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

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

Street address: 1538 Kerbaugh St

Postal code: 19140

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2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: Roy "Campy" Campanella Childhood Home

Current/Common Name:

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3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Site ☐ Object

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4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: ☐ excellent ☒ good ☐ fair ☐ poor ☐ ruins

Occupancy: ☒ occupied ☐ vacant ☐ under construction ☐ unknown

Current use: Residential

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5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and site/plot plan of the resource's boundaries.

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6. DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and photographs of the resource's physical appearance, site, setting, and surroundings.

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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 1928 to 1988

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1912

Architect, engineer, and/or designer:

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: Frank T. Williams

Original owner: Earle B. and Mabel R. Windsor

Other significant persons: Roy Campanella

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 Philadelphia Historical Commission Date September 29, 2023

Name with Title Jon Farnham, executive director Email Jon.farnham@phila.gov

Street Address 1515 Arch Street, 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: September 29, 2023

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: September 29, 2023

Date of Notice Issuance: October 27, 2023

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: James A. Pender

Address: 1538 Kerbaugh St

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19140

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: November 29, 2023

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: January 12, 2024

Date of Final Action: January 12, 2024

☒ Designated ☐ Rejected

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Figure 1. A parcel map with the parcel at 1538 Kerbaugh Street highlighted. Source: Atlas.

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with brick messuage or tenement thereon erected, SITUATE on the southerly side of Kerbaugh Street and easterly side of Sixteenth Street in the Thirty Eighth Ward of the City of Philadelphia, CONTAINING in the front or breadth on the said Kerbaugh Street sixteen feet and extending on that width in length or depth southerly between parallel lines at right angles with said Kerbaugh Street (the westernmost line thereof along the easternmost side of said Sixteenth Street and the easternmost line thereof through the center of a party wall) eighty seven feet to a certain three feet wide alley which extends westerly into Sixteenth Street and eastwardly into a certain other three feet wide alley which extends northwestwardly and northwardly into Kerbaugh Street and southwestwardly into Pike Street.

Parcel: 101-N13-0052
OPA Account: 131097300

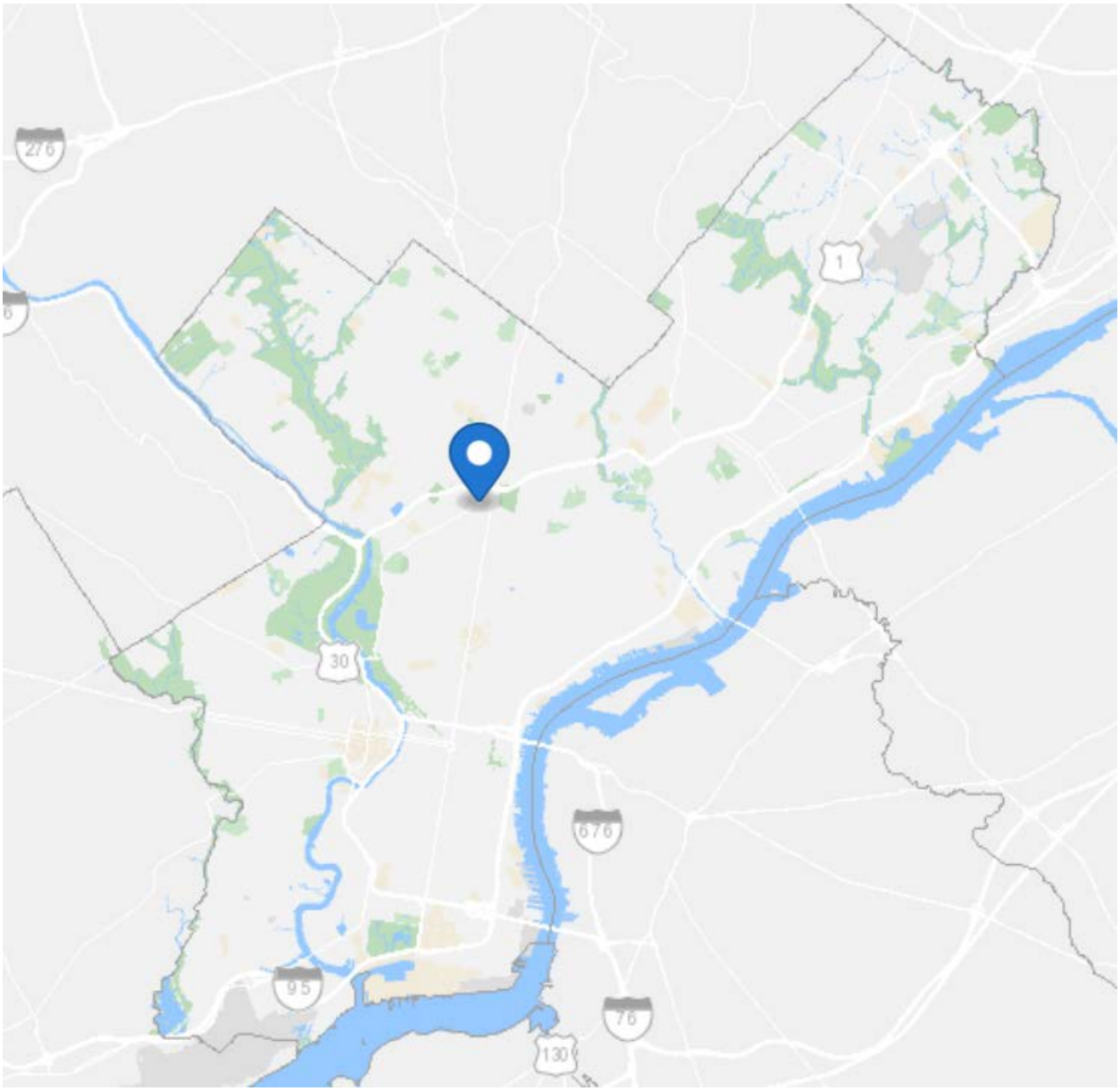

Figure 2. The location of 1538 Kerbaugh Street in the City of Philadelphia. Source: Atlas.

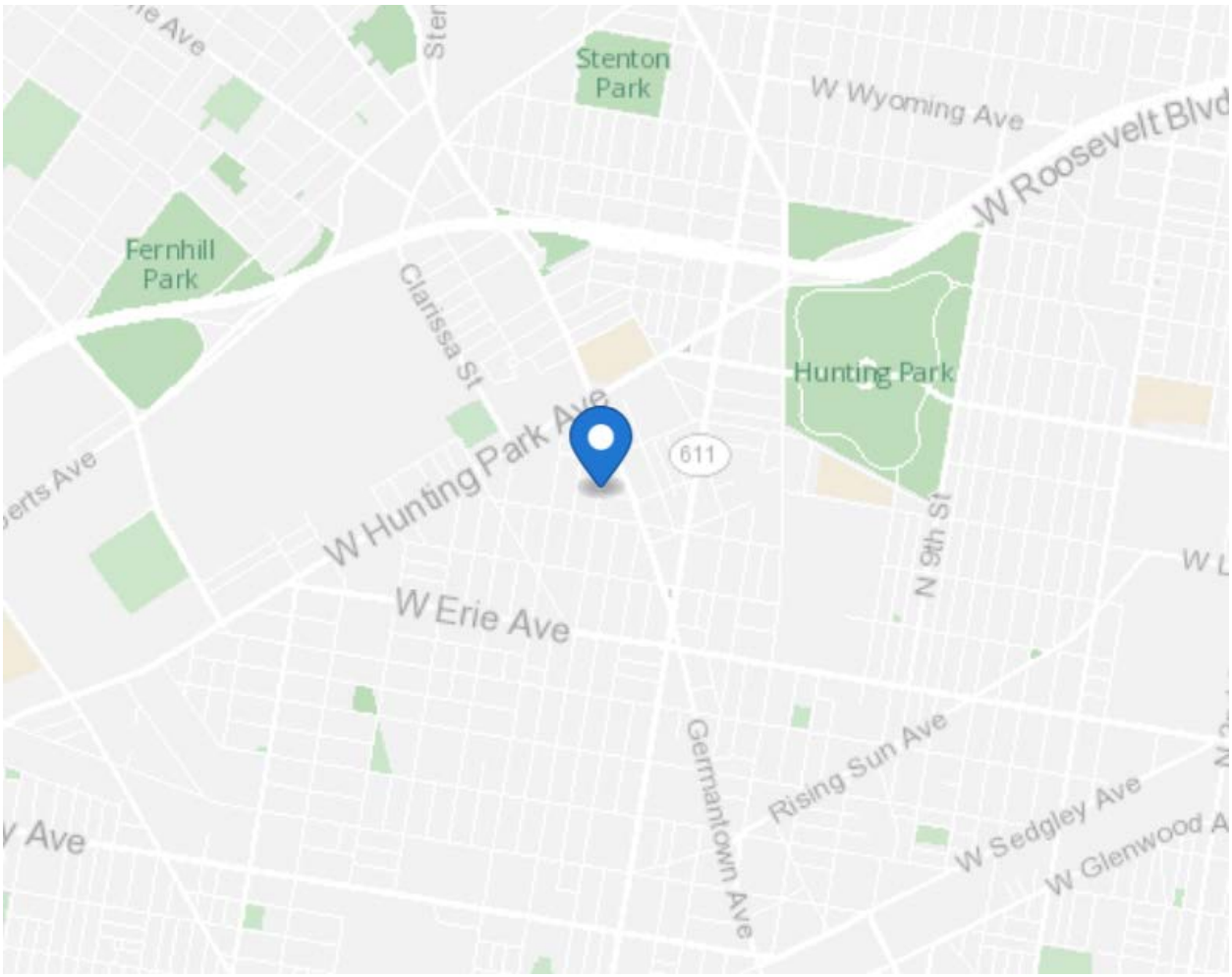

Figure 3. The location of 1538 Kerbaugh Street in the Nicetown neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Source: Atlas.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Figure 4. View of the rowhouse at 1538 Kerbaugh Street (on right) looking south, November 24, 2022. Source: Cyclomedia.

Figure 5. View of the rowhouse at 1538 Kerbaugh Street looking east, November 24, 2022. Source: Cyclomedia.

The property at 1538 Kerbaugh Street is located at the southeast corner of Kerbaugh Street and N. 16th Street in the Nicetown neighborhood of North Philadelphia. The blocks to the south of the property are lined with dense rows of two-story houses, rowhouses and twins. The blocks to the east, north, and west, especially along Germantown and Hunting Park Avenues as well as N. Broad Street are lined primarily with larger institutional, commercial buildings, and industrial buildings.

The rowhouse at 1538 Kerbaugh Street is a two-story, corner structure. It faces Kerbaugh Street and is part of row of nearly identical houses running east. The row included 15 houses originally, but one has been demolished. The building is rectangular in plan and the main roof is flat. The house has a projecting, open, one-story front porch set back from the sidewalk by a small front yard. The front façade has a three-sided bay window at the second floor above the front porch that is topped with a pyramidal roof. A cornice runs behind the pyramidal roof at the plane of the front facade. A shallow, two-story, frame bay that is clad in siding projects off the rear. A freestanding, one-story garage opening onto N. 16th Street stands at the rear of the property, separated from the house by a small open space. The house is clad in an orange-brown brick that is inset every eighth course to create string courses that enliven the façade. The house shares a rear chimney with the neighbor. The windows are square headed with one-over-one sash and cast-stone lintels and sill. The base of the building is cast stone as well. The cornices and bays have been clad in aluminum or vinyl siding. Some basement openings have been infilled with glass block.

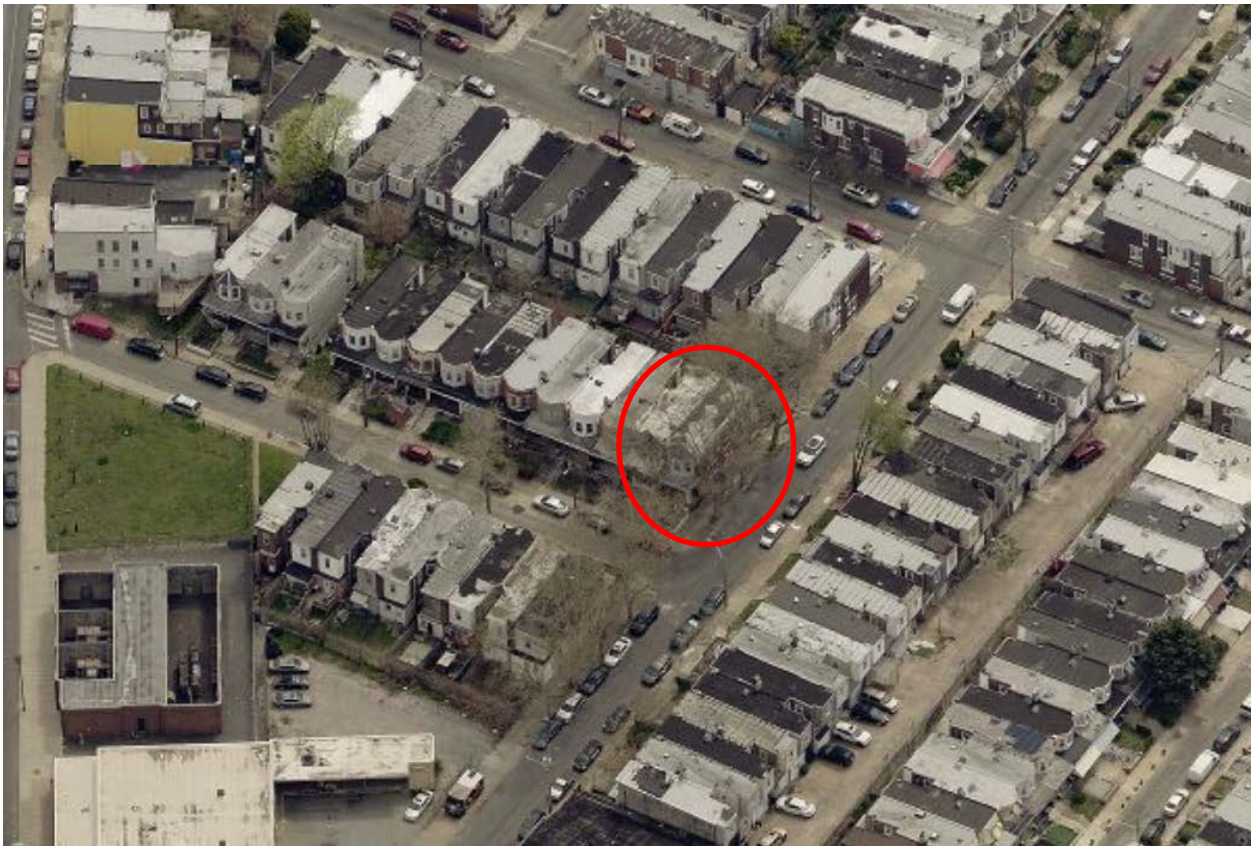

Figure 6. Aerial view of 1538 Kerbaugh Street and surrounding neighborhood looking south, April 6, 2023. Source: Pictometry.

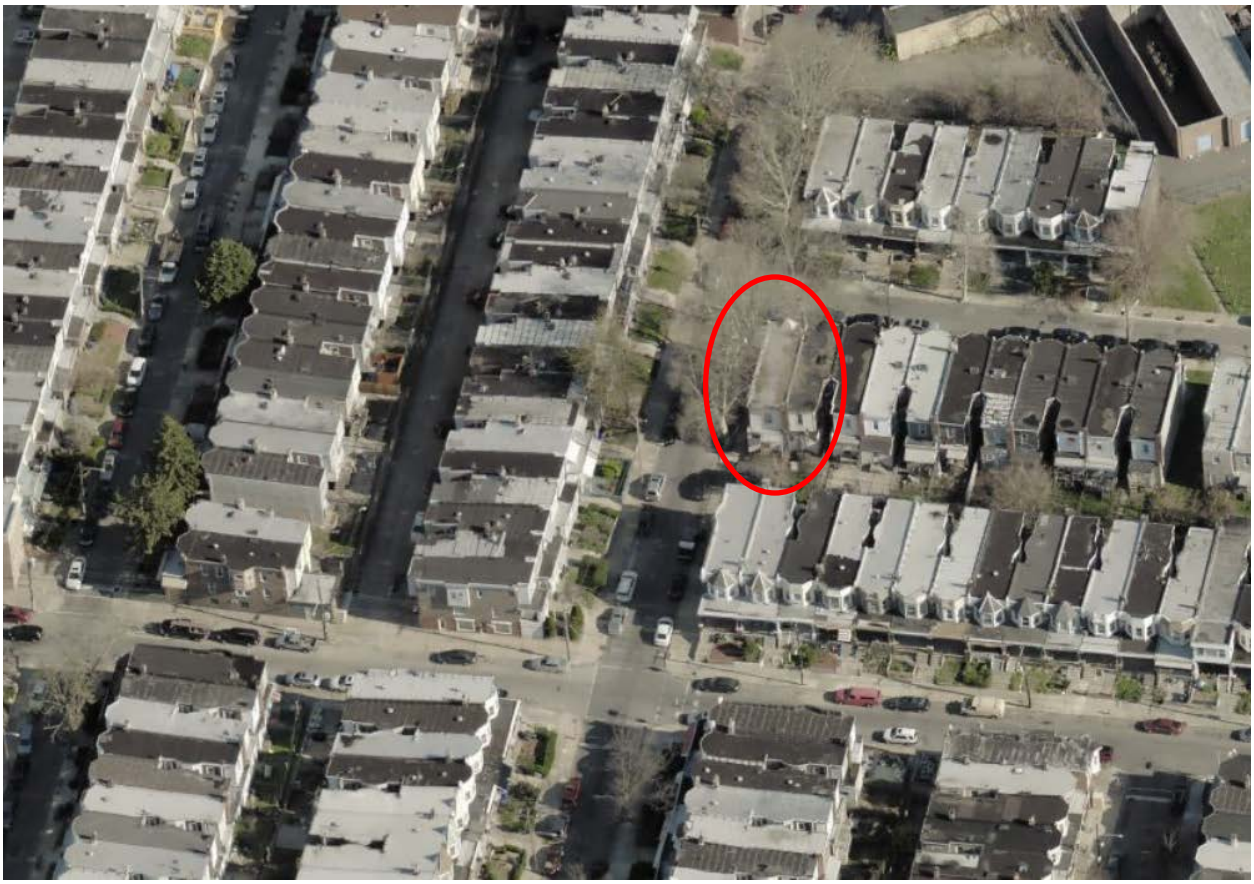

Figure 7. Aerial view of 1538 Kerbaugh Street and surrounding neighborhood looking north, April 2, 2020. Source: Pictometry.

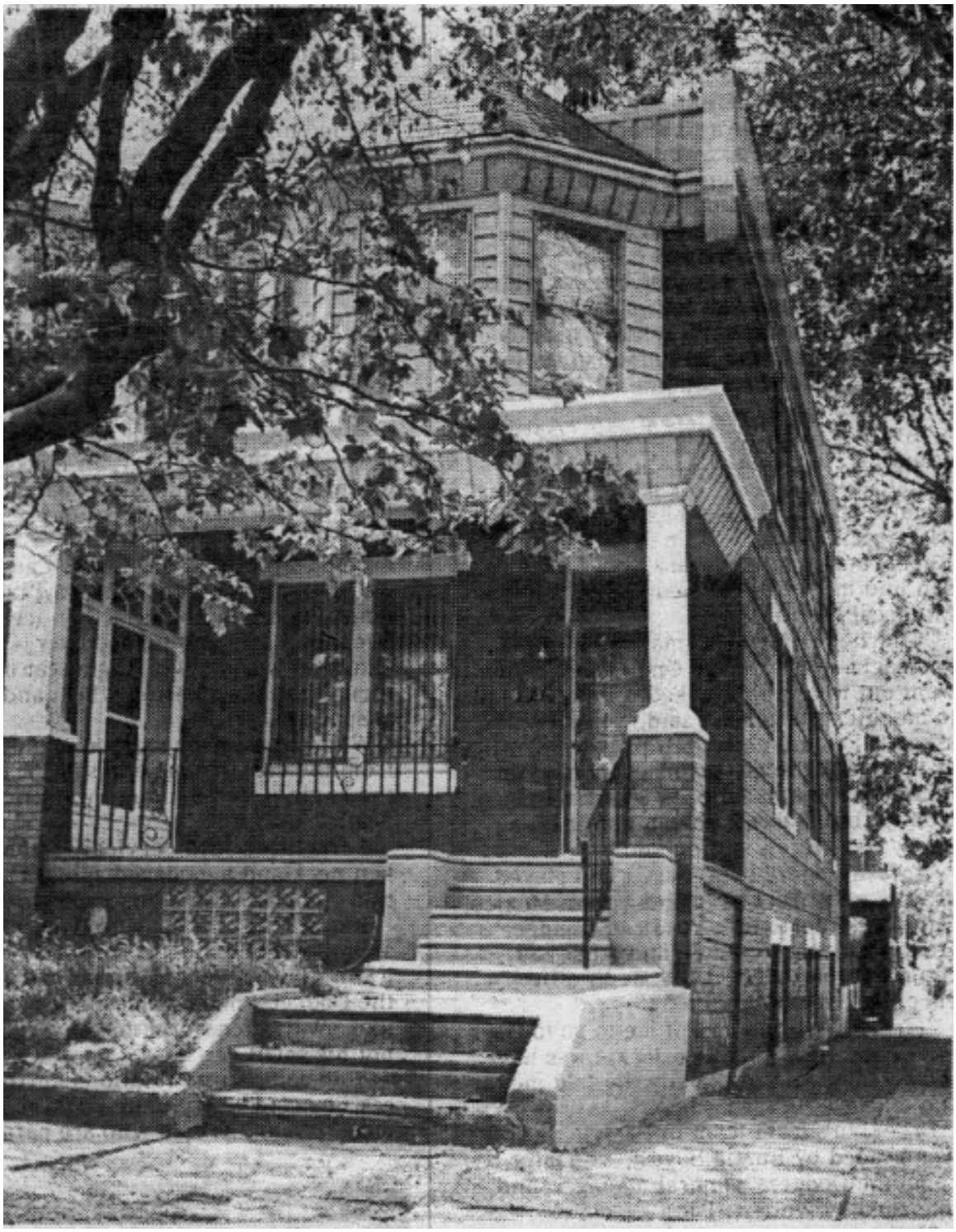

Figure 8. The house at 1538 Kerbaugh Street in 1989, published in "'Campy' Lived Here," *Daily News*, June 6, 1989, p. 104.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The property at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, known as the Roy Campanella Childhood Home, is historically significant and should be listed individually on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The property satisfies Criterion for Designation A as delineated in Section 14-1004(1)(a) of the Philadelphia Code; the property "is associated with the life of a person significant in the past," Roy Campanella, or Campy, a Hall of Fame catcher who helped break the color barrier in professional baseball in the United States.

Figure 9. Roy "Campy" Campanella in catcher's gear, date and place unknown. Source: https://explorepahistory.com/displayimage.php?imgId=1-2-B

BACKGROUND ON THE PROPERTY AT 1538 KERBAUGH STREET

In 1910, building contractor Frank D. Williams purchased a large tract of land west of Germantown Avenue and north of Pike Street in the Nicetown neighborhood from the estate of Henrietta Rush Fales Baker (Figure 10).[1] The property had belonged to Colonel Lewis Rush, Baker's grandfather.[2] The following year, on successive days in the summer of 1911, Williams transferred a portion of the tract to his son Frank T. Williams, the son transferred a portion of that tract to mortgage broker William H. Watt, and Watt passed the tract back to the son with mortgages for new houses attached.[3] On November 8, 1911, the City of Philadelphia issued a building permit to Frank T. Williams for the house at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, a "two story stone and brick dwelling, 16x42.6. S E cor 16th and Kerbaugh sts, cost $2400," and several other structures.[4] At that time, the *Inquirer* reported that "Frank T. Williams will erect twenty-two dwellings on Kerbaugh street, east of Sixteenth street, and stores and dwellings at the northeast corner of Sixteenth and Pike streets, and at the southeast corner of Sixteenth and Kerbaugh streets. This operation will cost $51,000."[5] During 1912, the Williams construction company erected the houses on and around Kerbaugh Street (Figure 11). In September 1912, Williams sold 12 of the properties to real estate agents Francis J. Doyle and Theodore E. Nickles, who in turn marketed them to the potential homeowners.[6] Doyle and Nickles advertised the houses with eight rooms and steam heat for $3,500 and noted that they were convenient to eight car lines and trains from Wayne Junction and Nicetown (Figure 12).[7] By June 1913, Doyle and Nickles had lowered the price to $3,350 (Figure 13).[8]

On November 11, 1912, realtors Doyle and Nickles sold the house at 1538 Kerbaugh Street to Earle B. and Mabel R. Windsor.[9] Earle was 27 years old and a bookkeeper. Mabel was 24 years old. They married in 1909 and both were white.[10] In 1919, the Windsors sold the house at 1538 Kerbaugh Street to Joseph and Elizabeth Butter (Buetter).[11] Joseph and Elizabeth were white and had emigrated from Hungary; he in 1902 and she in 1906. In 1919, the year they purchased the house on Kerbaugh Street, Joseph, a butcher, was 35 years old and Elizabeth 32. They married in 1908 and had two young daughters by 1920.[12] On September 12, 1928, the Butters

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[1] Parcel 101-N13-0013, Estate of Henrietta Rush Fales Baker, George F Baker executor, to Frank D. Williams, December 10, 1910, WSV-1428-97, Philadelphia Department of Records.
[2] Henrietta Rush Fales Baker traced her ancestry to the Mayflower. Her husband Alfred Gustavus Baker was in insurance and banking and a patron of the visual and performing arts. He was the president of the Academy of Music. When Henrietta Rush Fales Baker died in 1897, she left an estate worth $4 million. See "This Child Heir to Many Millions," *Inquirer*, December 30, 1897, p. 1.
[3] Parcel 101N13-0022, Frank D. Williams to Frank T. Williams, July 31, 1911, WSV-1461-458; Parcel 101N13-0027, Frank T. Williams to William H. Watt, August 1, 1911, WSV-1461-469; William H. Watt to Frank T. Williams, August 2, 1911, WSV-1461-463, Philadelphia Department of Records. The transactions were reported in the *Inquirer*, August 7, 1911, p. 11.
[4] "Permits Issued Yesterday," *Inquirer*, November 9, 1911, p. 14.
[5] "To Start Three Big Operations," *Inquirer*, November 9, 1911, p. 14.
[6] Parcel 101N13-0052, Frank T. Williams to Francis J. Doyle and Theodore E. Nickles, September 20, 1912, ELT-124-278, Philadelphia Department of Records. The sale was reported in the *Inquirer*, September 25, 1912, p. 13.
[7] *Inquirer*, October 12, 1912, p. 40.
[8] *Inquirer*, June 8, 1913, p. 38.
[9] Deed for Parcel 101-N13-0052, Francis J Doyle and Theodore E Nickles to Earle B and Mabel R Windsor, November 11, 1912, ELT-169-235, Philadelphia Department of Records.
[10] US Census records for 1910 and 1920. Philadelphia Marriage Index, 1885-1951.
[11] Deed for Parcel 101-N13-0052, Earle B. and Mabel R. Windsor to Joseph and Elizabeth Butter, July 2, 1919, JMH-544-399, Philadelphia Department of Records.
[12] US Census records for 1910 and 1920. US World War I Draft Registration Card, 1917-1918.

sold the property at 1538 Kerbaugh Street to John and Ida Campanella, Roy's parents.[13] At the time of the sale, Roy was six years of age, about to turn seven. John was of Italian descent and Ida was Black. Roy, the future baseball star, was categorized as Black in the 1930 US Census.

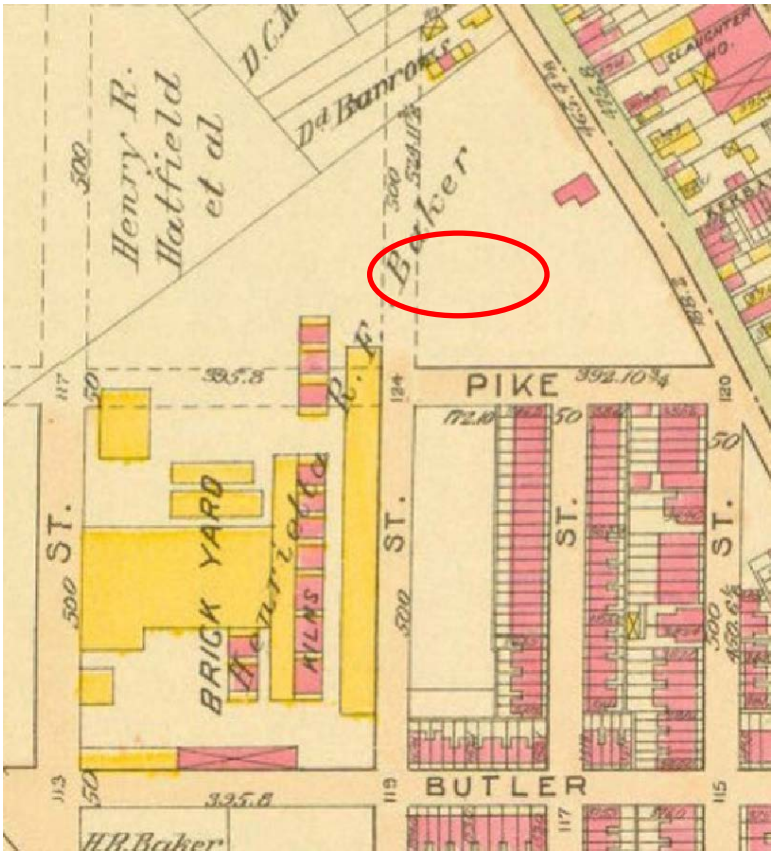


Figure 10. The area between Pike Street, N. 16th Street, and Germantown Avenue was largely undeveloped in 1910, as shown in this detail from Plate 41, George W. & Walter S. Bromley, Civil Engineers, Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 1910. Source: Phila GeoHistory.

[13] Deed for Parcel 101-N13-0052, Joseph and Elizabeth Butter to Joseph and Ida Campanella, September 12, 1928, JMH-2857-315, Philadelphia Department of Records.

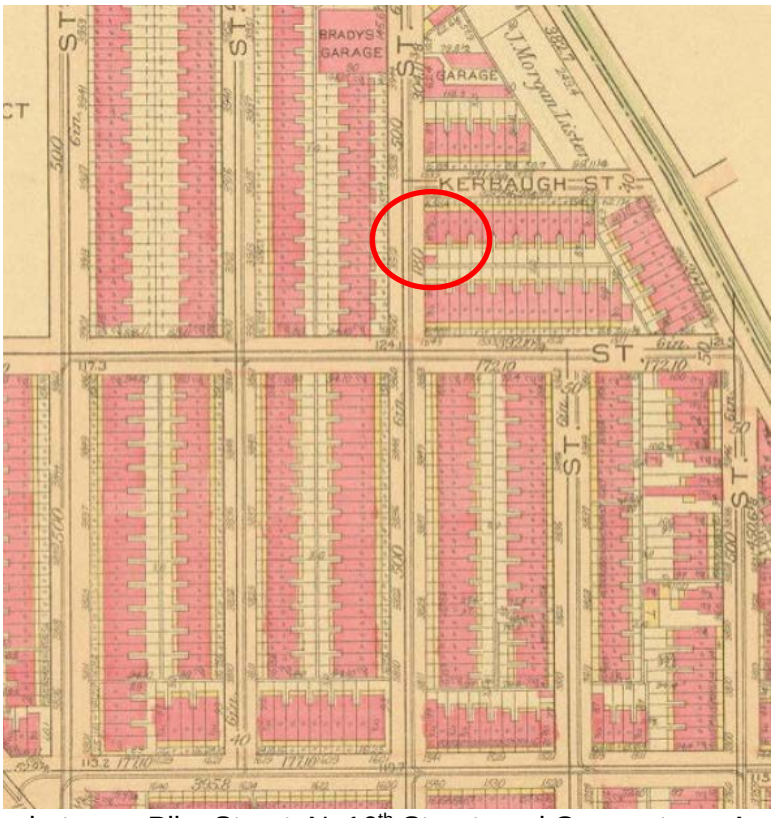
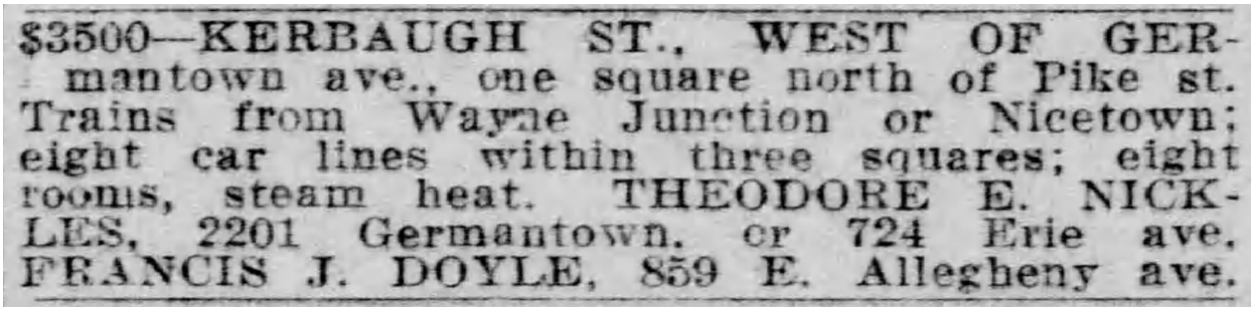
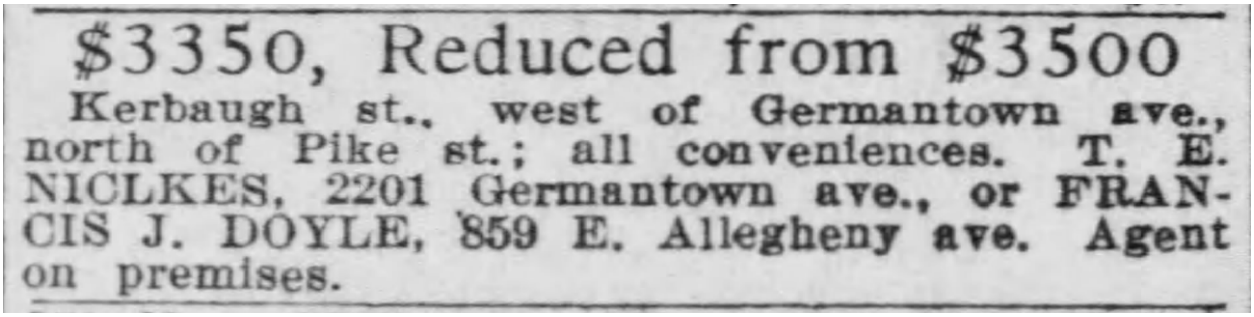


Figure 11. The area between Pike Street, N. 16th Street, and Germantown Avenue was developed prior to 1925, as shown in this detail from Plate 12, George W. & Walter S. Bromley, Civil Engineers, Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, 1925. Source: Phila GeoHistory.



$3500—KERBAUGH ST., WEST OF GERmantown ave., one square north of Pike st. Trains from Wayne Junction or Nicetown; eight car lines within three squares; eight rooms, steam heat. THEODORE E. NICKLES, 2201 Germantown, or 724 Erie ave. FRANCIS J. DOYLE, 859 E. Allegheny ave.

Figure 12. Real estate advertisement for the Williams-built houses on Kerbaugh Street, *Inquirer*, October 12, 1912, p. 40.



$3350, Reduced from $3500

Kerbaugh st., west of Germantown ave., north of Pike st.; all conveniences. T. E. NICLKES, 2201 Germantown ave., or FRANCIS J. DOYLE, 859 E. Allegheny ave. Agent on premises.

Figure 13. Real estate advertisement for the Williams-built houses on Kerbaugh Street, *Inquirer*, June 8, 1913, p. 38.

THE CAMPANELLA FAMILY AND 1538 KERBAUGH STREET

In his autobiography, Roy Campanella reported that "my father's name is John Campanella. He is white. … My father is Italian. His mother and father both came from Sicily. In Italian, *campanella* means 'little bell.' … Daddy was born in Homestead, a small town on the Ohio River, eight miles south of Pittsburgh. His family came to Philadelphia when he was only six months old." Continuing in his autobiography, he explained that "my mother's maiden name was Ida Mercer. She is a Negro. … My mother is pure American. She was born near Chesapeake City, Maryland."[14]

John Campanella, Roy's father, was born near Pittsburgh on August 28 or 29, 1889.[15] In 1900, he lived with his parents Frank and Mary and three siblings at 4311 N. 3rd Street in the Hunting Park neighborhood of North Philadelphia, not too far from Nicetown. The 1900 US Census indicated that he had been born in Italy, but later records correctly locate his birth to the Pittsburgh area.[16] Ida Mae Mercer, Roy's mother, was born near Chesapeake City, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore, about 1890, but no record documenting her birth or early years has been uncovered. John and Ida Campanella married in Philadelphia on July 16, 1907.[17]

The Campanellas had their first child, Harold, in 1909, but lost him to pneumonia in 1910.[18] At the time, they lived at 4343 N. Gratz Street in Nicetown. The following month, in April 1910, when the decennial census data was collected, John and Ida Campanella were living with her parents, John and Hattie Mercer, and her siblings at 4040 Nice Street in Nicetown, just three blocks north of the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street. At that time, John worked as a wagon driver for a contracting company.[19] The Campanellas had their second child, Lawrence, in 1912. At the time, they were living at 3896 Nice Street in Nicetown.

In 1917, when John registered for the World War I draft, the Campanellas resided at 1535 Rowan Street in Nicetown and John worked as a pipe fitter at Midvale Steel Works.[20] In 1920, the Campanella family lived at 4446 N. Colorado Street in the Nicetown, about three-quarters of a mile north of the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street. At that time, the family included parents John and Ida, son Lawrence, age 7, and daughters Gladys and Doris, ages 3 years and 2 months. John worked as a fruit and produce vendor; Ida did not work. In the 1920 US Census, John's race was described as white; all other family members were described as Black. Everyone else on the even side of the block where they lived, 4440 to 4454 N. Colorado Street, was described as Black. Roy Campanella, the future baseball star, was born on November 19, 1921, while his family lived on Colorado Street. In his autobiography, Roy Campanella noted that his family "lived in Germantown, on Colorado Street," before moving to Nicetown.[21] Today, the 4400 block of N. Colorado Street would be considered at the northern edge of Nicetown, not in

[14] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), p. 28.
[15] John Campanella, World War I Registration Card, June 5, 1917; World War II Registration Card, August 27, 1942. Source: Ancestry.com. The earlier card dates his birth to August 28, 1889; the latter to August 29, 1889. John Campanella died in July 1983.
[16] US Census Records for 1900. Source Ancestry.com.
[17] Philadelphia Marriage Index, 1885-1951, Marriage License 216267.
[18] Harold Campanella Death Certificate, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 31885. Source: Ancestry.com.
[19] US Census Records for 1910. Source Ancestry.com.
[20] John Campanella, World War I Registration Card, June 5, 1917. Source Ancestry.com.
[21] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), p. 26.

Germantown, which is generally assumed to begin several blocks to the west, to the north of the railroad tracks at Wayne Junction.

As noted above, John and Ida Campanella purchased the property at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, the subject of this nomination, on September 12, 1928.[22] Roy was six years old at the time, about to turn seven. By the time the 1930 US Census data was collected two years later, the Campanella household, which resided in the two-story rowhouse at the corner of 16th and Kerbaugh Streets, had grown to nine: parents John and Ida, daughters Gladys and Doris, son Roy, son Lawrence, his wife Mildred, and their son Lawrence Jr., and Ida's adult brother Roger. In his 1959 autobiography, Roy remembered his childhood home.

> Many of my earliest memories are wrapped up in that old corner house on Kerbaugh Street. It has a living room with a high ceiling and with stairs on one side going to the second floor. In the old days, I had a room to myself across from the head of the stairs. By rights it was my brother Lawrence's room, and I shared it with him. But he was much older than me and so from the earliest days he wasn't around too much. My two older sisters, Doris and Gladys, had a room of their own, with Mom's and Daddy's room down at the end of the hall in the front of the house. I was the baby of the family, so my room was the smallest. But it was a wonderful "cave." I kept the walls covered with cutouts from newspapers and magazines. … Off the living room was a good-sized kitchen, and kitchen steps leading to the cellar, which ran the depth of our house. Today that cellar is more of a laundry room and playroom – with curtains and all. But when I was growing up, it was in some ways the most important place in our home. You see, my Daddy sold vegetables for a living, and each night what he didn't sell we stored in that cool, moist cellar, where those greens would keep nice and fresh.[23]

While the small house probably felt crowded in 1930, when nine people resided there, by 1940, only three Campanellas lived at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, John, Ida, and their daughter Doris, who was 20 years old. Roy, aged 19, was away playing for the Baltimore Elite Giants in the Negro baseball league. That year, John worked as the "proprietor" of a "news stand." A few years later, in 1942, when he registered for the World War II draft, John worked at the Masterina Curb Market at 6424 Rising Sun Avenue.[24]

In 1950, John and Ida, who were about 60 years of age, still resided in the rowhouse at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, with their daughter Doris and her husband Clifton and their daughter Judith (Figure 14).[25] John retired in 1956. Roy reported in his autobiography in 1959 that the same group - his parents, sister, her husband, and their daughter - still resided at the corner rowhouse and noted that the younger ones "still keep the old place bouncing."[26] Roy also reported that he stayed with his parents on Kerbaugh Street whenever the Dodgers played in his hometown. "Whenever we played in Philadelphia in all my years in the National League I stayed with my parents rather than with the team at the Warwick Hotel."[27]

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[22] Deed for Parcel 101-N13-0052, Joseph and Elizabeth Butter to Joseph and Ida Campanella, September 12, 1928, JMH-2857-315, Philadelphia Department of Records.
[23] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), pp. 26-27.
[24] John Campanella, World War II Registration Card, August 27, 1942. Source: Ancestry.com.
[25] US Census Records for 1950. Source Ancestry.com.
[26] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), pp. 26-29.
[27] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), p. 12.

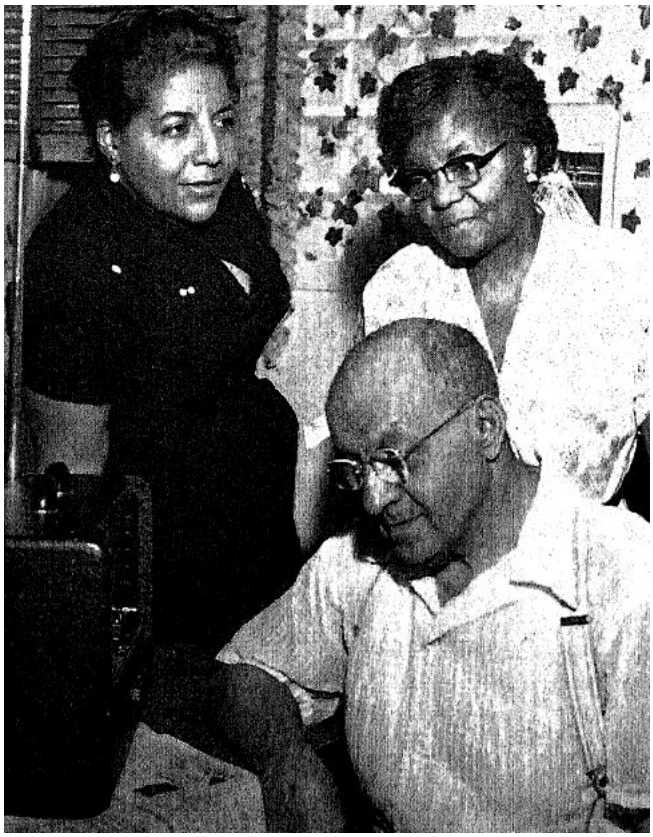


Figure 14. Doris, Ida, and John Campanella listening to a Brooklyn Dodgers game on the radio at 1538 Kerbaugh Street in the 1950s. Source: *It's Good to Be Alive*.

John and Ida Campanella transferred ownership of the house at 1538 Kerbaugh Street to their daughters Doris and Gladys on August 15, 1967, but continued to reside at the house.[28] Ida died on January 5, 1973.[29] John died in 1983. Roy died in 1993. On October 14, 1988, the Campanella daughters sold the property to James A. Pender Jr., ending 60 years of Campanella ownership of the property at 1538 Kerbaugh Street.[30]

RACE, IDENTITY, AND DEMOGRAPHICS FOR THE 1500 BLOCK OF KERBAUGH STREET, 1920-1950

Historically, Black Philadelphians had primarily lived in the 7th Ward, west of 7th Street between Spruce and South Streets, and down into the 30th Ward, which extended off the 7th Ward to the south of South Street, west of Broad Street. Smaller Black enclaves were located throughout the city, close to employment opportunities. During the Great Migration, Philadelphia's already large Black population grew significantly. The numbers of Black Philadelphians grew from 84,000 in 1900 to 134,000 in 1920. By 1930, half of city's Black residents, now some 219,000 strong, had come from just four southern states: Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Maryland. World War II prompted a second Great Migration that was larger than the first.

[28] Deed for Parcel 101-N13-0052, John and Ida Campanella to Doris Coursey and Gladys C. Johnson, August 15, 1967, OAD-1069-352, Philadelphia Department of Records.
[29] Ida Campanella died on January 5, 1973. See "Mrs. John Campanella, Mother of Baseball Star," *Inquirer*, January 6, 1973, p. 18.
[30] Deed for Parcel 101-N13-0052, Doris Coursey and Gladys C. Johnson to James A. Pender Jr., October 14, 1988, FHS-1209-445, Philadelphia Department of Records.

Philadelphia's Black population soared from 250,000 in 1940, to 375,000 in 1950, and then peaked at 655,000 residents in 1970.[31] During the first half of the twentieth century, Black communities beyond the 7th Ward emerged and grew in many parts of the city. J.M. Brewer's redlining Map of Philadelphia of 1934, which was used to institutionalize racial discrimination in real estate financing, depicted large Black communities in the 7th Ward and throughout South Philadelphia west of Broad Street, in West Philadelphia north of Market Street east of 60th Street, and throughout North Philadelphia west of 7th Street, with smaller enclaves dotting Germantown and Southwest Philadelphia.

Demographic data for the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street discloses much about the changing Nicetown neighborhood during the Great Migration in the early twentieth century. Twenty-four nearly identical two-story rowhouses stood on the short 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street that runs west from Germantown Avenue to N. 16th Street.[32] As noted above, the rowhouses were constructed in 1912. In 1920, US census takers categorized 100% of the surveyed households on the block as white.[33] Between 1920 and 1950, the racial makeup of Kerbaugh Street changed significantly (Table 1). By 1950, 22% of the households were white and 78% Black.[34]

Table 1. Race by Household on the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street, 1920-1950				
Race	1920	1930	1940	1950
Black	0%	48%	61%	78%
White	100%	52%	39%	22%

J.M. Brewer's redlining Map of Philadelphia depicted the area that included the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street as inhabited by a "complete or substantially complete concentration" of "colored" residents in 1934 (Figure 15). Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the white residents of the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street were primarily of Polish descent. The Black residents not born in Pennsylvania were primarily born in southern states including Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. During the Great Migration, the racial makeup of the residents of the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street shifted from entirely white in 1920 to three-quarters Black by 1950. Roy Campanella noted the demographic shift in this autobiography, *It's Good to Be Alive*, published in 1959. "I was seven when we moved to Nicetown. That must have been in 1928. … Like everything else, Nicetown has sure changed a lot since I lived there. When we moved there, it was mostly Italian and Polish. There were very few Negroes. Now it's almost all Negro. Our family lived at 1538 Kerbaugh Street. It is a corner house and that's where my Mom and Daddy still live. My sister Doris and her husband Clifton Coursey and their daughter Judy live with them."[35] Throughout the period from 1920 to 1950, as

[31] The demographic information is derived from: Charles Hardy III, West Chester University, "Historical Overview of Philadelphia and the Great Migration," https://greatmigrationphl.org/node/24
[32] The house at 1516 Kerbaugh Street was declared imminently dangerous in 2016 and demolished at some point in 2016 or 2017. The other 23 houses are standing as of the date of this nomination.
[33] Of the 24 houses on the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street, 23 were surveyed in the 1920 census. All residents of all 23 houses were listed as white. No information was reported for 1524 Kerbaugh Street.
[34] Excluding the Campanella's mixed-race household, of the 23 houses on the block, 12 or 52% were white and 11 or 48% were Black according to the 1930 US Census. Excluding the Campanella's mixed-race household, of the 23 houses on the block, 9 or 39% were white and 14 or 61% were Black according to the 1940 US Census. Excluding the Campanella's mixed-race household, of the 23 houses on the block, 5 or 22% were white and 18 or 78% were Black according to the 1950 US Census. By 1950, two of the rowhouses had been subdivided into apartments, one per floor. In one, both apartments were occupied by white residents. In the other, both apartments were occupied by Black residents.
[35] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), p. 26.

the Kerbaugh Street shifted from majority white to majority Black, the Campanella family was the only mixed-race household on the block.

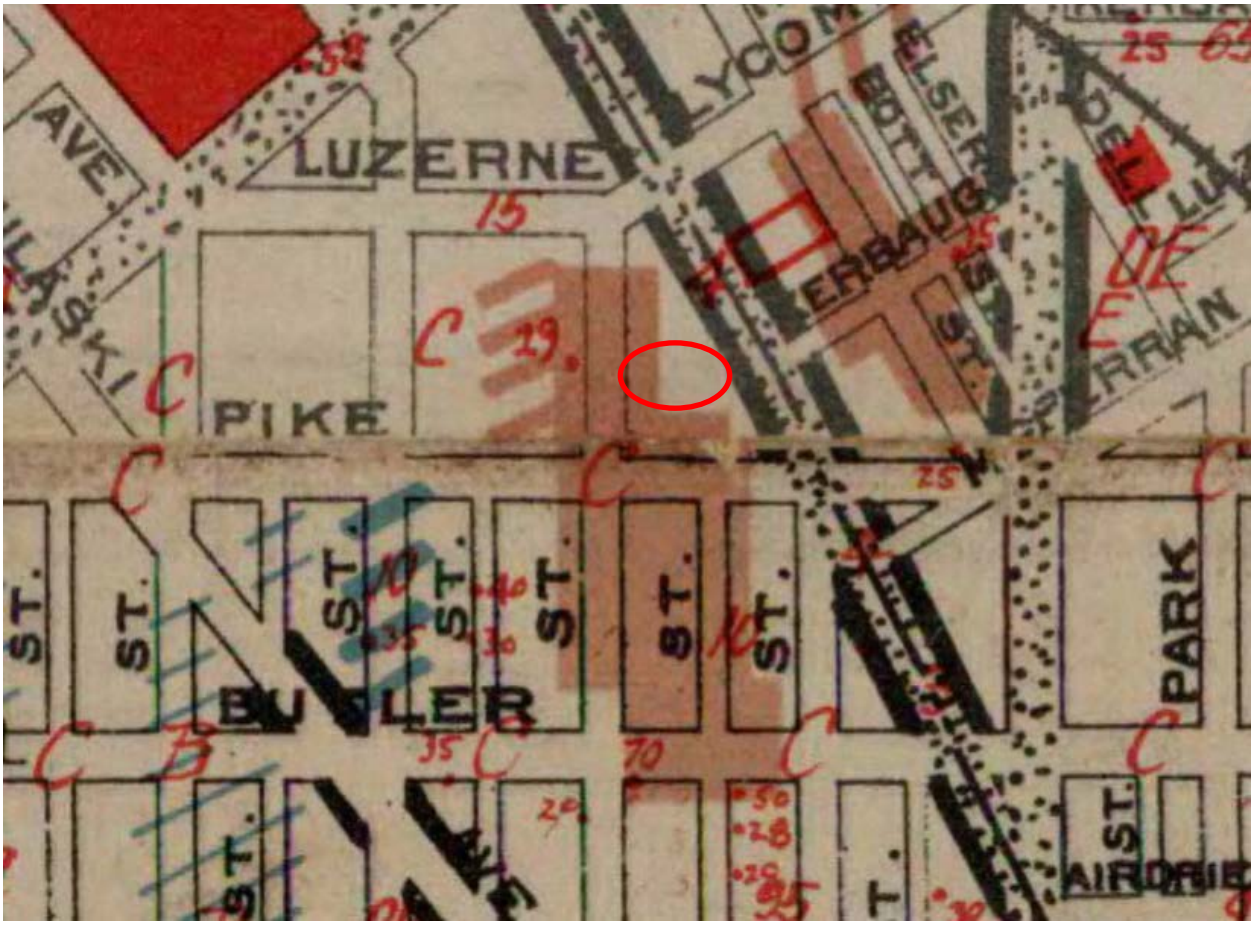


Figure 15. Detail of the J. M. Brewer's *Map of Philadelphia, North Section*, 1934, showing that the residents of the 1500 block of Kerbaugh Street were Black. Source: PhillyGeoHistory.

As he noted in his 1959 autobiography, Roy Campenella, the son of a Black mother and white father, confronted complex questions about race and skin color, sameness and difference, as a child growing up in Nicetown. In fact, he devoted an entire chapter of his autobiography to his awakening to race and racial discrimination. Roy recounted that he was teased for being mixed race, which forced him to confront the racial differences within his family, and to learn important life lessons.

> The kids [in the neighborhood] called me “halfbreed.” At first I had no idea what “halfbreed” meant. Then I found out it was because of my Mom and Dad being of different colored skin. … Doris and I would be coming home from Sunday School, and on the way the kids would sing out, teasing, ‘Roy, is your father really a white man?’ This may seem stupid, but I honestly didn’t know. It was never discussed around the house. … But I remember one afternoon in particular, when the kids were extra rough on me. It really got under my skin and I kept thinking about it all the way home. I just couldn’t get it out of my mind. What *about* having a white father and a Negro mother? Was it a crime? Was it something to be ashamed of? I didn’t feel ashamed. Then why did the other kids make fun of me? Why was I different? I had to find out. Mom was in the kitchen. We were alone, just the two of us. I fidgeted a little. Finally I managed to blurt out: “Mom, is it true that Daddy is a white man?” She had her back turned to me. … It must have been

> only a few seconds, but it seemed such a long time before she turned around. She looked at me for what seemed forever. Then she spoke softly. "Yes, Roy, your daddy is white. It makes no difference. There's nothing wrong with that. He lives in this house with us. He's a good man. He's a fine father. He's my husband. He has given us all a good home … food … clothes. And above all, he gives us what many folks, white or colored, can't buy with all the money in the world. He gives us love, Roy."[36]

A lengthy article based on extensive interviews with Campy in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1954 noted the unique discrimination he faced as the son of a white man and Black woman. "Despite the tremendous social advances made in the last two decades, a Negro trying to compete with white men still has to contend with discrimination and frustration. The situation is doubly difficult for a mulatto who, in effect, is caught in a two-way squeeze of prejudice."[37]

Young Roy Campanella was not the only one confounded by his father's race and racial differences generally. A review of the Campanellas' census data and other official government records from 1900 to 1950 indicates racial categorization was contingent on time and place, and the racial data collected by census takers was dependent on those providing and recording the data. The data collected about John Campanella, Roy's father, provides an excellent example of the assumptions, confusions, and prejudices about race in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. While his offspring, who were born of an Italian father and Black mother, were always categorized as "Black" or "Negro" on official government documents and elsewhere because any amount of Blackness rendered a person unquestionably Black at that time, Italian John Campanella was categorized in various ways. His parents emigrated from Sicily to the United States in 1886, a few years before he was born. Beyond the toe of the boot of Italy, Sicily has always been perceived as straddling the border between Africa and Europe, between Black and White. For millennia, people from throughout Europe, the Middle East, and Africa settled in Sicily, creating an extremely diverse gene pool. Whether in Italy or elsewhere, Sicilians have been treated as not quite white, not quite European, in part owing to their darker complexions. Sicilian John Campanella was no exception.

In the 1900 US Census, John, his parents, brothers, and sister were listed in the "color or race" category as white (Figure 16). The Campanellas were the only household of Italian descent on their survey page of the 1900 census. Everyone else on the page with the Campanellas was also categorized as white and listed as born in the United States, Germany, Scotland, England, or Ireland, with a majority being of German descent.

[36] Roy Campanella, *It's Good to Be Alive* (Boston and Toronto: Little, Brown and Company, 1959), pp. 35-36.
[37] Stanley Frank, "Nobody Loves Baseball More Than Campy!" *Saturday Evening Post*, June 5, 1954, pp. 24, 114-116.

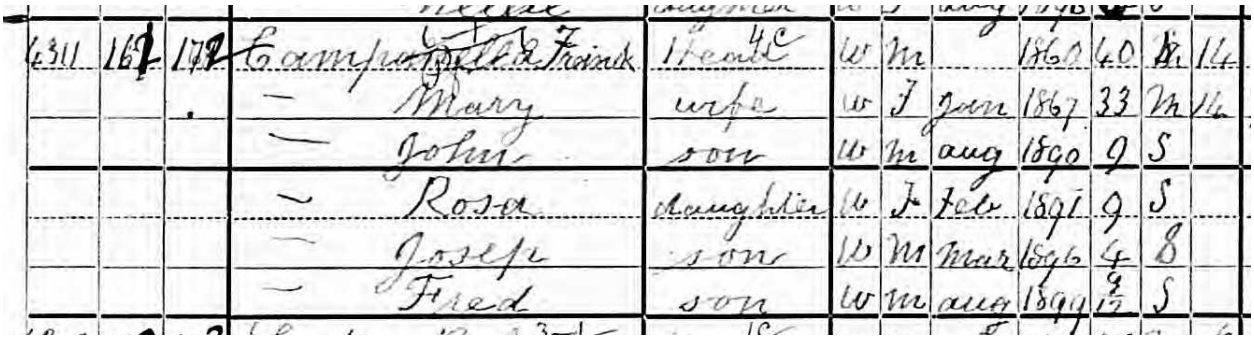


Figure 16. The Campanella family entry in the 1900 US Census. Source: Ancestry.com.

On the 1910 US Census form, when John and Ida were living with her family, John is identified as white, while everyone else in the household and immediate neighborhood was identified as Black (Figure 17).

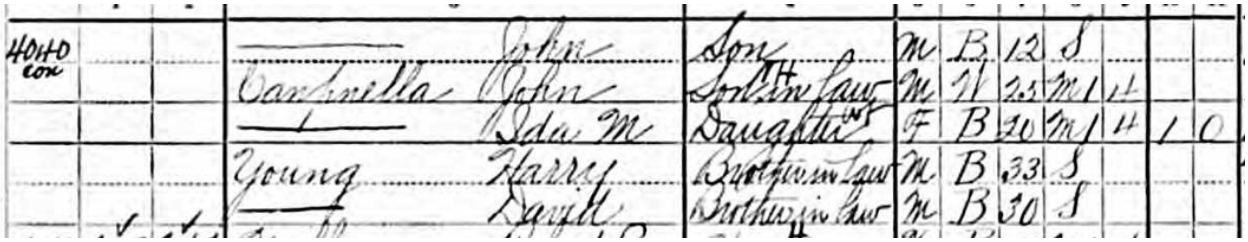


Figure 17. John and Ida Campanella's entries in the 1910 US Census. Source: Ancestry.com.

On birth certificate for John and Ida's second child, Lawrence, who was born in 1912, John's race was initially entered a "W" but then overwritten with a "B" for Black (Figure 18).[38]

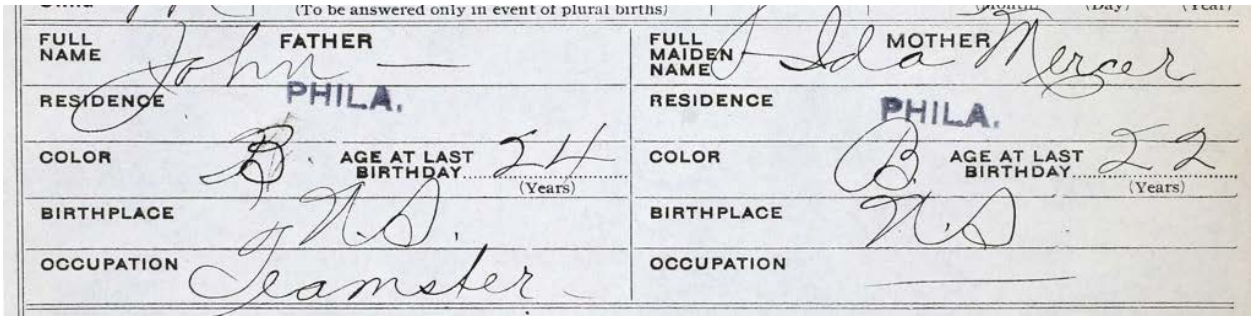
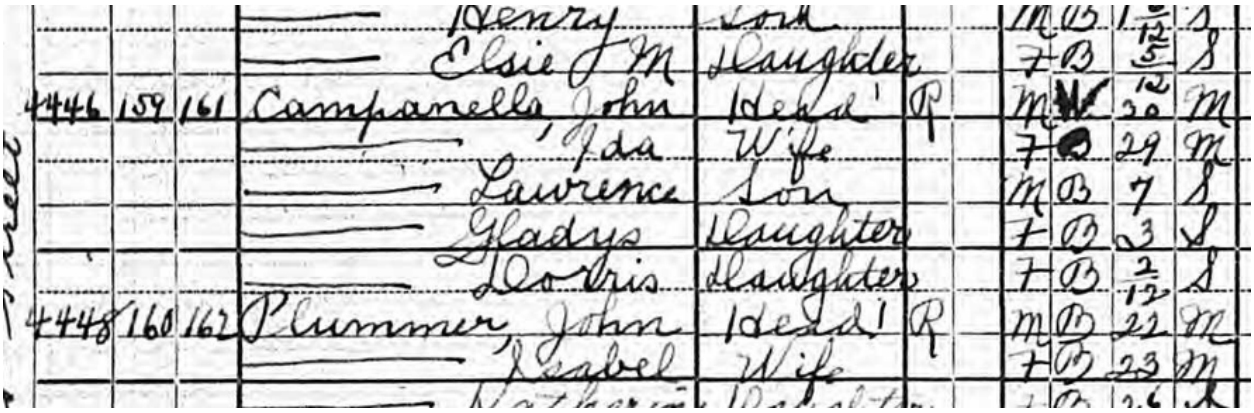


Figure 18. Lawrence Campanella Birth Certificate, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 149790. Note the "W" for white overwritten with a "B" for Black. Source: Ancestry.com.

On the 1920 US Census survey page for the Campanellas, the race entry for John is larger, darker, and blotchier than the nearby entries and may have been revised from Black to white by the census taker who may have made assumptions about race (Figure 19).

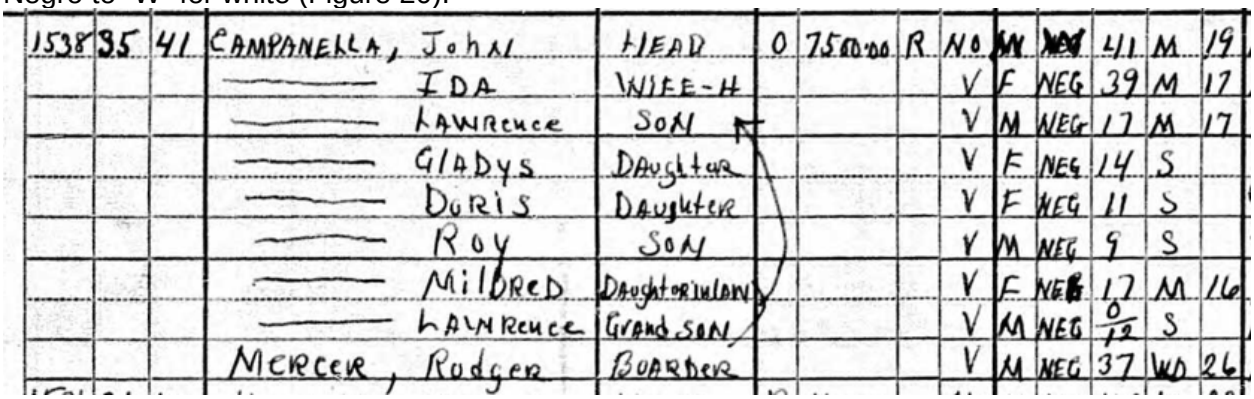
[38] Lawrence Campanella Birth Certificate, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 149790. Source: Ancestry.com.



			Henry	Son			M	W	1 12/12	S			
			Elsie J M	Daughter			F	W	5	S			
446	159	161	Campanella, John	Head	R		M	W	30	M			
			Ida	Wife			F	W	29	M			
			Lawrence	Son			M	W	7	S			
			Gladys	Daughter			F	W	3	S			
			Doris	Daughter			F	W	2/12	S			
448	160	162	Plummer, John	Head	R		M	W	22	M			
			Isabel	Wife			F	W	23	M			

Figure 19. The Campanellas entries in the 1920 US Census. Source: Ancestry.com.

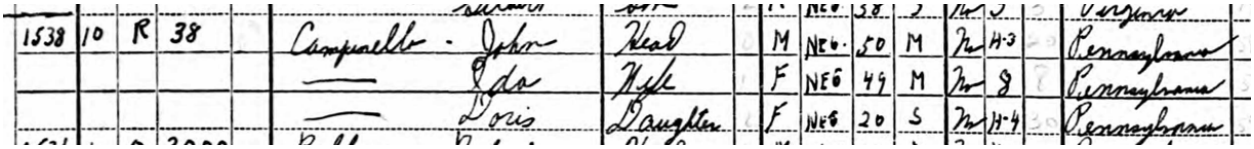
John's racial classification on the 1930 US census form was clearly overwritten from "Neg" for Negro to "W" for white (Figure 20).



1538	35	41	CAMPANELLA, John A	HEAD	O	7500.00	R	NO	W	W	41	M	19
			IDA	WIFE-H				V	F	NEG	39	M	17
			LAWRence	SON				V	M	NEG	17	M	17
			GLADYS	DAUGHTER				V	F	NEG	14	S	
			DORIS	DAUGHTER				V	F	NEG	11	S	
			ROY	SON				V	M	NEG	9	S	
			MILDRED	DAUGHTER/INLAW				V	F	NEG	17	M	16
			LAWRence	GRAND SON				V	M	NEG	0/12	S	
			MERCER, Rodger	BOARDER				V	M	NEG	37	WD	26

Figure 20. The Campanella's entries in the 1930 U.S. Census. Source: Ancestry.com.

In the 1940 US Census, John's race is listed as "NEG" for "Negro" or Black (Figure 21).

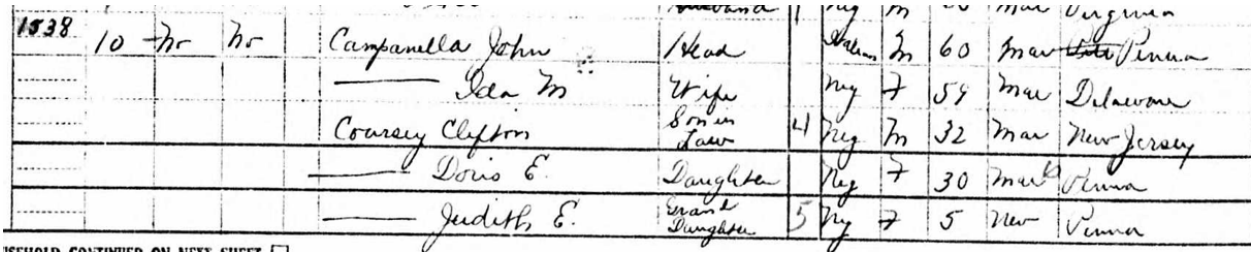


1538	10	R	38	Campanella - John	Head		M	NEG	50	M	H	H-3	Pennsylvania
				Ida	Wife		F	NEG	49	M	H	8	Pennsylvania
				Doris	Daughter		F	NEG	20	S	H	H-4	Pennsylvania

Figure 21. The Campanella's entries in the 1940 U.S. Census. Source: Ancestry.com.

In the 1950 US Census, John's race is not listed as white or Black, but as "Italian," which was not one of the pre-established options offered enumerators.[39] The US Census for 1950 offered the following options for race: White, Negro, American Indian, Japanese, Chinese, and Filipino. Instructions for canvassers directed them to "spellout" (sic) other races. John Campanella was not listed as "White" but as "Italian," apparently a race that was considered by the enumerator neither Black nor white.

[39] US Census Records for 1950. Source: Ancestry.com.



1538	10	Hr	Hr	Campanella John	Head		Italian	M	60	Mar	~~Italy~~ Penna
				—— Ida M	Wife		Negro	F	54	Mar	Delaware
				Courcey Clifton	Son in Law	4	Negro	M	32	Mar	New Jersey
				—— Doris E.	Daughter		Negro	F	30	Mar	Penna
				—— Judith E.	Grand Daughter	5	Negro	F	5	New	Penna

Figure 22. The Campanella's entries in the 1950 U.S. Census. Source: Ancestry.com.

Officially, the offspring of John and Ida Campanella were always categorized as Black, or Negro in the census and other records, and on the baseball field. John, a Sicilian, husband of a Black woman, and father of mixed-race children who were categorized as Black, was categorized by the US government as white, Black, and Italian.

ROY "CAMPY" CAMPANELLA, HALL OF FAME BASEBALL CATCHER (1921-1993) [40]

"You have to have a lot of little boy in you to play baseball for a living."
Roy "Campy" Campanella

Roy Campanella, who was known on the baseball diamond as Campy, was born in Philadelphia on November 19, 1921. He attended Gillespie Junior High and Simon Gratz High School, although he left high school before graduating. Throughout his time in high school, Roy attended integrated schools and played for integrated football, basketball, and baseball teams, always serving as captain. He participated in several sports and even briefly fought as a Golden Gloves boxer, but baseball was his passion and catcher his position. He watched many big-league games at nearby Shibe Park, not in the stadium but from nearby buildings, which was common at the time. By the time he entered high school, he had abandoned his early aspirations to be an architect and was determined to be a professional ballplayer.

At the age of 13, he was already catching for the Nicetown Giants, a local Black sandlot team featuring boys several years his senior. Gradually word of his prowess on the diamond spread. While still in high school, he was reportedly offered an opportunity to work out with the Phillies, but the club rescinded the invitation when they discovered he was Black. At the age of 15 in 1937, Campanella began his professional baseball career with a top-notch semiprofessional team, the Bacharach Giants of Philadelphia. However, his stint with the Bacharach Giants lasted less than two weeks. Plagued by injuries, the Washington Elite Giants of the Negro National League needed a catcher immediately. Their manager and regular catcher, future Hall of Famer Biz Mackey, had heard raves about Campanella and invited him to join the Elite Giants in June 1937. Mackey was taking a considerable risk. Campy was not only the youngest player in the league but probably the youngest player in Negro league history. But Campanella, Mackey soon discovered, was different. The boy was an extremely talented ball player, but he also had the necessary personal makeup to handle whatever obstacles life threw at him. When Campy turned 16, he dropped out of high school to play baseball full time. In 1938, the Elite Giants moved from Washington DC to Baltimore and Campanella became a star player with the team. By 1939, the precocious 17-year-old had taken over the regular catching chores and helped lead the Giants to playoff victories over the Newark Eagles and Homestead Grays. Soon he was challenging the legendary Josh Gibson's status as the best catcher in Negro baseball. While still a teenager, he won MVP honors as the star of the 1941 Negro League East-West All-Star Game.

Life in the Negro leagues, Campy soon discovered, was difficult. The travel by a beat-up old bus was brutal, the pay was poor, and the lodging in southern locales was segregated if available at all. On the field, Roy became accustomed to regular beanballs, vicious collisions at home plate, and racial epithets hurled by fans at white venues. Remembering the beanballs, "they'd fire at you like a duck," he once recalled. Still, he never once complained about the less-than-sterling conditions or the racism that forced him into Black baseball in the first place. As a Black man with a ninth-grade education, he considered himself extremely fortunate to be making a decent living playing the game he loved so much. The popular catcher was often described as gentle, unassuming, jovial, and full of life. He was a cheerleader, almost childlike in his enthusiasm.

[40] The section of this nomination relating to Roy Campanella's baseball career was based on Rick Swaine's "Roy Campanella," which was published on the Society for American Baseball Research website at https://sabr.org/bioproj/person/roy-campanella/; and Neil Lanctot's "He Never Complained," which was published on the National Baseball Hall of Fame website, which was published at https://baseballhall.org/discover-more/stories/baseball-history/campanella-never-complained.

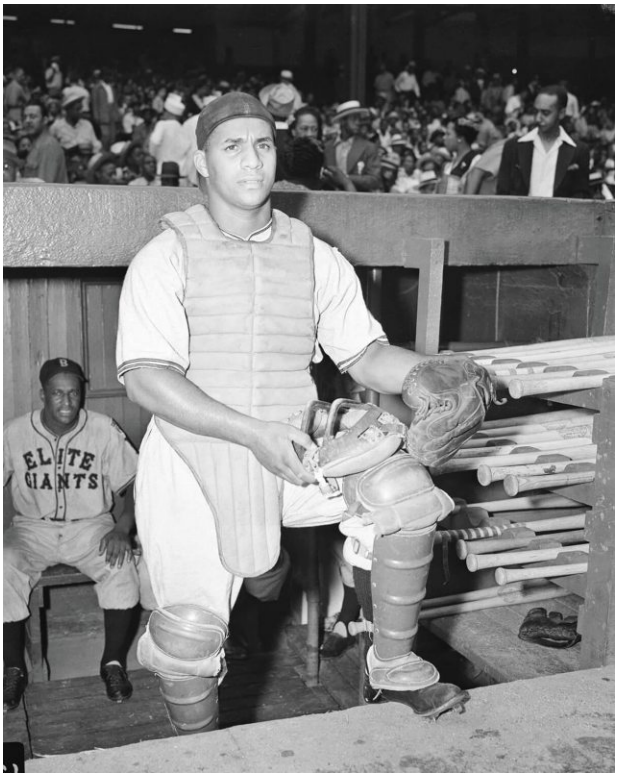


Figure 23. Roy Campanella in the dugout of the Baltimore Elite Giants, 1939. Source: Ron Cassie, “Bugle Player: Former Baltimore Elite Giant Roy Campanella led the team to their first Negro National League title,” *Baltimore Magazine*, September 2019.

Figure 24. Ray Campanella in his Elite Giants uniform. Source: National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, BL-13.2008.4.

Figure 25. The Baltimore Elite Giants in 1939. Roy Campanella is in the front row, center, in his catcher's gear. Source: *It's Good to Be Alive*.

Campy married Bernice Ray in 1939, and they had two girls, Joyce and Beverly.[41] With three dependents, his draft status was 3-A when World War II broke out, so he was never called for active duty, although he was required to work in war-related industry for a time.

During the 1942 Negro League season, Campy moved to the Monterrey Sultans of the Mexican League after a contract dispute with the Elite Giants. Lázaro Salazar, the team's manager, told Campanella that he would one day play at the major-league level. He remained in Mexico for the 1943 season before returning to Baltimore for the 1944 and 1945 seasons.

[41] Bernice Ray was listed as 7 years old in the 1930 US Census. She lived at 837 Leland Street in the Francisville section of Philadelphia in 1930 with her parents George and Maggie Ray and three siblings. She would have been 16 or 17 years old at the time of her marriage in 1939. In the 1940 US Census, Bernice Campanella and her one-year-old daughter Joyce are listed as lodgers at the home of Mabel Guckett at 1733 French Street in North Philadelphia. In the 1950 US Census, Bernice Campanella is listed as divorced and the head of a household that includes her two daughters Joyce (age 10) and Beverly (age 9) and Bernice's brother and sister-in-law. They lived at 3849 N. Smedley Street, not far from 1538 Kerbaugh Street, in Nicetown. Source: Ancestry.com.

Figure 26. Roy Campanella in his Monterrey Sultans uniform, c. 1942-43. Source: *It's Good to Be Alive.*

In October 1945, Campanella caught for a Black all-star team against a squad of major leaguers managed by Charlie Dressen in a five-game exhibition series at Ebbets Field, the Dodgers home field in Brooklyn. Dressen, a Dodgers coach at the time, approached Campanella to arrange a meeting with Dodgers general manager and part-owner Branch Rickey later that month. Campanella spent four hours listening to Rickey, whom he later described as "the talkingest man I ever did see," and politely declined when Rickey asked if he was interested in playing in the Brooklyn organization. Campy assumed he was being recruited for the Brooklyn Brown Dodgers, a new Negro League outfit that Rickey was supposedly starting. A few days later, however, he ran into Jackie Robinson, the first player to break the color barrier in Major League Baseball, in a Harlem hotel. After Robinson confidentially told him he had already signed with the Dodgers, Campy realized that Rickey had been talking about a career in Major League Baseball. Worried that he might miss his chance at the big leagues, he fired off a telegram to Rickey indicating his interest in playing for the Dodgers just before he left on a barnstorming tour through South America. In 1946, Campanella played in the newly formed Venezuelan Professional Baseball League on the Sabios de Vargas team, which he was co-coach and led to the league championship.

With Roy constantly on the road playing baseball, his marriage suffered, and he and Bernice divorced. In 1945, Roy married Ruthe Willis of Brooklyn. They had two sons and a daughter together and also raised Ruthe's son from a previous marriage.

The 1946 spring-training season was already under way by the time Roy Campanella returned from South America and reported to the Dodgers office in Brooklyn. The Dodgers did not quite know what to do with him or Don Newcombe, another Negro League star they had signed. The Dodgers already had two Black players slated for the farm team in Montreal, and most of the organization's other minor-league franchises were in the South or the Midwest, where the integration of the team with Black players would be rejected. On March 18, 1946, Campanella signed a contract to play for Danville Dodgers of the Illinois–Indiana–Iowa League. After the general manager of the Danville Dodgers responded that his league would not accept Black players, the Dodgers sent Campanella and pitcher Don Newcombe to New Hampshire to the Nashua Dodgers of the Class B New England League, where the climate would be more

tolerant. The Nashua team with Campy and Newcombe thus became the first professional baseball team of the twentieth century to field a racially integrated lineup in the United States (Figure 27).

Like most of the first generation of Black players to cross the color line, Campanella took a steep pay cut to enter Organized Baseball and was forced to start at a level far below his ability. A top star in the Negro leagues, he found himself competing against a bunch of inexperienced kids, most of whom would never rise above Class A ball. Furthermore, he would be earning only $185 a month for six months at Nashua rather than the $600 a month he had been earning with the Baltimore Elite Giants.

Campanella hit .290 and drove in 96 runs in 1946 to win the New England League MVP award. Early in the season, Nashua manager Walter Alston, who doubled as the club's first baseman, asked Campy to take over the team for him if he ever got tossed out of a game. His reasoning was that Roy was older than most of the players and they respected and liked him. Sure enough, Alston was ejected in the sixth inning of a game in June and Campy became the first African American to manage white players of an organized professional baseball team. Nashua was three runs down at the time Campanella took over. They came back to win, in part due to Campanella's decision to use his close friend Newcombe as a pinch hitter during the seventh inning; Newcombe hit a game-tying two-run home run.

Figure 27. The Nashua Dodgers, with Roy Campanella in the middle of the back row. Source: *It's Good to Be Alive*.

Despite his successes in the minor leagues, in 1946 and 1947, Campy faced challenges. He contended with dirt tossed in his face, a bigoted opposing manager who promised to run Campy and Newcombe "out of the league in a week's time," and hostile players who peppered him with a nonstop volley of venomous racial insults. "It was just as bad as Robinson," recalled his teammate Butch Woyt. "He took all that 'n' stuff... It was hard to sit on the bench and hear the crap coming out of those guys."

Campanella went to spring training with the Dodgers in Havana before the 1947 season. He was listed on the Montreal roster, along with Jackie Robinson, Don Newcombe, and Roy

Partlow, a Black pitcher. Jackie, of course, was promoted to the Dodgers, Newcombe was sent back to Nashua, and Partlow was released, leaving Campanella the only Black player in the International League. That season, while Robinson was burning up the basepaths as the first Black player in the majors in the twentieth century, Campanella was winning the International League MVP award with Montreal (Figure 28). Veteran catcher Paul Richards, then managing Buffalo in the International League, called him “the best catcher in the business - major or minor leagues.” With his extensive Negro League experience and a Triple-A MVP award under his belt, the 26-year-old catcher was ready for major-league duty.

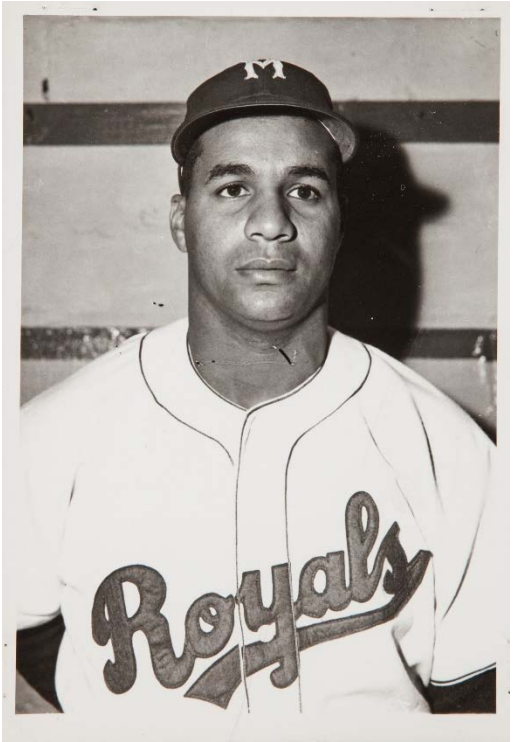


Figure 28. Roy Campanella in his Montreal Royals uniform, 1947. Source: Heritage Auctions.

Unfortunately, the Brooklyn Dodgers were not yet ready for him. Brooklyn’s regular catcher was Bruce Edwards, who in 1947 posted an excellent .295 batting average, drove in 80 runs, and finished fourth in National League MVP balloting, the highest ranking of any Dodger. In addition, Edwards was a fine defensive player and was almost two years younger than Campy. According to popular legend, Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey wanted Campanella to break the racial barrier in the American Association, the Midwestern Triple-A circuit, before he became established with the Dodgers. Ricky listed Campanella on the preseason roster as an outfield candidate, a position for which he was clearly ill-suited, because he did not want to cause dissension or put too much pressure on Campanella by replacing the popular Edwards. However, Edwards had injured his arm in the offseason, and it failed to come around in the spring of 1948. Manager Leo Durocher, back in command of the Dodgers after a year’s suspension, fully appreciated Campanella’s talents and wanted to insert him in Edwards’ place behind the plate. But Rickey did not want to put the rookie catcher’s skills on display. Though Campanella broke camp with the Dodgers, the plan was to send him down to their St. Paul American Association farm club when rosters had to be trimmed to 25 players on May 15. He made his big-league debut against the New York Giants at the Polo Grounds on Opening Day 1948. Gil Hodges started as catcher in place of Edwards but went out for a pinch-hitter in the top of the seventh. In the bottom half of the inning, Campanella took over behind the plate with

the Dodgers down 6-5. With ace reliever Hugh Casey on the mound, the Giants went scoreless for the final three innings while the Dodgers scored two runs to win the game. Campanella got to the plate in the top of the eighth inning and was promptly hit by a pitch, the type of welcome that many more Black hitters would receive in the early days of baseball's integration era.

Campanella made his second big-league appearance three days later, replacing Hodges to finish up a 10-2 Phillies blowout. Then on April 27, 1948, after a pair of losses, Durocher defied Rickey and started Campy at catcher in Boston. He went hitless but acquitted himself well behind the plate. Though Brooklyn lost, the pitcher held the Braves to three runs with Campanella calling the pitches. Rickey was reportedly incensed and ordered Durocher not to put Campanella behind the plate again. This time Leo complied. Campy warmed the bench until he was farmed out to St. Paul on May 15, 1948 (Figure 29).

In St. Paul in 1948, Roy Campanella, the American Association's first Black player, broke the color barrier with a disastrous performance, going hitless and striking out twice in four at-bats, and making an error on a pickoff attempt. But he was soon terrorizing the opposition. In 35 games with St. Paul, Campy batted .325, hit 13 home runs, and drove in 39 runs, forcing the struggling Dodgers to recall him. When Campanella rejoined the Dodgers' lineup on July 2, 1948, the defending National League champions had lost five straight and were languishing in seventh place with a 27-34 record. From that point on they won 57 while losing 36, a .613 pace, better than the .591 overall winning percentage posted by the pennant-winning Braves. Even more remarkable was the fact that the Dodgers won 50 of the 73 games that Campanella started after his recall, an incredible .685 mark. His installation behind the plate as catcher was the last in a series of moves orchestrated by Durocher to turn the club around. For his rookie year, Campanella batted .258 with 9 homers in 83 games and led National League catchers in percentage of runners caught stealing. He even garnered eight points in the MVP voting despite playing only half the season.

Figure 29. Roy Campanella in the St. Paul Saints uniform, 1948. Source: Brian Murphy, "Remembering Roy Campanella's short, but oh-so-sweet baseball stint in St. Paul," *Pioneer Press*, August 18, 2017.

Back in Brooklyn in 1949, Campanella hit .287 with 22 home runs and 82 runs batted in, cementing his hold on the Dodgers' first-string catching job (Figure 31). During the campaign,

pitcher Don Newcombe was called up from the minors, combining with Campanella to form the major leagues' first Black pitcher-catcher duo. The pair had developed an excellent rapport at Nashua three years earlier and, under Roy's expert handling, the volatile young pitcher quickly became the ace of the staff. However, the Black players faced adversity despite their accomplishments. For example, when the Dodgers played the Atlanta Crackers in April 1949, "Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella, Brooklyn's two Negro regulars, played as scheduled … despite a boycott threat by the Ku Klux Klan."[42] Both Campanella and Newcombe made the 1949 National League All-Star squad, joining Robinson and Cleveland's Larry Doby in becoming baseball's first Black All-Stars (Figure 30). Campanella joined the game in the fourth inning and went the rest of the way, beginning a streak in which he would catch every All-Star inning for the National League until the eighth inning of the 1954 contest. Campanella also displayed his toughness that season when, after a beaning by Bill Werle of the Pirates, he rejected the doctor's recommendation to take a few days off and rejoined the lineup the next day.

Figure 30. Roy Campanella, Larry Doby, Don Newcombe, and Jackie Robinson at the 16th annual All-Star Game at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, July 1949. Source: David Caldwell, "For baseball icon and Philly native Roy Campanella, fame far and wide, but little recognition here at home," *Inquirer*, March 30, 2023.

[42] "Dodgers Trip Atlanta, 6-3," *Inquirer*, April 9, 1949, p. 19.

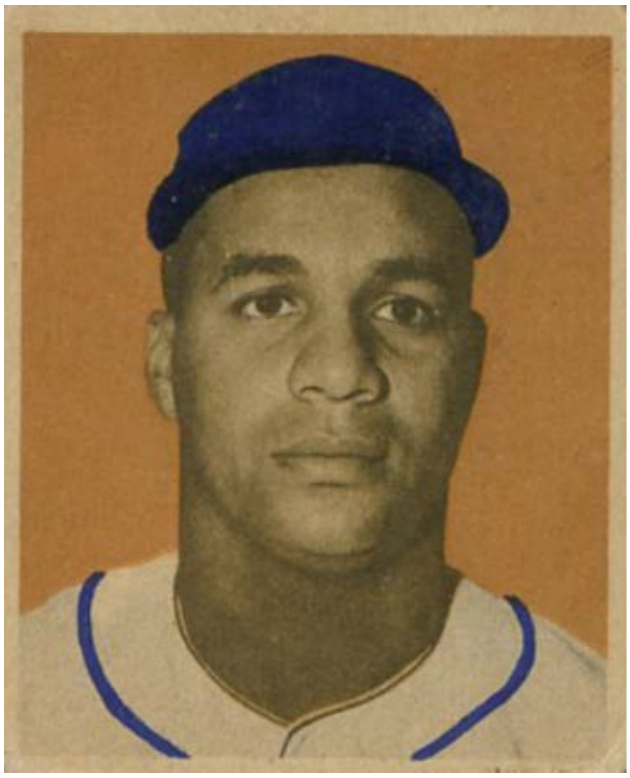


Figure 31. Roy Campanella baseball card, Bowman #84, 1949.

Figure 32. Roy Campanella baseball card, Bowman #31, 1951.

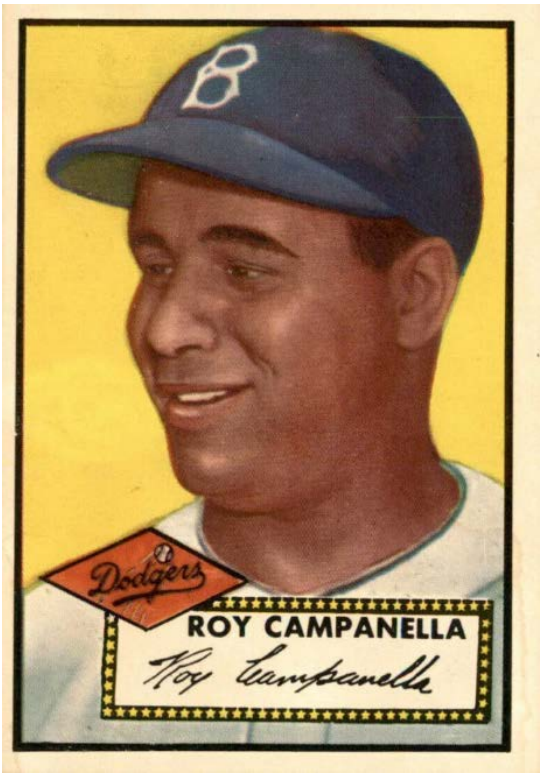


Figure 33. Roy Campanella baseball card, Topps #314, 1952.

Figure 34. Roy Campanella baseball card, Bowman Color #46, 1953.

Campanella stayed at the Major League level and played for the Dodgers from July 1948 through 1957 as their regular catcher. Campy was selected to the All-Star Game every year from 1949 through 1956. With his 1949 All-Star selection, he was one of the first four African Americans so honored. In 1950, Campanella hit home runs in five straight games, a feat only matched by Dodgers four times since Campy's streak. Campanella received the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award in the National League three times: in 1951, 1953, and 1955. In each of his MVP seasons, he batted more than .300, hit more than 30 home runs, and had more than 100 runs batted in. His 142 RBI during 1953 exceeded the franchise record of 130, which was set in 1925. Today it is the second most in franchise history. That same year, Campanella hit 40 home runs in games in which he appeared as a catcher, a record that lasted until 1996. During his career, he threw out 57% of the base runners who tried to steal a base on him, the highest by any catcher in major league history. Campanella had five of the seven top caught-stealing percentages for a single season in major league history. In 1955, he helped Brooklyn win its first World Series championship. After the Dodgers lost the first two games of the series to the Yankees, Campanella began Brooklyn's comeback by hitting a two-out, two-run home run in the first inning of Game 3. The Dodgers won that game, got another home run from Campanella in a Game 4 victory that tied the series, and then went on to claim the series in seven games. Campanella caught three no-hitters during his career, one in 1952 and two in 1956. "In my no-hitter … I only shook Campy off once," a pitcher recalled. "He was doing the thinking, calling the pitches just right for every batter in every situation, and all I had to do was check the sign to see if I agreed and then throw."

Figure 35. Roy Campanella baseball card, Bowman #22, 1955.

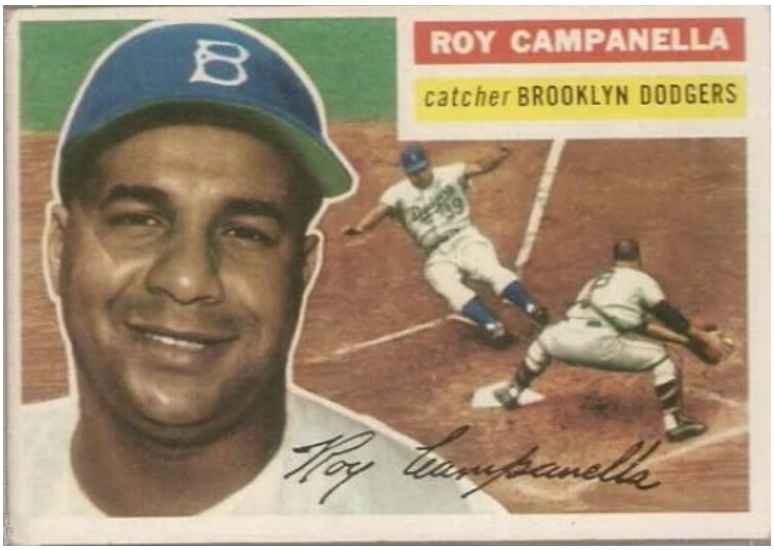


Figure 36. Roy Campanella baseball card, Topps #101, 1956.

Figure 37. Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, and Jim Gilliam in Japan in 1956. Source: *Baseball Magazine*, December 1956, p.58.

Shortly after the Dodgers' last game in the 1956 season, the team officially announced that it would relocate to Los Angeles for the 1958 season. Campy loved playing in Brooklyn and like most of the Dodger veterans hated the prospect of moving. In January 1958, just before he was due to report for spring training, Campanella was permanently disabled in a traffic accident. He had invested in a liquor store in Harlem, called Roy Campanella, Inc. Wines and Liquors, earlier in his career and worked there in the offseason (Figure 38). He normally left work for home in the early afternoon, but on that fateful day he had stayed in town to plug a YMCA fund-raising

drive on a local television show. The appearance was canceled, but he stayed to help close up the liquor store before leaving for his home in Glen Cove, on the North Shore of Long Island. The Chevy station wagon Campy normally drove was in the shop for repairs, and he was driving an unfamiliar rental car when he lost control of the vehicle on an icy street. He hit a telephone pole and the car flipped over, pinning him under the steering wheel. Roy's neck was broken, and his spinal cord was severely damaged, paralyzing him from the chest down.

Figure 38. Advertisement for Roy Campanella, Inc., *New York Age*, November 24, 1951, p. 9.

Figure 39. Roy Campanella with his doctors during his recovery in 1958. Source: National Baseball Hall of Fame Library, BL-1766-68n.

Figure 40. Roy Campanella on the cover of *Life Magazine*, July 21, 1958.

Roy Campanella, once the best catcher in major-league baseball, would spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair. Though he never had an opportunity to play for the Dodgers in Los Angeles, a crowd of 93,103 fans, the largest in baseball history, jammed into the Los Angeles Coliseum on May 7, 1959, for an exhibition game between the Yankees and Dodgers to benefit Campy (Figure 41).

Figure 41. Roy Campanella is celebrated before a crowd of 93,103 fans, the largest in baseball history, at Los Angeles Coliseum on May 7, 1959. The fans celebrated him by holding lit matches in a darkened stadium.

Owing to the stress of the injury and the life changes that accompanied it, Roy and Ruthe Campanella filed for divorce in 1960. In 1963, Ruthe suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 40 before the divorce was finalized.[43] On May 5, 1964, Roy married Roxie Doles, who remained at his side for the remainder of his life. After enduring years of therapy, Campanella regained some use of his arms. He eventually was able to feed himself, shake hands, and even sign autographs with the aid of a device strapped to his arm, though he remained dependent on his wheelchair for mobility. Through it all, he managed to maintain the positive, upbeat attitude that was his trademark and became a universal symbol of courage (Figure 42). In 1969, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, baseball's highest honor (Figure 43). That same year, he received the Bronze Medallion from the City of New York, the highest honor the city confers upon civilians, awarded for exceptional citizenship and outstanding achievement. Three years later the Dodgers retired his uniform number 39 along with Jackie Robinson's number 42 and Sandy Koufax's 32. Although Campanella stayed in New York, continuing to operate his liquor store and hosting a radio sports program called "Campy's Corner," he remained a part of the Dodgers family. He worked in public relations, helped with scouting, and served as a special instructor and adviser at the club's Vero Beach spring-training facility. In 1978 he moved to Los Angeles and took a job as assistant to the Dodgers' director of community relations, Don Newcombe, his former teammate and longtime friend.

[43] "Campanella's Estranged Wife Dies," *Buffalo Courier Express*, January 26, 1963, p. 3.

Figure 42. Roy Campanella “Symbol of Courage” baseball card, Topps #550 1959.

Figure 43. Roy Campanella giving his induction speech at the National Baseball Hall of Fame on July 28, 1969. Source: National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

On June 26, 1993, Campanella succumbed to a heart attack in Woodland Hills, California. He lived to be 71, far exceeding the normal life expectancy for someone in his condition. In 2006, he was honored with a US postage stamp bearing his image (Figure 44), and later that year the Dodgers announced the creation of the Roy Campanella Award, to be given annually to the Dodger who best exemplifies Campanella's spirit and leadership.

In 1969, Campy's sister Doris, who still lived with her parents at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, reminisced with *Daily News* reporter Joe Clark about her famous brother and their times at the family house. She remembered Campy bounding up the front steps with his sweaty gym bag, listening to Hi Ho Silver on the radio in the living room, and bringing his Brooklyn Dodger teammates to the house when they were in town for a game. She pointed to the portrait of Campy in his catcher's squat over the mantle in the living room with the engraved dedication "To the best mother and dad." Doris reported that Campy still comes to visit his childhood home but noted that "It's hard getting him up the front steps [in his wheelchair]. Every time we talk about him coming to visit, he says, 'How about the steps?'"[44] Yet, despite the obstacles, he still visited his childhood home at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, which the Campanella family owned for six decades from 1928 to 1988.

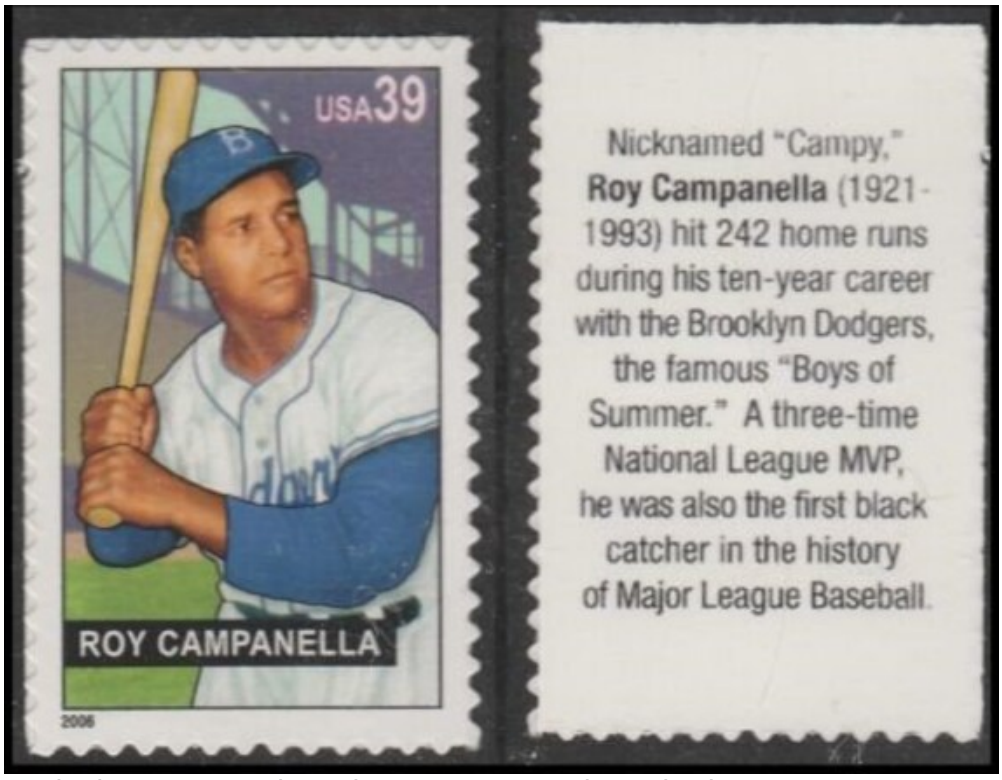


Figure 44. United States Postal Service stamp #4080, issued July 15, 2006.

[44] Joe Clark, "Campy, The Hall of Fame – and the Home of His Childhood," *Daily News*, January 28, 1969, p. 4.

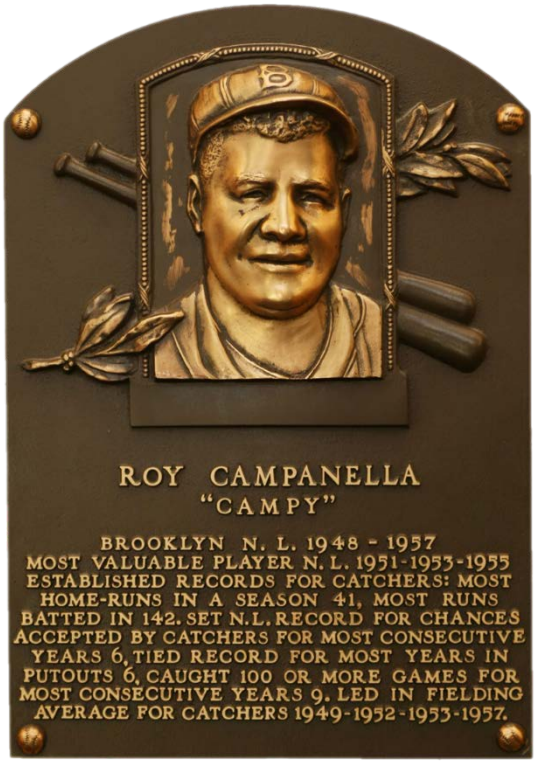


Figure 45. Roy Campanella plaque at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, New York.

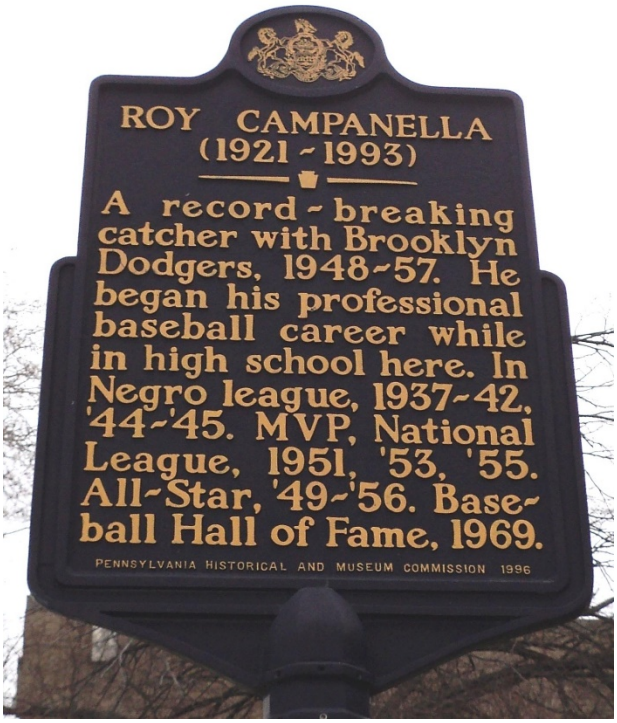


Figure 46. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker commemorating Roy Campanella, installed in front of Simon Gratz High School at N. 18th Street and W. Hunting Park Avenue in 1996.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the property at 1538 Kerbaugh Street, known as the Roy Campanella Childhood Home, is historically significant and should be listed individually on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The property satisfies Criterion for Designation A as delineated in Section 14-1004(1)(a) of the Philadelphia Code; the property “is associated with the life of a person significant in the past,” Roy Campanella, a Hall of Fame catcher who helped break the color barrier in professional baseball in the United States. The Campanella family owned the house for 60 years, from 1928 to 1988.

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