

Public Comment Regarding the Proposed
Historic Designation of 1039 Chestnut St



Mark Squilla

1st District Philadelphia City Councilman

Dear Mark:

We are the exclusive ownership management entity for 1039 Chestnut.

Although we appreciate the value and nostalgia of historic preservation in our city we strongly oppose the proposed historic designation for this structure 1039 Chestnut St.

In reviewing the comparison of the original building to what we have today only a few windows maintain the as built fenestrations relegated to an area amounting to approximately 20% of the facade. In those fenestrations the old painted wood windows now are modern duronotic aluminum material. On the Chestnut street face the total façade is unrecognizable relevant to the original as is also the first floor store frontage on all sides both south and west. Upper floor stairway access is bricked over absent a doorway at the first exterior level and the stairway on the first level is deleted and nonexistent.

It is understood that some significance is born within the knowledge that Boss Vare had his Republican club within this building. These things have at times been memorialized by a state curbside plaque as are prominent in center city Philadelphia.

To incur the ownership with the restrictions and custodial duties of historic designation is burdensome and economically prohibitive.

Sincerely,

Jan L Singer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan L. Singer", is written over the printed name.

Director of Property Operations