, Chemicals, medicines, and pharmaceutical preparations.

The trade-mark has been continuously used in applicant's business since November 11, 1929.

The trade-mark is applied or affixed to the goods or to the packages containing the same by placing thereon a printed label on which the trade-mark is shown.

The portrait is that of Charles Di Puppo an officer of the company.

[s. s.] **TRIPOLI BARBER SUPPLY CO. INC.,**
By **FRANK DI PUPPO,**
Secretary.

Figure 17. U.S. Patent Office, Trademark Drawing for Hair Dressings, April 15, 1930, Renewed April 1950. Source: <https://sharprazorpalace.com/razors/131369-tripoli-barber-supply-philadelphia.html>.

In 1921, the brothers purchased the property at 606 S. 9th Street.¹ After a few years, they hired local Italian American architect Enrico Coscia and his partner, engineer William R. Watt, to transform the four-story row home into a facility that would serve their business needs. The business sold a wide variety of barber supplies and equipment. Tripoli Barber Supply Company advertised their barber supply products in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* regularly for decades. Figure 18 shows an example of an ad and product.

¹ Deed transfer sheet for map registry number 005S020418.

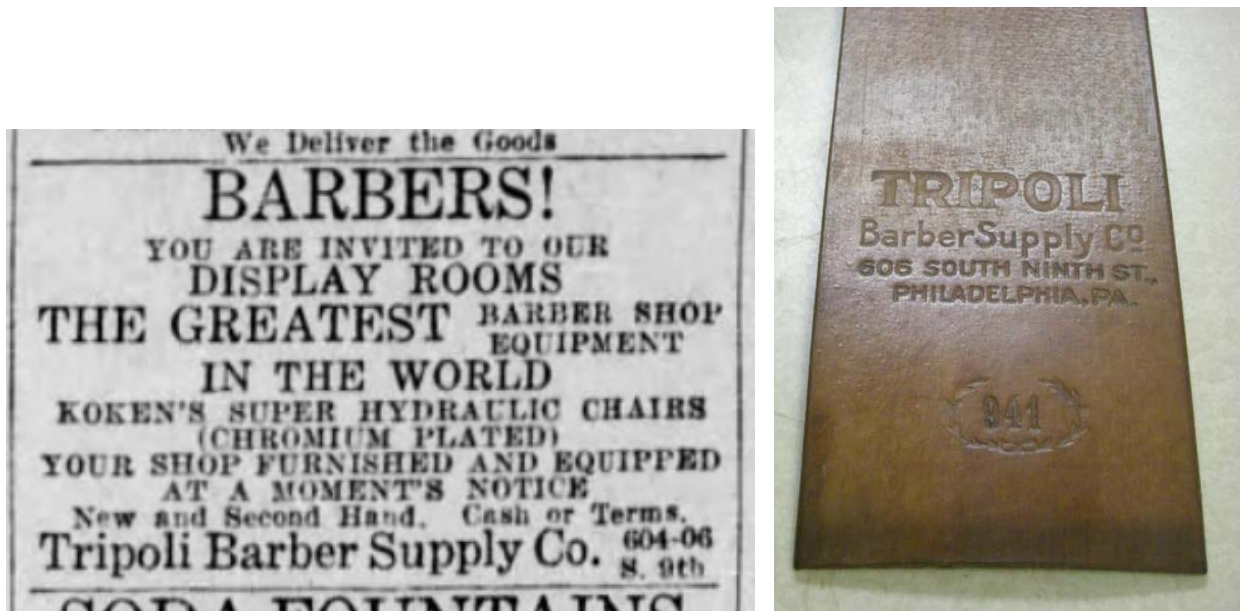


Figure 18. (Left) *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 24, 1931, p. 40. (Right) Boar's skin Barber Razor Strop Sold at Tripoli Barber Supply Co. Source: <https://sharprazorpalace.com/razors/131369-tripoli-barber-supply-philadelphia-3.html>.

Tripoli Barber Supply legally sold barber supplies, as well as soaps and creams made with denatured alcohol. During the 1920s, Tripoli Barber Supply expanded its business, selling denatured alcohol to illegal distilleries. During Prohibition, there was an established market for denatured alcohol, which bootleggers would make safe for consumption. Philadelphia was a primary market for this type of alcohol distribution.² While many of these bootlegging ventures were quickly shut down, the DiPuppo brothers successfully ran theirs from 1921 to 1925, making them the longest-running local operation of this type. In December 1925, however, the DiPuppo Brothers were indicted and convicted.³

1. Anderson, Annie. "Bootlegging", *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*.

2. Indictment, December 1925, U.S. v. Angelo DiPuppo, Charles DiPuppo, and Frank DiPuppo, Criminal Case 1546, USDC-EDP, RG 21, NA-Mid Atlantic.

And the Grand Jurors aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do further present that the said ANGELO DI PUPPO, CHARLES DI PUPPO and FRANK DI PUPPO, trading as "Tripoli Barber Supply Company", did on, to wit: December 28, 1925, at Philadelphia in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, aforesaid, wilfully, knowingly and unlawfully violate the terms of their said permit in that they did knowingly, wilfully and unlawfully fail to obliterate immediately all marks and brands on a certain denatured alcohol container; to wit: one barrel bearing serial number 266622, which said serial number was permitted to remain upon the said container when empty;

Figure 19. Indictment, December 1925, U.S. v. Angelo DiPuppo, Charles DiPuppo, and Frank DiPuppo, Criminal Case 1546, USDC-EDP, RG 21, NA-Mid Atlantic.

Despite the 1925 charge and conviction, the Tripoli Barber Supply business continued to prosper. In 1930, they also acquired and expanded into the building adjacent to the 9th Street location, at 604 S. 9th Street.⁴ As demand for barber supplies declined, the company transitioned to beauty products and changed its name to Tripoli Barber and Beauty Supply Company, and finally to the Tripoli Beauty Supply Company.

The company declared bankruptcy and closed in 1973. However, the family retained ownership of the 604 and 606 South 9th Street property. In 1975, the buildings were purchased by Hamridge Associates. They owned and managed the property for four decades.

⁴ Deed transfer sheet for map registry number 005S020418.

Affiliated Auctioneers

AUCTIONEERS AND APPRAISERS

1225 RACE ST., PHILA. PA. LO 3-8617

New Jersey Offices: 501 Cooper St., Camden, N. J.

ALL SALES 25% DEPOSIT CASH OR CERTIFIED CHECK

Auctioneer Reserves Right of Waiver or Alteration

RECEIVER'S SALE IN BANKRUPTCY

In the Matter of Tripoli Co., Inc., Bankrupt, No. 73-71

INVENTORY, MACHINERY, VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

BARBER & BEAUTY SALON

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

To Be Sold on the Premises at PUBLIC AUCTION

604-606 S. 9TH ST., PHILA., PA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1973 AT 10:00 A.M.

5 New Beauty Parlor Formica Mirrored Back Bars, 4 New Formica Top 2 Station Hair Rinse Wall Units, 2 Single Station Wall Rinse Units, Formica Top Beauty Parlor Wall Unit, Beauty Parlor Wall Cabinets, 2 New Belmont Motorized Barber Chairs, 11 New Belmont, Kochs & Paidar Hydraulic Barber Chairs, 5 New Upholstered Hydraulic Beauty Parlor Chairs, New Upholstered Beauty Parlor Chairs & Assorted Arm Chairs, 4 New Upholstered Bars, Bar Stools, New Upholstered Booths & Benches, Lavatories, Formica Top Table & Chair Units, Wall Light Brackets, Manicuring Tables, Mirrors, Floor Dividers, Bonat & Martin Hair Dryers, 24 Reconditioned Hydraulic Beauty Parlor & Barber Chairs, 1080 Boar Hide Swing Razor Stropps, Hair Brushes, Razors, Scissors, Combs, Clipper Blades, Hair Tonic, Spray, Toner, Color, Conditioner, Dressing & Shampoo, Ice Tonic, Lilac Toilet Water & After Shave Lotion, Clairol Wave Sets & Lotion Toner, Talcum Powder, Etc.

Large Quantity Used Barber & Beauty Parlor Chairs & Parts, Used Back Bars, Mirrors, Marble, Glass, Etc.

STAINLESS STEEL TANKS & FILLING

EQUIPMENT: Perry & Chem-Tek 100 Gal. S.S. Vertical Cylindrical Tanks (1 with Electric Agitator), Groen 100 Gal. S.S. Jacketed Kettle with Electric Agitator, Star & Ertel S.S. Filter Presses, MRM Semi-Automatic 6 Spout Filler, Filler Machine Co. Portable Electric S.S. Conical Filler, 2 Hyspeed Cylindrical Tanks with Electric Agitators, S.S. Lined Kettle.

MISCELLANEOUS MACHINERY & EQUIP-

MENT: Walker-Turner & Yates Drill Presses, Craftsman Grinder, Grand Hydraulic Stacker, Kleerflo Degreaser, Steel Shelving, Etc.

Regna Electric Adder, Smith-Corona Typewriter, Rex Rotary Duplicator, Copier, G.E. Water Fountain, Pedestal Fans, Fire Extinguishers, Showcases, Etc.

1964 GMC VALUE—VAN WALK-IN TRUCK

1961 CHRYSLER IMPERIAL CONVERTIBLE

Figure 20. Advertisement for auction of Tripoli Barber and Beauty Supply inventory. Source: *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 24, 1973, p. 43.

From 1973 to the present, this property has continued to be a vibrant commercial destination in Bella Vista, serving the evolving needs and interests of its community. In the early 1980s, the space became a macrobiotic cooking center called *The East West Foundation* and then an art gallery. From the 1980s to the mid-1990s, it was home to John Dorety Antiques. The business specialized in fireplace mantles.

In 1998, Curtis Anthony moved his Via Bicycle business into the building. Via Bicycle thrived at this location for over 20 years.



The repair shop inside Via Bicycle. (Jessica Kourkounis/for WHYY)

Figure 21. Via Bicycle repair shop interior. Source: Jessica Kourkounis for WHYY.

In 2016, the building at 606 S. 9th Street was sold. Via Bicycle moved out and removed their business sign. This revealed the original signage for Tripoli Barber Supply Co. underneath. From 2021 to the present, the building has been home for the Pet Snobs boutique. The upper floors are residential condominiums.

In conclusion, the Tripoli Barber Supply Company building at 606 S. 9th Street is historically significant and merits listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as satisfying Criteria for Designation D and J. The Tripoli Barber Supply building is a distinctive example of the Italian Renaissance Revival architectural style. The building also exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and historic heritage of the community, as a purpose-built store, manufacturing and distribution point for the DiPuppo brothers. They brought and grew their barber and beauty supply business in an area of South Philadelphia that welcomed numerous immigrants and their businesses in the early 20th century.

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Appendix: Architect Enrico Coscia

Biography written by Written by Emily T. Cooperman, and Sandra L. Tatman

https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/22673

Enrico (Henry) Coscia

Born: 12/13/1893

Henry (born Enrico) Coscia, son of Angelo Coscia, attended Brown Preparatory School in Philadelphia before studying architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a Certificate of Proficiency in Architecture in 1921. By 1926 Coscia was a partner in the firm of Watt & Coscia, with William R. Watt, an engineer. This firm continued through 1929. In 1930 Coscia is listed independently as architect with an office at 1504 Locust Street, the old address for Watt & Coscia, but in the 1935/36 Philadelphia city directory he appears as architect and president of the Cini Building and Loan Association.

Although most of the citations from the Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide reflect the work of Watt & Coscia, Henry Coscia does receive some attention in 1925 with projects connected to Philadelphia's Italian-American community.

While chiefly known as an engineer, William R. Watt transforms into an architect in the 1935/36 Philadelphia city directory. His first appearance in the city directories had been in 1922, when he lists himself as an engineer. From 1926 to 1929 he is noted in the directories as a partner in the architectural firm of Watt & Coscia, along with Henry Coscia.

Watt & Coscia

https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/21572

Watt & Coscia represents an alliance between architect Henry Coscia and engineer William R. Watt in the boom years of the 1920s. They maintained offices in the popular 1504 Locust Street site, but did not last beyond the stock market crash. Commissions listed in the Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide reflect Coscia's ties to Philadelphia's Italian-American community, but expand into other markets, including substantial work for Allegheny Title and Trust at Front Street and Allegheny Avenue (1926).