

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: 1505-07 Orthodox Street

Postal code: 19124

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: The Historical Society of Frankford Inc.

Current/Common Name: The Frankford Historical Society

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: LIBRARY, MEETING-HALL & MUSEUM — REPOSITORY OF DEEDS, MAPS, MANUSCRIPT, RARE BOOKS & OBJECTS

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 1930 to 1930

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1930

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Frank R. Watson, Edkins & Thompson — 1520 Locust Street

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: A. Raymond Raff, Contractor — 1635 W. Thompson Street

Original owner: The Historical Society of Frankford

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 Nominator is an Independent Researcher Date 27 September 2024

Name with Title JOSEPH J. MENKEVICH - Histophotocartographer Email menkevich.research@gmail.com

Street Address PO. Box 45148 Telephone Private

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA., 19124

Nominator ☐ is ☒ is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 27 September 2024

☒ Correct-Complete ☐ Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 2 January 2025

Date of Notice Issuance: 17 January 2025

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: The Historical Society of Frankford Inc.

Address: 1505-07 Orthodox St.

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19124

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 16 April 2025

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 9 May 2025

Date of Final Action: 9 May 2025

X Designated ☐ Rejected

12/7/18

NOMINATION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD FOR DESIGNATION TO THE PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Image No.1: New Georgian Colonial Building—11th Dec. 1930.



“Several members of the Frankford Historical Society stand in a restored doorway.

The doorway belongs to the previous home of Samuel Wakeling and dates back to 1801.

In the doorway are Omar Shalcross, a Historical Society director; Clement B. Webster, president; and William Henry Smedley, donator of the new building.”¹

<— Image No. 02.

¹ Image No.1: Photo P391053B, Image No.2: Photo P391052B, and Text: **George D. McDowell Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Photographs**, Temple University Libraries Digital Collections. SCRC 170. ©Images. Web. 16th March 2022. <<https://digital.library.temple.edu/>>.

1. LOCATION: HISTORIC FRANKFORD — OXFORD TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF PHILAD^A STATE OF PENN^A

The Historical Society of Frankford is located in the Twenty-third Ward in the Lower Northeast section of Philadelphia Pennsylvania. The map below indicates the location as 1505-07 Orthodox St., Philadelphia, PA 19124.

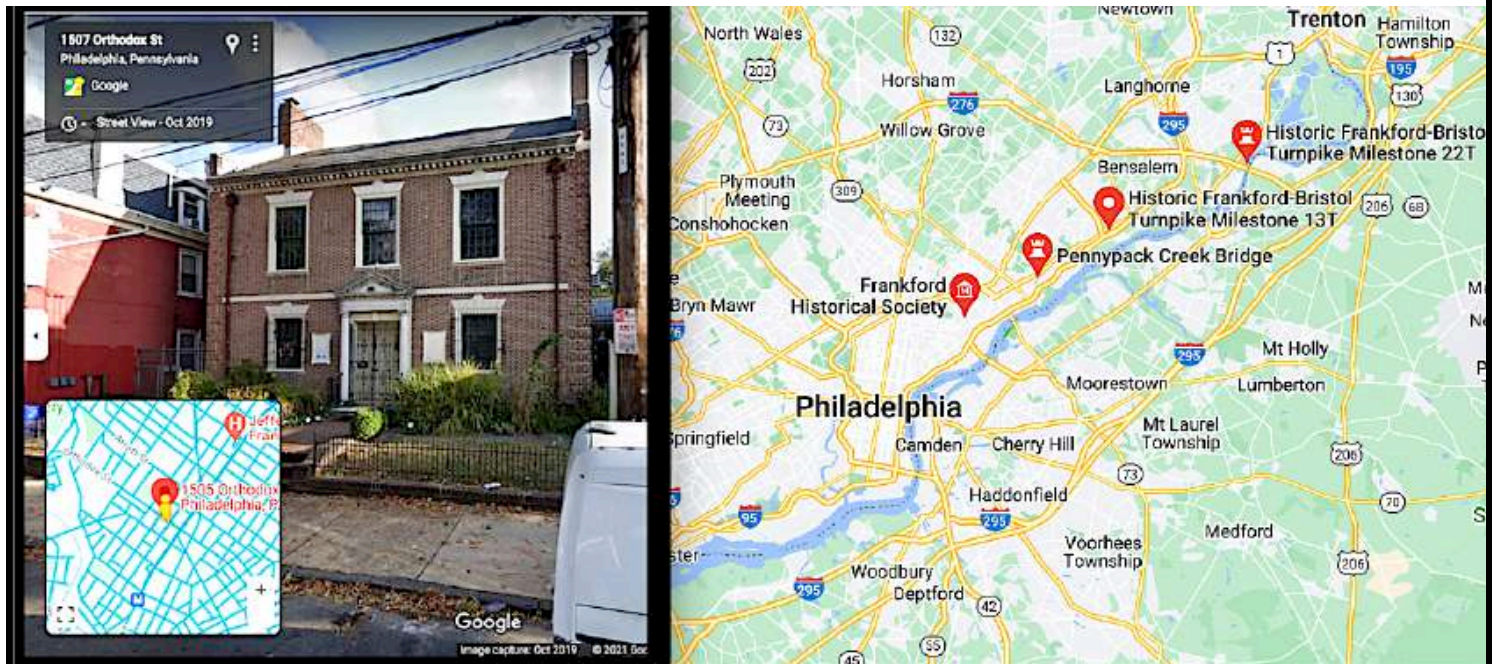


Image No. 03: Courtesy of Google. Image Capture October 2019. ©2021 Google.

Many of Frankford's roads are in-place—located where first laid-out.² The Society building is erected on the former property of Henry Waddy—Post-master of William Penn.³ It eventually passed onto George Webster as the *Jolly Post Tavern*.⁴

18th February 1814. The Western Limits of Frankford by John Foulkrod — Estate of Geo. Webster on Smith's Lane

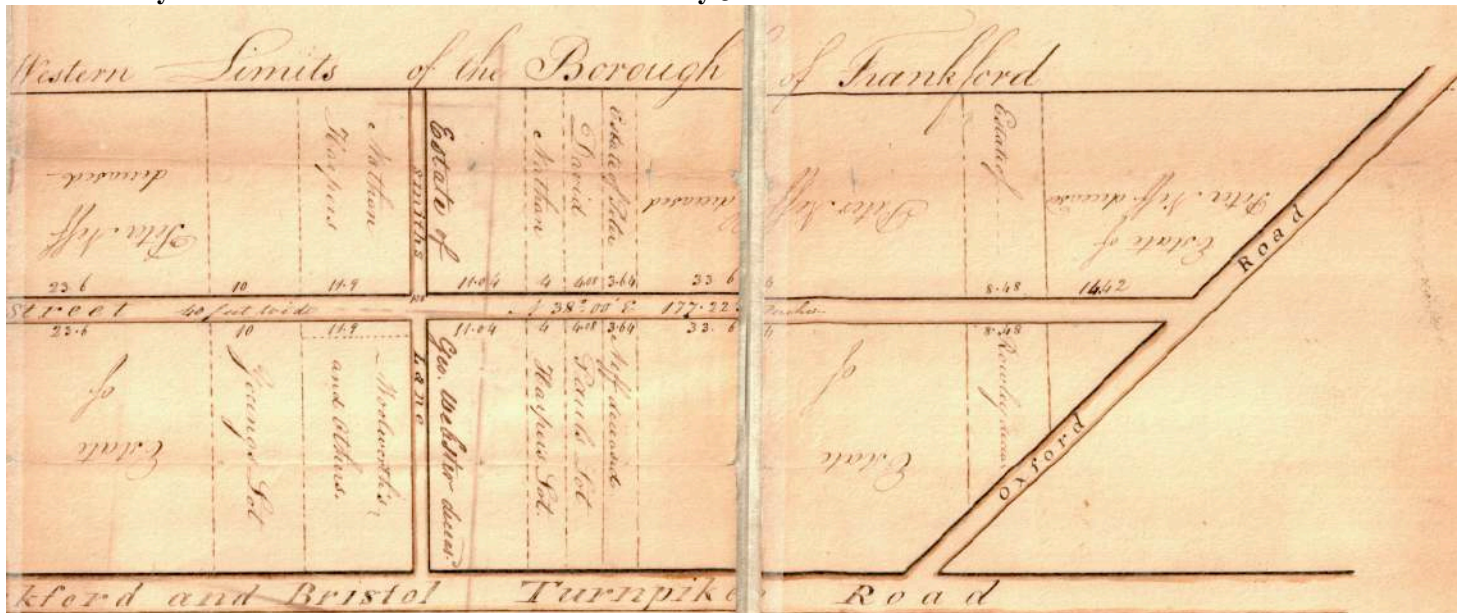


Image No. 04: [Record Group 21.26]. Accessed Philadelphia City Archives 11th October 2019 — Joseph J. Menkevich.

² "Smith's Lane (now Orthodox Street, so named because Frankford Meeting was an Orthodox Quaker Meeting) west of Frankford Avenue." See: *The History of Frankford Monthly Meeting Timeline*. Web. 7th May 2022. <<https://quaker.org/legacy/frankford/History.htm>>.

³ Castor, Horace W. "Colonial Frankford." *Proceedings*. The Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia. V. 33 P. 50-76; 1937. Philadelphia. Pa. Web. 5th May 2023. <<https://archive.org/details/proceedingsofnum0033numi/mode/2up>>.

⁴ Wright, Miss Eleanor E. "The Jolly Post" *The Pamphlet of the Historical Society of Frankford, Pa. For 1911. Papers Read Before the Society*. Dispatch Publishing House, Frankford. Phila. 1912. 16—26. Web. 7th May 2022. <<https://archive.org/details/pamphletofhistor23hist/page/n39/mode/2up>>.

2. NAME OF RESOURCE: THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD INC.

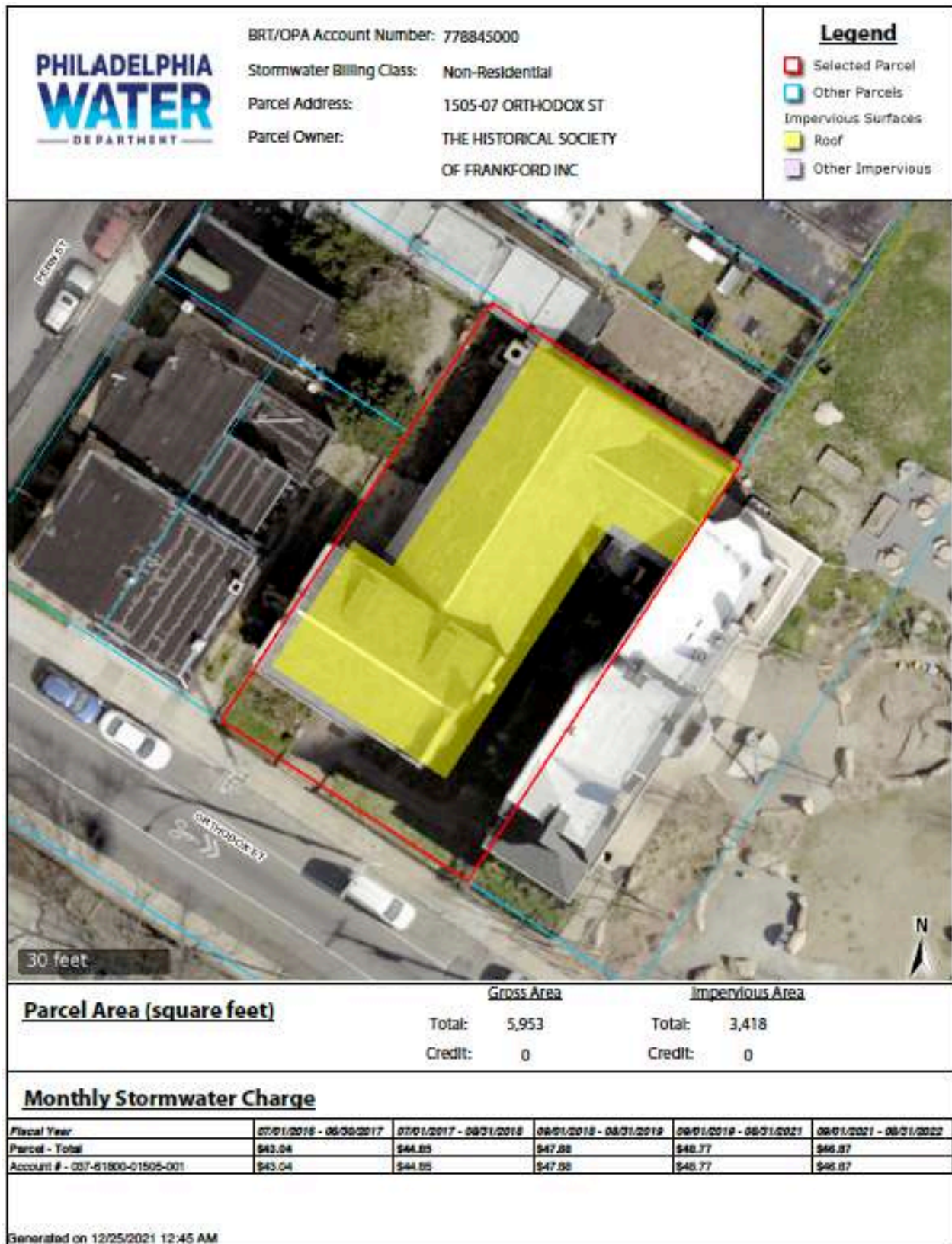


Image No. 05: Courtesy of City of Philadelphia Department of Revenue Water Revenue Bureau.

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: TWO (2) CERTAIN CONTIGUOUS LOTS OR PIECES OF LAND.

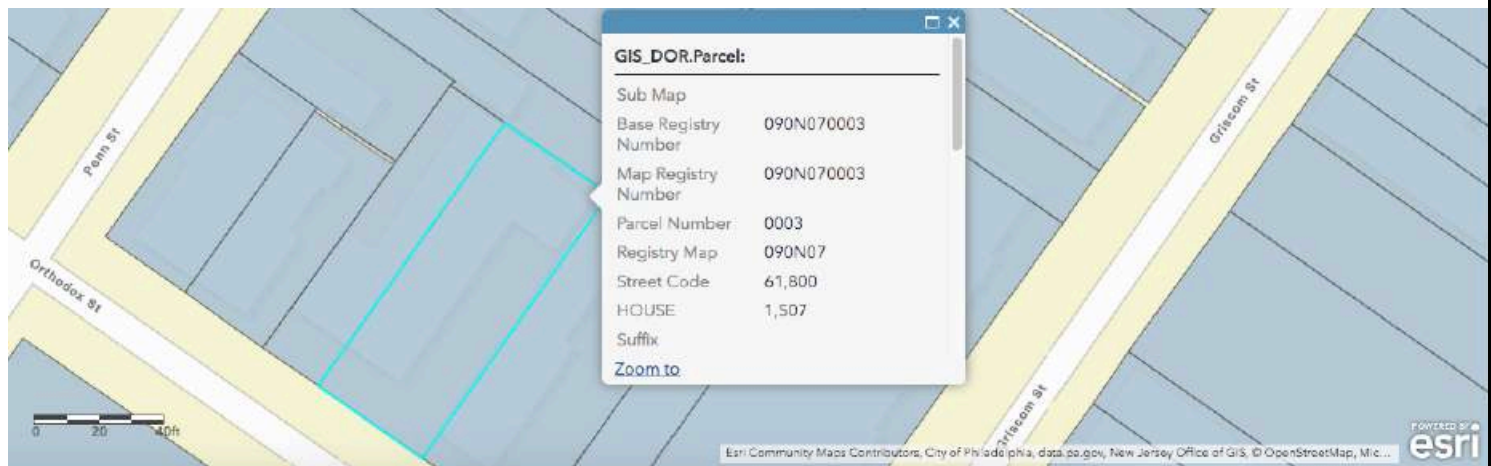


Image No. 06: Map Registry 090N07 — Parcel No.0003 - Courtesy of ESRI Maps – City of Philadelphia & Others.

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot of ground with the message thereon erected **SITUATE** on the Northeasterly side of Orthodox Street in Frankford in the **TWENTY THIRD WARD** of the city of Philadelphia at the distance of **EIGHTY FEET** Southeastward from the southeasterly side of Penn Street **CONTAINING** in front or breadth on said Orthodox Street **FORTY FEET** and extending northeastward between parallel lines at right angles to said Orthodox Street in depth **ONE HUNDRED FEET**.

BEING the same lot of ground which **JOHN BROUS AND MRRITTES T** his wife by indenture bearing date the seventeenth day of January A.D. 1866 recorded at Philadelphia in Deed Book LRB No.147 page 464 &c granted and conveyed unto **ANNA WATSON IN FEE** who afterwards caused said message to be thereon erected...^{5 6}

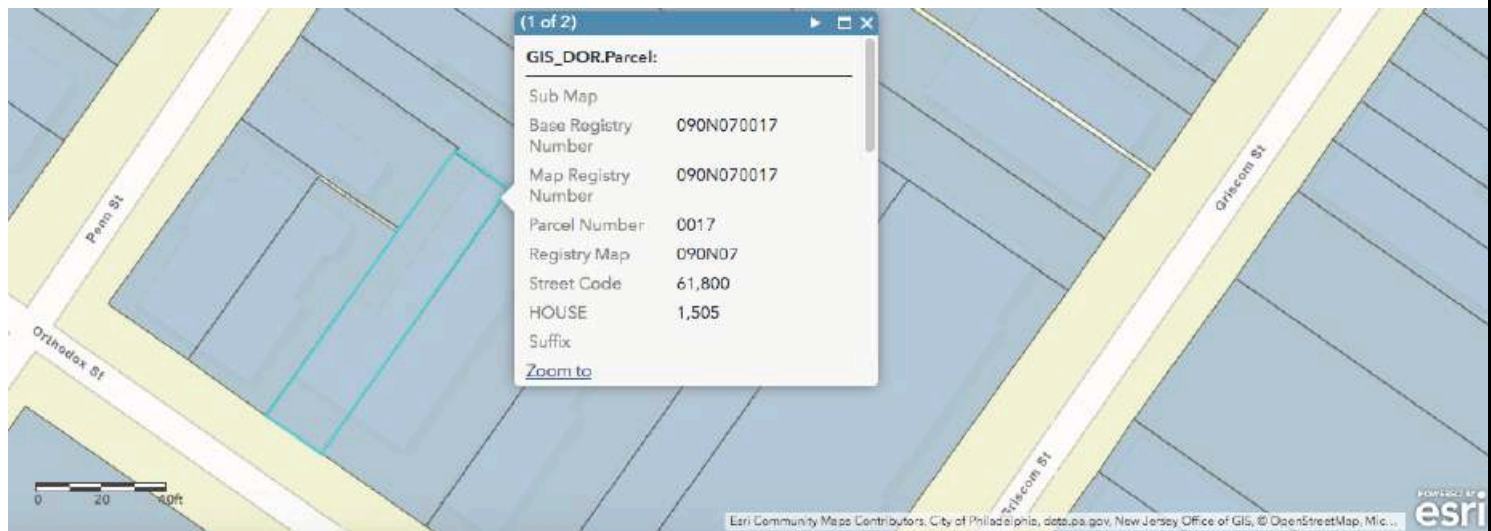


Image No. 07: Map Registry 090N07 — Parcel No.0017 - Courtesy of ESRI Maps – City of Philadelphia & Others.

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the brick message or tenement thereon erected **SITUATE** on the Northeasterly side of Orthodox Street in Frankford in the **Twenty third Ward** of the City of Philadelphia marked on a certain plan of lots made for Joshua Pierce No. 24. **BEGINNING** at the distance of **Sixty feet** Southeastward from the Southeasterly side of Penn Street.

CONTAINING in front or breadth on said Orthodox Street **Twenty feet** and extending of that width in length or depth **Northeastward** between parallel lines at right angles with said Orthodox Street in depth **One hundred Feet**...⁷

⁵ Philadelphia Deed Book: **JMH.714.571** Frank R. Watson and Rebecca S. his wife to Franklin Smedley (for One Dollar) — [9th January 1920].

⁶ Philadelphia Deed Book: **JMH.1006.108** Franklin Smedley to the Historical Society of Frankford — [12th March 1920].

⁷ Philadelphia Deed Book: **JMH.2467.291** Edwin J. Rodgers, etux. et al., to the Historical Society of Frankford — [12th April 1927].

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION CONTINUED:

Registry: 090N07 — Parcel No. 0003, measuring 40 feet front on Orthodox Street and 100 feet in depth.⁸

Registry: 090N07 — Parcel No. 0017, measuring 20 feet front on Orthodox Street and 100 feet in depth.⁹

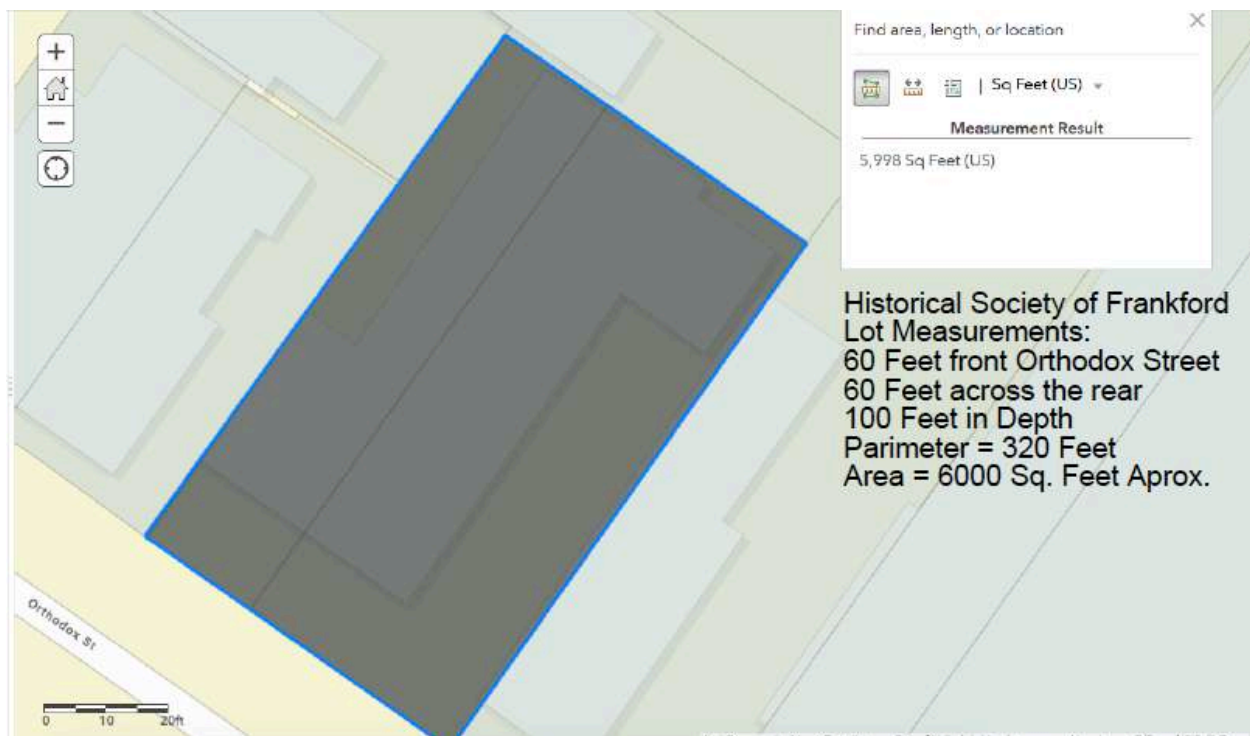


Image No. 08: Courtesy of ERSI Maps – City of Philadelphia & Others.

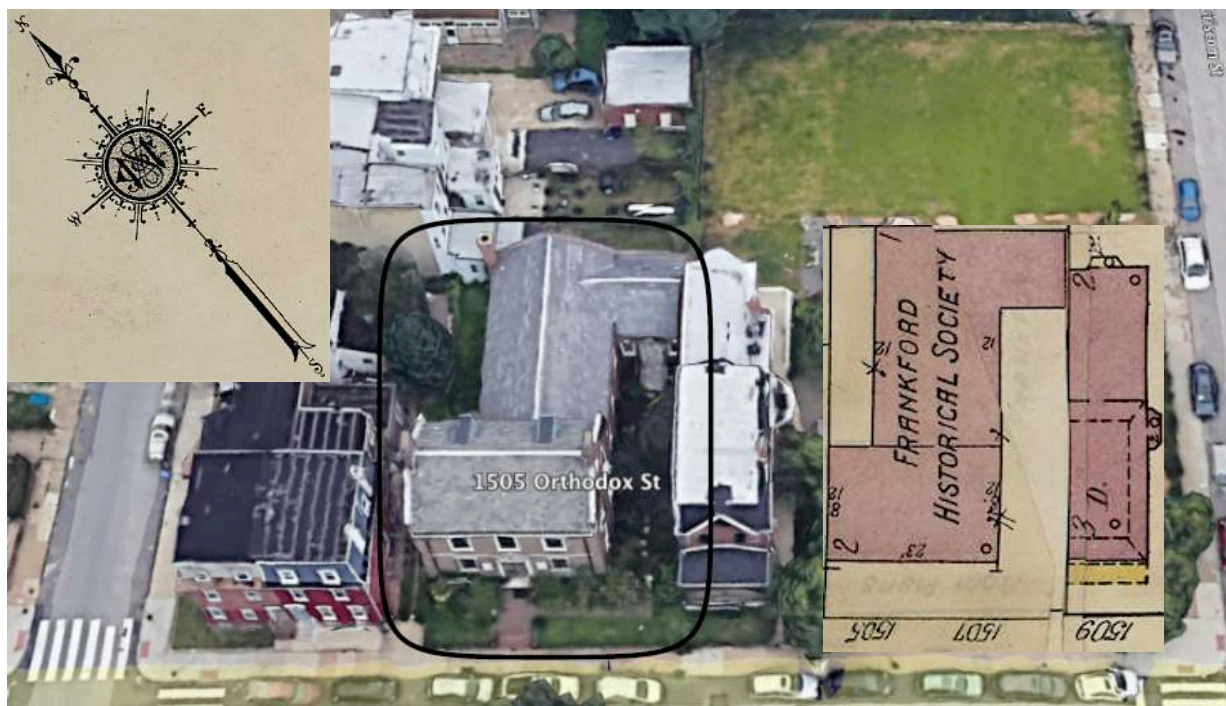


Image No. 09: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – Library of Congress, Inserted Over Google Image.

The two combined parcels form a rectangle, measuring 60 feet fronting Orthodox and 100 feet in depth, containing an area of approximately 6000 square feet in all, BEING 1505—1507 ORTHODOX STREET.

⁸ **Philadelphia Deed Book: LRB.147.464** John Brous of Mount Holly N.J., Machinist & Mrrittes T his Wife to Anna Watson of Frankford— [17th Jan. 1866].

⁹ **Ibid. Philadelphia Deed Book: JMH.2467.291** Edwin J. Rodgers, etux. et al., to the Historical Society of Frankford — [12th April 1927].

6. DESCRIPTION: GENERAL & HISTORICAL

The Historical Society of Frankford was organized in 1905, and chartered in 1920, for the purpose of promoting historical study, especially the social history and traditions of Frankford and vicinity.¹⁰

“...formed in 1905 by a small group of local residents to preserve the history of Frankford and Northeast Philadelphia and collect related historical data and artifacts.

The Society is housed in a Georgian Revival building designed for it in 1930 by Frank Rushmore Watson.

In addition, the Society preserves architectural elements from two 18th-century estates. The original entrance of Allengrove Mansion is incorporated into the garden facade, and two mantels from Wain Grove are in the office and boardroom. The building houses a meeting room, museum, and library.

The research library has extensive holdings on Frankford and Northeast Philadelphia; newspapers, deeds, books, journals, genealogies, maps, atlases, newspaper clippings, Bibles, letters, and scrapbooks, as well as photographs, glass slides, and stereographic images of Frankford, Bustleton, Holmesburg, Tacony, Bridesburg, Pennypack, and other areas from 1860 to 1920.

Objects of local historical interest include Indian artifacts, ceramics, stoneware, costumes, textiles, portraits, furniture, watercolors and prints, household objects, industrial artifacts, decorative objects, and weapons. The Lodge Collection contains works on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War and artifacts from that war.”¹¹

Alterations to old dwelling first floor for meeting rooms and library for Historical Society, upper floor for caretaker

Permit No. 3625: Additions, Alterations – 4th May 1920.

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM				
PRESENT BUILDING	CLASS	MATERIAL	OCCUPANCY	LIVE LOAD
NEW BLDG. OR ADD.	3	Brick	Residential	Residential
SURVEY VOUCHER No.		DIST.		DATE

PERMIT No. 3625
PLAN No. None

Application for Permit for Additions, Alterations, Repairs, One-Story Structures, Frame Buildings, Bay Windows, Heaters, Boiler and Engine Foundations, etc.

Philadelphia, May 4, 1920

To the BUREAU OF BUILDING INSPECTION.

The undersigned applies for a permit to construct the following described work:
Give the exact location (street and number, or side of street and distance from nearest cross street).....
1507 Orthodox St. 23rd Ward.

What is the present building used for? Dwelling
What will the new building or addition be used for? Dwelling & Historical Rooms 1st floor
Give definite particulars as to work proposed and materials used - Alterations to old dwelling for use on the first floor as meeting rooms and library for Historical Society, upper floors as living rooms for caretaker. Remove one stairway, and partitions and change windows to straight stairs in back stairway.
Set several new joint joist in staircase 2nd floor, cut opening 6 feet wide in wall of dining room and insert 2-7" steel beams over. Add storm door inclusive to door on porch. Other minor alterations in doors, windows, etc. Subject to approval of District Inspector -
Upon what kind of soil will any new foundation be laid? Old
If dwelling or tenement, give size of open yard space remaining _____
Time of Commencing May 5, 1920
Estimated Cost Three hundred to dollars
All provisions of the building laws and City Ordinances will be complied with, whether specified herein or not.

Owner Frankford Historical Society Address 1507 Orthodox St.
Architect _____
Contractor Edw. W. Taylor _____
Applicant Franklin Smedley _____

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,)
COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA,) ss.

Personally appeared before me the subscriber, a Notary Public for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing in the City of Philadelphia _____
the applicant above named, who being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that the facts above set forth are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. Deponent further says that the foregoing are all the improvements he will make under this permit.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 4 day of May, 1920 } Franklin Smedley
Notary Public, Philadelphia Co.

Image No. 10: Accessed 29th December 2021 – Philadelphia City Archives.

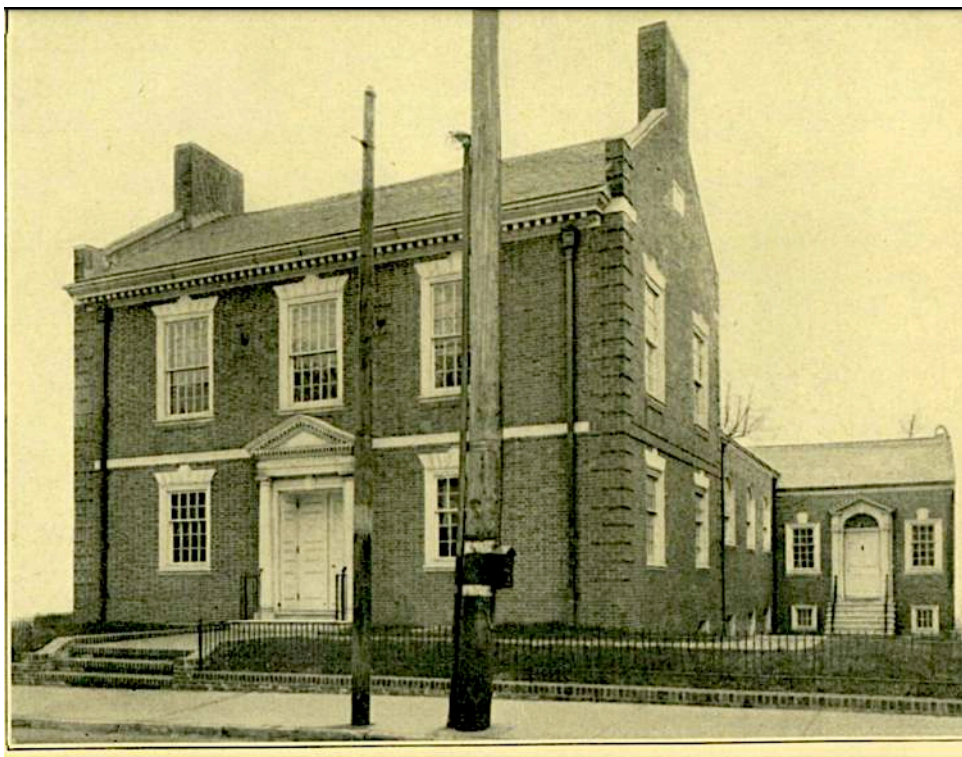
¹⁰ Historical Records Survey (U.S.). Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania Historical Commission. *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in Pennsylvania*. Edited by Margaret Sherburne Eliot and Sylvester Kirby Stevens, Department of Public Instruction, Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1939. 58 Web. 20th May 2024. <https://archive.org/details/guidetodepositor00hist_0/mode/2up>.

¹¹ Vogel, Morris J, and Katz Wheeler. *Cultural Connections: Museums and Libraries of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991. 193-194. Web. 18th June 2024. <<https://archive.org/details/culturalconnecti00voge/mode/2up>>.

6. NEW HOME OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD BY CAROLINE W. SMEDLEY, SECRETARY

"The Historical Society of Frankford is entering upon a new chapter in its history with the completion of its beautiful new building, and the arrangement of the large collection of books, manuscripts, pictures, photographs and relics in the new quarters assigned to them.

The splendid structure, which is modernly equipped, and fire-proof throughout, is the gift of William Henry Smedley, a vice-president of the Society, who has erected the building memorial to his wife, Margaretta Garsed Smedley, and to his brother, Franklin Smedley, a former president and benefactor the Society.



New building of the Historical Society of Frankford
(with adjoining buildings blocked out)

Image No. 11: Friends Historical Association, (Spring 1931) – JSTOR.

The architecture is of pure Georgian style, and with the beautiful "Allengrove Portal," saved from a century old mansion, used as a doorway to the wing of the building, one is reminded of the colonial beauty of the Independence Group in Philadelphia. The main building is two and a half stories in height, adjoining wing of one story and a half, and the construction of brick and stone with a slate roof.

Upon entering, one finds to the left of the lobby the cosy room set apart for the use of the secretary in transacting the business of the Society. On the right is a large and dignified room for the use of the officers and directors. Over the fireplaces in the two rooms, are beautiful carved colonial mantels that once graced the splendid country seat of the Walns, at Waln Grove.

Straight ahead lies the spacious and lofty Assembly Room. Wide stairways to the left lead down to the Exhibition Room whose more than six thousand square feet of floor space makes possible an attractive display of many relics, illustrative of social life and progress during more than two centuries of development in this vicinity. Above stairs, another very spacious apartment is devoted to the Society's unrivaled collection of pictures and photographs of local interest to Frankford and the adjacent country. ... A very useful attic room at the top of the building stores articles for which the right place has not yet been found. Excellent facilities are available for showing pictures on the screen (or directly on the wall), which has proved satisfactory.

The dedication ceremonies and opening reception on December 10th, 1930, was a notable event for Frankford. More than three hundred people assembled to admire the beautifully decorated, well designed structure, and to inspect the many historic treasures and relics. All were enthusiastic in their praise for the generosity of the donor, whose family has been for so many identified with the cultural and educational life, and the industrial development of the community."¹²

¹² Smedley, Caroline W. "NEW HOME OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD." *Bulletin of Friends Historical Association*, vol. 20, no. 1, 1931, pp. 19–21. JSTOR, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/41943854>>. Accessed 26th August 2022.

THE COLONIAL DOORWAY OF THE SAMUEL WAKELING HOUSE –aka– *THE ALLENGROVE PORTAL*

**Image No. 12: PENCIL-POINT DRAWN BY
BRADFORD TAZEWELL.¹³ —>**

“We now come to one of the old land-marks, and most noted building of those days, viz., the residence of Joseph Allen, extending to what is now Wakeling street. The house was built in 1801 and it has not been altered. It is a double stone building, pebble-dashed, built in the Colonial style...”¹⁴

Twenty Dollars Reward.

RAN away, on Saturday evening, August 11, 1804, from the Subscriber, in Oxford township, Philadelphia county, by Trade a Bookbinder, an Apprentice Boy, named *Joseph Allen*, a Native of Ireland, 17 years of age, and chunky built: Had on and took with him, one dark-coloured mixed cloth Coatee, 2 swansdown Jackets, 2 pairs of Trowser (one olive, the other light-coloured) 3 good Shirts, 1 muslin Neck handkerchief. Had several small Pictures, pasted on Pastebord, and several other small Articles.

Whoever secures said Runaway, and forwards Information to the Subscriber, so as he can get him again, shall receive the above Reward, and reasonable Charges.

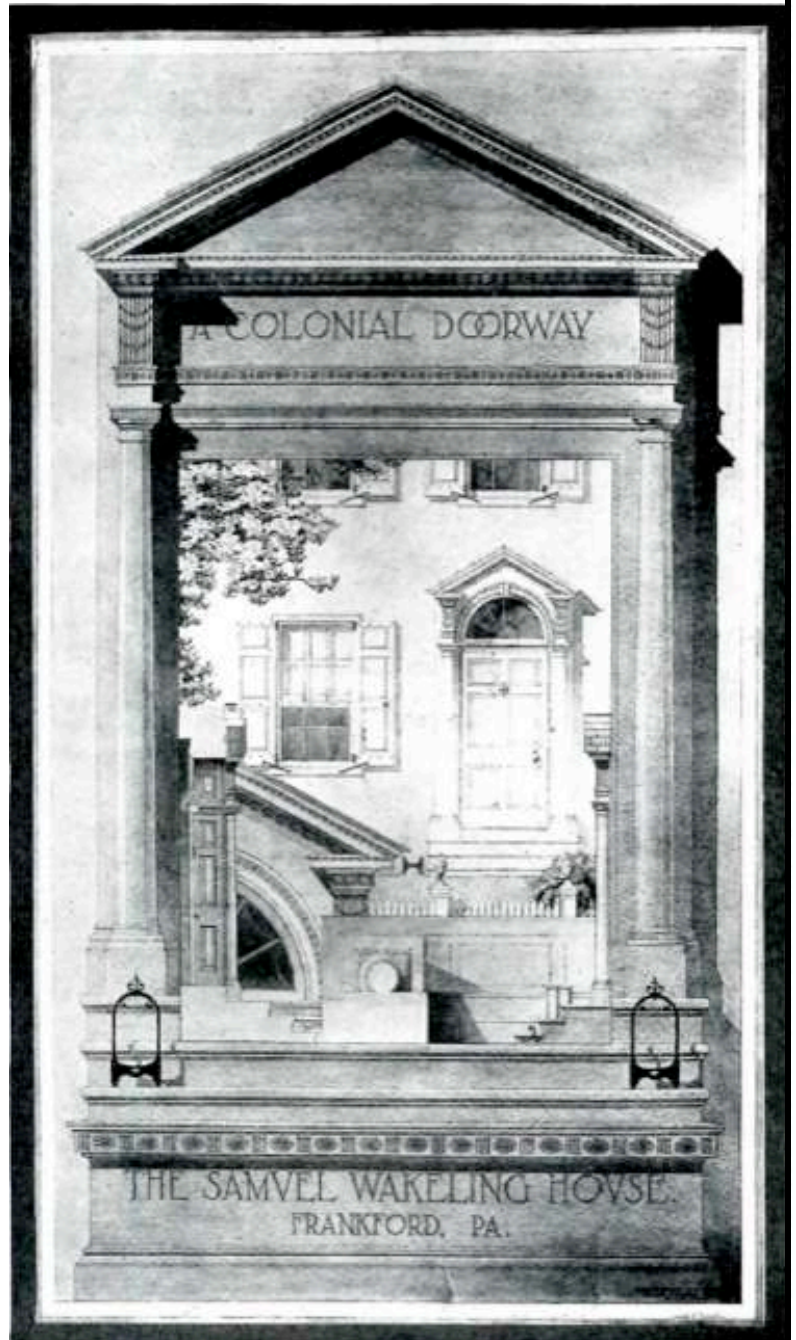
SAMUEL WAKELING, 3
4th. Frankford, near Philadelphia.

**Image No. 13: Lancaster Intelligencer and Journal
4th Sept. 1804.**

Joseph Allen, a Native of Ireland, was the run-away apprentice boy of Samuel Wakeling of Frankford.

Wakeling & Allen eventually formed a partnership. On the 16th of April 1822, it was mutually dissolved.¹⁵ Samuel Wakeling died in 1823. William H. Morgan & Jesse Walton, the executors, sold his properties.¹⁶

“Joseph Allen was a Frankford Burgess; his wife was Isabella, the daughter of Samuel Wakeling... Mr. Allen was the successor of his father-in-law in the ownership of the distinguished mansion.”¹⁷



¹³ HARBESON, JOHN F. “THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PROGRAM OF THE BEAUX-ARTS INSTITUTE OF DESIGN THE MEASURED DRAWING.” *Pencil Points: A Journal for the Drafting Room*, IV, no. 04, ser. 04, Apr. 1923, p. 33. 04. The Pencil Points Press, Publication Office—Stamford, Conn., Editorial and Advertising Offices—19 East 24th Street, New York. 1923, Web. 26th November 2022. <https://archive.org/details/sim_progressive-architecture_1923-04_4_4>.

¹⁴ Dixon, William B. “Description of the Old Main Street of Frankford, 65 Years Ago.” *Papers Read before the Historical Society of Frankford, Pa. Vol.1 No.4.* “From The Frankford Gazette.” 1907. 16–18. Web. 8th Dec. 2022. <<https://archive.org/details/papersreadbefore11hist/page/n131/mode/2up>>.

¹⁵ The National Gazette, Philadelphia. PA. 25th April 1822.

¹⁶ The National Gazette, Philadelphia. PA. 25th March 1823.

¹⁷ Hotchkin, Rev. S.F., *The Bristol Pike*. Phila. G. W. Jacobs & Co., 1893. 30. Web. 2 Dec. 2022. <<https://archive.org/details/bristolpike00hotc/mode/2up>>.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:



Image No. 14: Courtesy of Joseph J. Menkevich



Image No. 15: Courtesy of Joseph J. Menkevich

The Building, completed in 1930, takes the form of a prim, freestanding Georgian Revival house set back from the sidewalk to admit a small front yard.

The street-facing section is two and one half stories high, three bays wide, two bays deep, and capped by a slate-clad side-gable roof fitted with copper downspouts. Not seen are two shed dormers mounted on the North-facing slope of the attic. The type of windows and number of lights in these dormers is unknown for lack of access.

The Flemish-bond façade is replete with Georgian ornamentation, including incised marble window lintels (resembling jack arches) and a pedimented Roman Doric frontispiece at the main entrance.

Related details include a marble belt course between the first and second floors, a modillioned cornice, raised brick quoins, flush stack-bond “brackets” beneath second-story windows, and a rowlock string course above the water table. First-floor windows employ 8-over-12 sashes while those on the second floor are 15-over-15.

This fenestration pattern and many of the previously mentioned motifs carry over to the east end wall; the west end, however, is obstructed. Both feature engaged end chimneys and raised, raking parapets capped in marble.



Image No.16: Jos. J. Menkevich - 14th Dec. 2022.

The Auditorium's East side is three bays deep. The windows are single-hung, segmental arched 15-over-10 with wide wood frames and marble sills, capped by a slate-clad gable roof. (Gate is locked).



Image No. 17: Joseph J. Menkevich - 13th December 2022.

The Auditorium's West side is four bays deep. The English-Bond façade is capped by a slate-clad gable roof. The windows are single-hung, segmental arched 15-over-10 with wide wood frames and marble sills with a slight belt-course above. (Access is obstructed. It is accessed through the locked gate of the neighboring property).

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:



Image No. 18: Joseph J. Menkevich – 14th December 2022.



Image No. 19: Joseph J. Menkevich – 30th Dec. 2021.

Adjoining the rear of the Auditorium section is a one-story, L-shaped wing built of similar materials. It is two bays wide, capped by a slate-clad gable roof.

Designed to house collections and building systems, this wing may be accessed off the main block through the separate iron-gated garden entrance.

These two windows are 6-over-9 sashes with incised marble window lintels.

The doorway is adorned with a simpler Doric frontispiece and fan-light, salvaged from the Samuel Wakeling Mansion.¹⁸

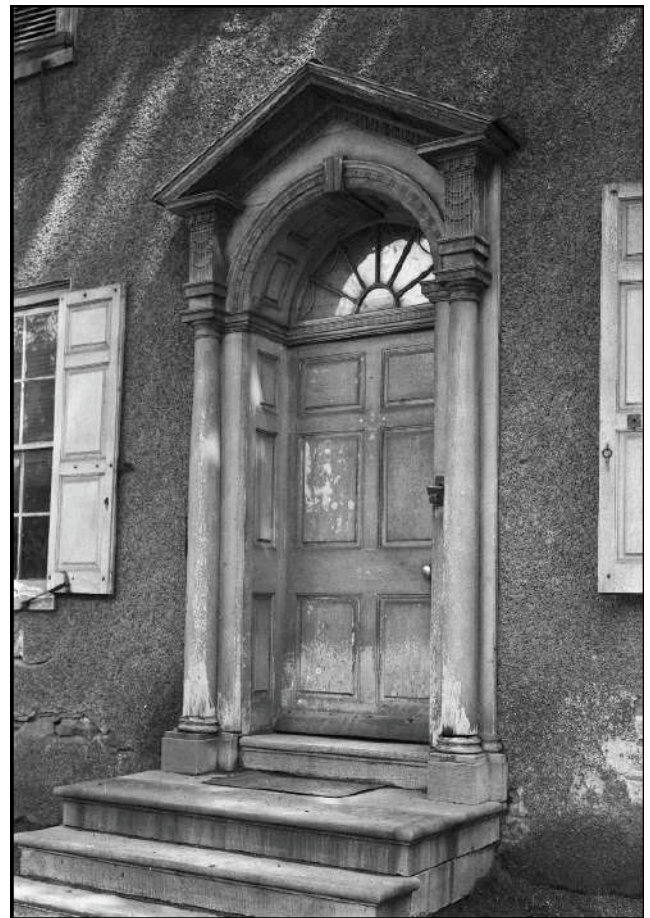


Image No. 20: Franklin Davenport Edmunds, Photographer. *The Samuel Wakeling Mansion, Entrance Detail*. 5/8/1909. Glass Plate Negatives. *Free Library of Philadelphia*: Philadelphia, PA.

<— The **Esther Y. Muller Memorial Garden** leads to the restored Wakeling Mansion Colonial Doorway. The garden contains various relics from demolished buildings, also mile markers from the Bristol Pike.

¹⁸ Edmunds' Glass Plate Negative. Free Library of Philadelphia. Web. 16th March 2022. <<https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/8556>>.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Front left side – Wooden Framed Bulletin Board.



Image No. 21: Joseph J. Menkevich – 14th April 2023.

Front right side – Limestone set into the brick façade
The Margareta & Franklin Smedley Memorial.

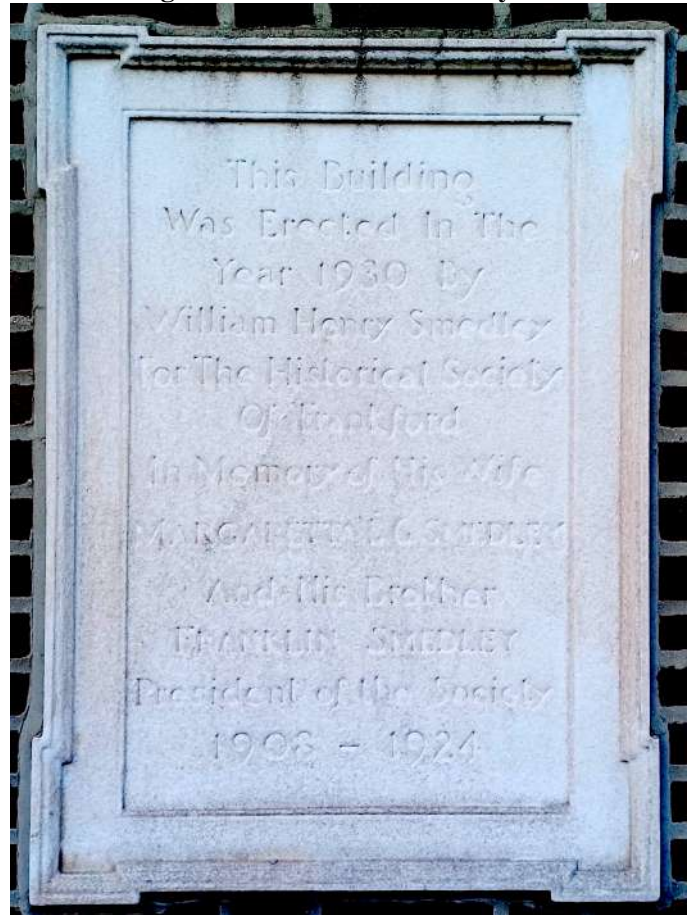


Image No. 22: Joseph J. Menkevich – 14th April 2023.

Iron bars cover the lower front windows.

Flush metal grates cover the below-grade basement window openings.



Image No. 23 and Image No. 24: Joseph J. Menkevich – 14th April 2023.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Historical Society of Frankford located at 1505-07 Orthodox Street is an extremely significant historic site meriting designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, satisfying the following Criteria for Designation: e and j as enumerated in § 14-1004 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.¹⁹

(e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or professional engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth, or nation;

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

7. SIGNIFICANCE — SATISFYING CRITERION J:

In 1903, the decedents of Betsy Ross (designer of the Stars and Stripes) constituted the Flag House Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Frankford.²⁰ By the 1940's the DAR was hosting musicals & plays in the new building of the Historical Society.²¹ The Woman's Club of Frankford also hosted events at the Historical Society's new building.²²

The Society's Garden: Lion and Sentry — Remnants of Chalkley Hall.²³



Image No. 25: The Garden [Side Entrance] 25th January 2011 By Joseph J. Menkevich.

¹⁹ City of Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 14-1000 With Pertinent Excerpts From Other Sections Of The Zoning Code As Of November 16, 2023. Web. 20th June 2024. 7. <<https://www.phila.gov/media/20240611102556/historic-preservation-ordinance-Nov-16-2023.pdf>>.

²⁰ The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Pa. 3rd June 1903. Free Library of Philadelphia. Web. 7th June 2023.

²¹ The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Pa. 15th March 1940. Free Library of Philadelphia. Web. 1st May 2024.

²² The Philadelphia Inquirer, Philadelphia Pa. 9th March 1938. Free Library of Philadelphia. Web. 1st May 2024.

²³ **Survey HABS PA-110:** Chalkley Hall, Wheatsheaf Lane & Sepviva Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA Photos. "Significance: The original part (1723) of the structure was built for Thomas Chalkley, a merchant and Quaker proselytizer. The main section was built for Abel Jones [Abel James], a merchant and Chalkey's son-in-law. The structure was vacated before 1907 and was demolished in 1954." Web. 12th October 2022. <<https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.pa0758.photos?st=galle>>.

7. SIGNIFICANCE – Satisfying Criterion J:

BIG PAGENT SHOWS FRANKFORD GROWTH

Four Decisive Episodes in Borough's History Are Portrayed

Industries Started After Town Was Founded in 1800



Image No. 26: Philadelphia Inquirer 24th October 1920.

“A series of gorgeous episodes featured the pageant of the founding of Frankford, which was given yesterday afternoon on the lawn at the home of William Overington, Orthodox and Leiper streets, Frankford.

The pageant, staged under the auspices of the Frankford Historical Society to mark the opening of the society's new headquarters at 1507 Orthodox Street, was attended by more than a thousand persons. It consisted of four episodes, each of which presented an important event in the town's development.

A prologue, composed of twenty little girls in frocks of pastel shades, who danced the “Dance of the Hours,” and the portrayal of “The Spirit of Frankford,” by Mrs. Charles Erviene, who was accompanied by six pages arrayed in brilliant yellow velvet, was the first event of the programme. The actual pageant began with the arrival of a scouting party of Indians, who decided to settle on the site and pitched their tents. . . .”²⁴

²⁴ Philadelphia Inquirer. Philadelphia, Pa. 24th October 1920. Free Library of Philadelphia. Web. 12th August 2022. <<https://www.freelibrary.org/>>.

7. SIGNIFICANCE — Satisfying Criterion J:

Frankford's Canterbury Fair



Image No. 27: Philadelphia Evening Bulletin 3rd June 1923 — digital.library.temple.

“Several women take part in Frankford's Canterbury Fair which benefits the Frankford Historical Society. Helen Galbraith, Mary Whitaker, Mildred Thorn, Esther Stehle, and Evelyn Yonker dress in historical clothing and perform a traditional folk dance at the William Overington Estate.”²⁵

Satisfying Criterion E:

13th May 1930 — Building Permit No. 2626. Tear Down & Clear Site.

To the BUREAU OF BUILDING INSPECTION.

The undersigned applies for a permit to construct the following described work:

Give the exact location (street and number, or side of street and distance from nearest cross street) _____

1505-07 Orthodox St. 23 Ward.

What is the present building used for? Dwelling -

What will the new building or addition be used for? _____

Give definite particulars as to work proposed and materials used _____

Tear down & clear site

Image No. 28: Philadelphia City Archives 29th December 2021. — Joseph J. Menkevich

²⁵ Digital Collection: George D. McDowell Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Photographs. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Libraries. SCRC 170. ©Images. Web. 30th May 2024. <<https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll3/id/9325/rec/1>>.

7. SIGNIFICANCE — Satisfying Criterion E:

The early building (circa 1866), served as the first museum and a community meeting place. It was the childhood residence and inheritance of Frank R. Watson.²⁶ It was demolished in 1930 for the construction of a larger dedicated Society building.

15th May 1930 — Building Permit No. 2661. Issued For A New Building

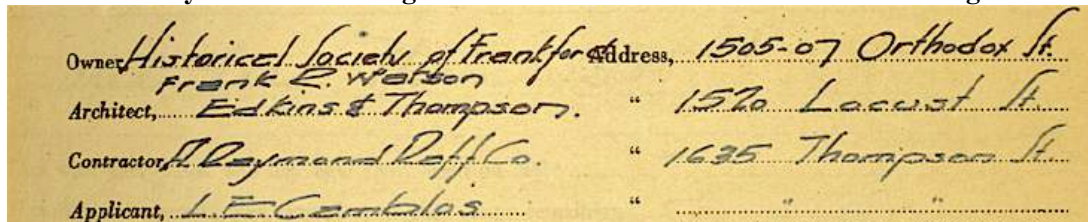


Image No. 29: Philadelphia City Archives 29th December 2021. — Joseph J. Menkevich

Frank R. Watson, with his various business partners, have significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, cultural development of the City, Commonwealth and Nation. The architectural firm of Frank R. Watson, Edkins & Thompson, designed the new building of the Historical Society of Frankford in 1930.

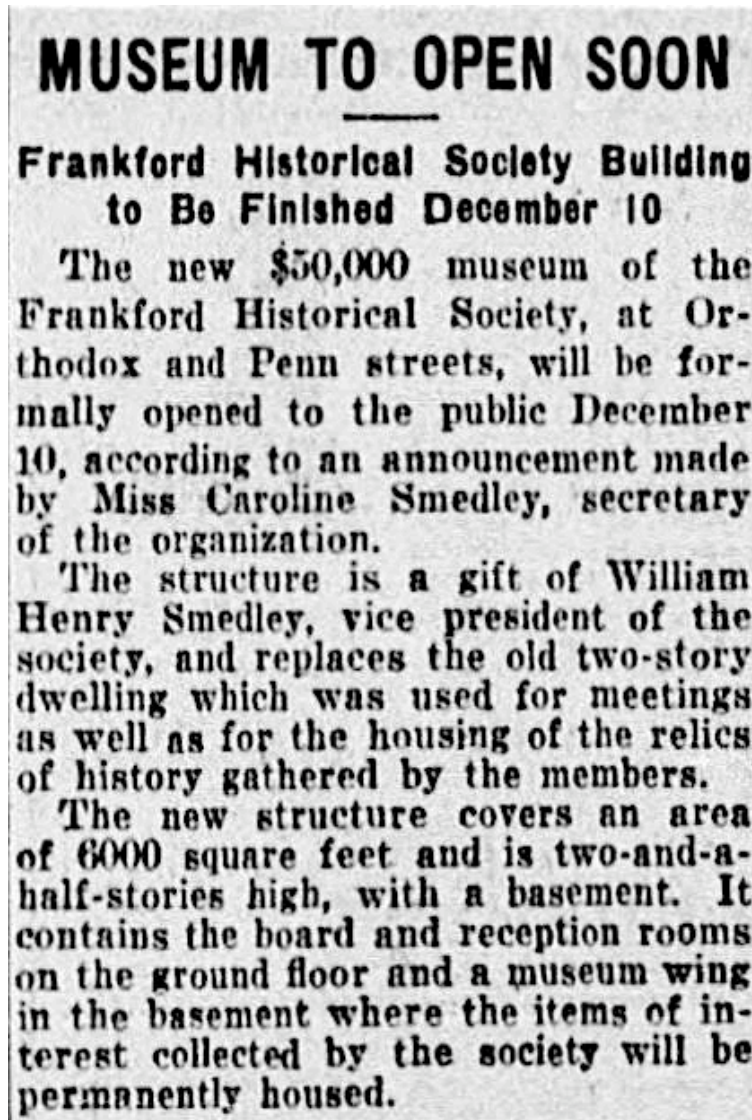


Image No. 30: Philadelphia Inquirer, 23rd November 1930.

MUSEUM TO OPEN SOON

Frankford Historical Society Building to Be Finished December 10

“The new \$50,000 museum of the Frankford Historical Society, at Orthodox and Penn streets, will be formally opened to the public December 10, according to an announcement made by Miss Caroline Smedley, secretary of the organization.

The structure is a gift of William Henry Smedley, vice president of the society, and replaces the old two-story dwelling which was used for meetings as well as for the housing of relics of history gathered by the members.

The new structure covers an area of 6000 square feet and is two-and-a-half-stories high, with a basement. It contains the board and reception rooms on the ground floor and museum wing in the basement where items of interest collected by the society will be permanently housed.”

²⁶ Ibid: Philadelphia Deed Book: JMH.714.571 Frank R. Watson and Rebecca S. his Wife to Franklin Smedley (for One Dollar) — [9th January 1920].

FRANK R. WATSON— ARCHITECT

PHOTO CIRCA 1895



Image No. 31: Local ID # P-820
© Athenæum of Philadelphia

“Frank R. Watson was one of the most important of the several architects specializing in church design in Philadelphia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He was born in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, the son of Samuel and Anna B. Watson. After graduating from Central High School in 1877, Watson entered the office of Edwin F. Durang, an eminent architect concentrating on Catholic church projects during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Watson spent five years with Durang before establishing his own independent firm in 1882/3. While not limiting his practice to Catholic projects, Watson still became well known for his church designs. So successful was he that he opened a branch office in Atlantic City, NJ in 1898. In 1901/02, when Samuel Huckel returned to Philadelphia, a partnership between the two was established under the name Watson & Huckel. Huckel's experience with Benjamin D. Price, another architect known for his church designs, as well as his experience with Edward Hazelhurst in the firm of Hazelhurst & Huckel stood the new partnership in good stead; and the office prospered until Huckel's death in 1917. Watson then continued practicing independently until 1922, when he was joined by the younger architects, George E. Edkins, and William Heyl Thompson. At the outset this firm was one of association, but soon the name became Watson, Edkins & Thompson. When Edkins moved to Oaklyn, NJ in 1936, Watson & Thompson continued in practice until Watson's death in 1940.

Watson joined the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1901, served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter in 1927, and was made a Fellow in 1930. He also held memberships in the Historical Society of Frankford, the Medieval Academy of America, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Union League. He was given an honorary doctor of Fine Arts degree from Muhlenberg College. He also served as a delegate to the Pan American Congress of Architects meetings in South America in 1923 and 1927 and as technical advisor to the Philadelphia Housing Association from 1929 to 1932. In 1929 he was made an honorary member in the Mexican Society of Architects. When the Architects Building Corporation was established to oversee the design and construction of that dedicated highrise, Watson was elected president of the corporation.”

— *Written by Sandra L. Tatman.*²⁷

²⁷ Watson, Frank Rushmore (1859 - 1940) ARCHITECT. Born: 2/28/1859, Died: 10/29/1940. Copyright © 2022 by The Athenæum of Philadelphia. Web. 23rd May 2022. <https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/117215>. [See Appendix: Partnership of Watson & Huckel].

ANNA BROUS WATSON — WEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET — FRANKFORD

Frank R. Watson lived at 45 West Orthodox Street²⁸ with his parents Anna Watson²⁹ and Samuel Watson.³⁰ The 1876 Atlas places Thomas S. Foulkrod (a builder, carpenter³¹ and Watson's future father-in-law) at the corner of Leiper and Orthodox Streets. Charles Brous,^{32 33} John Brous,³⁴ Louis F. Brous³⁵ and J. Albert Brous³⁶ [aka John Albert Brous] — all lived on the opposite side of Orthodox Street. The progenitor of this segment of the family appears to be Henry Brouse.³⁷



Image No. 32: City Atlas of Philadelphia, 23rd Ward, 1876, Plate A. [Various Annotations added by the nominator].

“Mr. Charles Brouse was the pioneer builder west of Main street after the Friends’ meeting house. About 1856 he built the two-story brick, rough cast house, east of the meeting house, where he resided until his death, June 16, 1895. Mr. Brouse was a carpenter, and had his shop in the rear of the house. He was a well-known and respected citizen, a son of Henry Brouse, one of the old inhabitants of Frankford. Orthodox street in its early days when it was known as Smith’s lane, had a row of cherry trees on the south side, from Main to Leiper streets. About 1869 it was graded and curbed, and paved with rubble stones, and Mr. Samuel Watson built the three-story brick, rough cast house, on the north side nearly opposite the meeting house.” — *Written by Dr. William B. Dixon.*³⁸

²⁸ The Philadelphia City Directory of 1879 lists Frank R. Watson’s home address as 45 W. Orthodox, Frankford. This remained his home address through 1890. Access: Philadelphia City Directories via HeritageQuest Online @Free Library of Philadelphia. Web. <<https://www.freelibrary.org>>.

²⁹ **Ibid. Deed Book LRB.147.464.** NOTE - [Anna Brous 1828-1900, Beloved Wife of Samuel Watson 1828-1911. Gravestone, Trinity Church Oxford].

³⁰ City Directories: Samuel Watson 45 W. Orthodox, Frankford. He is most often listed as a *Turner*, sometimes as a *superintendent*. In 1890 he is listed as a *manager* at Otter & Leopard streets; [Hexamer General Survey <<http://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/HGSv14.1338>>]. In the Philadelphia City Directory of 1899, he is listed as a Clerk living at 4667 Leiper Street, Frankford. He lived with his son at various locations until his death.

³¹ Philadelphia Inquirer 24th January 1865. Dissolution of *The Partnership* of the firm known as *Foulkrod and Taylor* at Frankford by Mutual Consent.

³² **Ibid.** Philadelphia City Directories. Charles Brous, Carpenter, 32 W. Orthodox Street, Frankford and Emeline his Wife. <<https://www.freelibrary.org>>.

³³ **Philadelphia Deed Book: WSV.717.528** Frank R. Watson, Executor Named in the Last Will of Emeline Brous, late of Frankford in the 23rd Ward of Philadelphia to William E. Dudley [Remainder Estate of Charles Brous] — 12th November 1906.

³⁴ **Ibid.** Philadelphia City Directories. John Brous, Machinist, 38 W. Orthodox Street, Frankford and Merrittes his Wife. <<https://www.freelibrary.org>>.

³⁵ **ibid.** Philadelphia City Directories. Louis F. Brous, Patent Attorney, 38 W. Orthodox Street, Frankford. Web. <<https://www.freelibrary.org>>.

³⁶ **ibid.** Phila. City Directories. John Albert Brous, Draughtsman & Surveyor, 38 W. Orthodox Street, Frankford. He published the 1873 Map of Frankford.

³⁷ Frankford Presbyterian Church Baptism Records: *Rev. Carl T. Smith land records* links at <familysearch.org>. Anna dau. of Henry - Born 3rd Sept. 1828.

³⁸ Dixon, William B. “Description of the Old Main Street of Frankford, 65 Years Ago.” *Papers Read before the Historical Society of Frankford, Pa. Vol.1 No.4.* From The Frankford Gazette. 1907. 2. Web. 19th June 2022. <<https://archive.org/details/papersreadbefore11hist/page/n131/mode/2up>>.

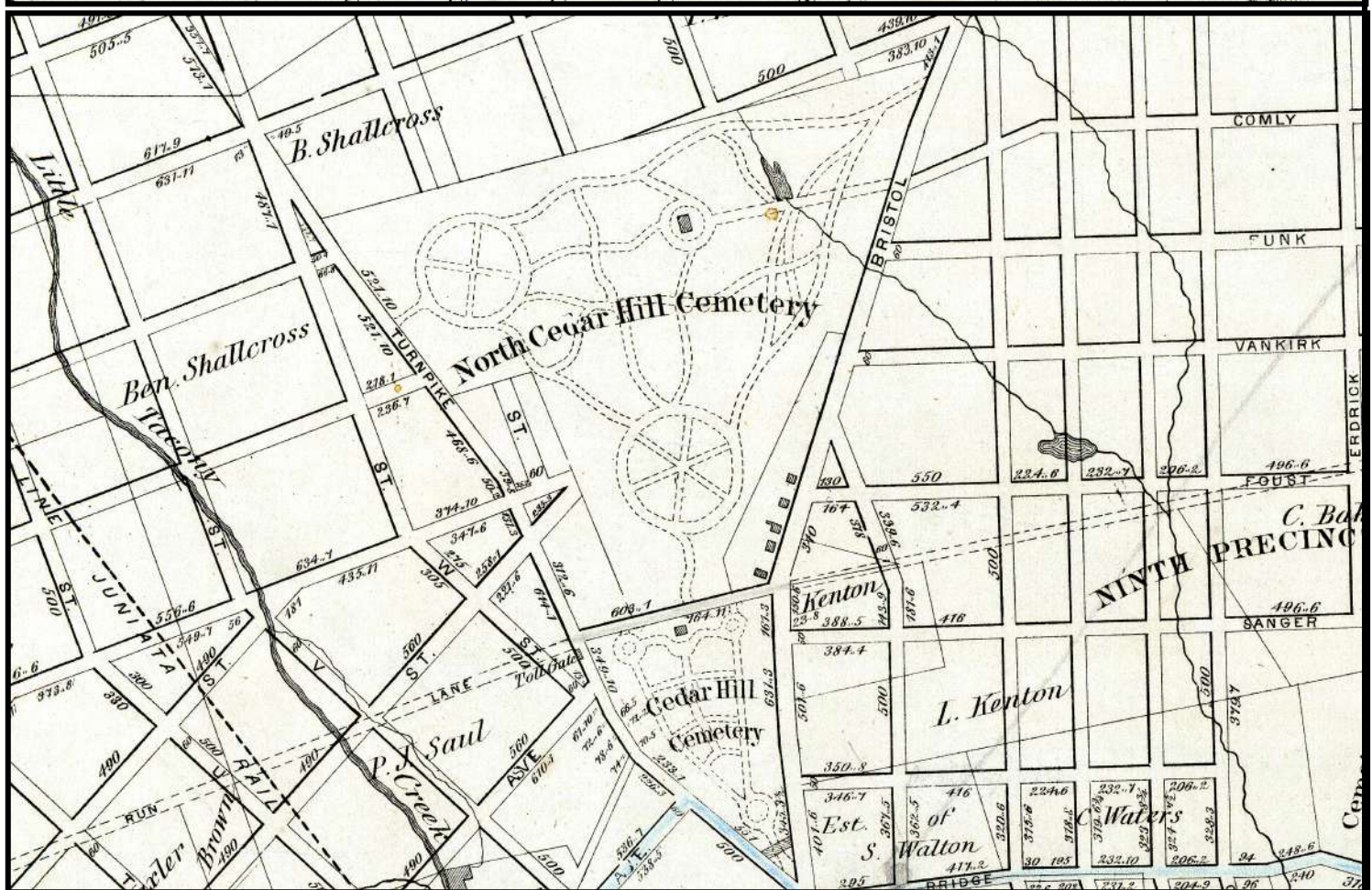
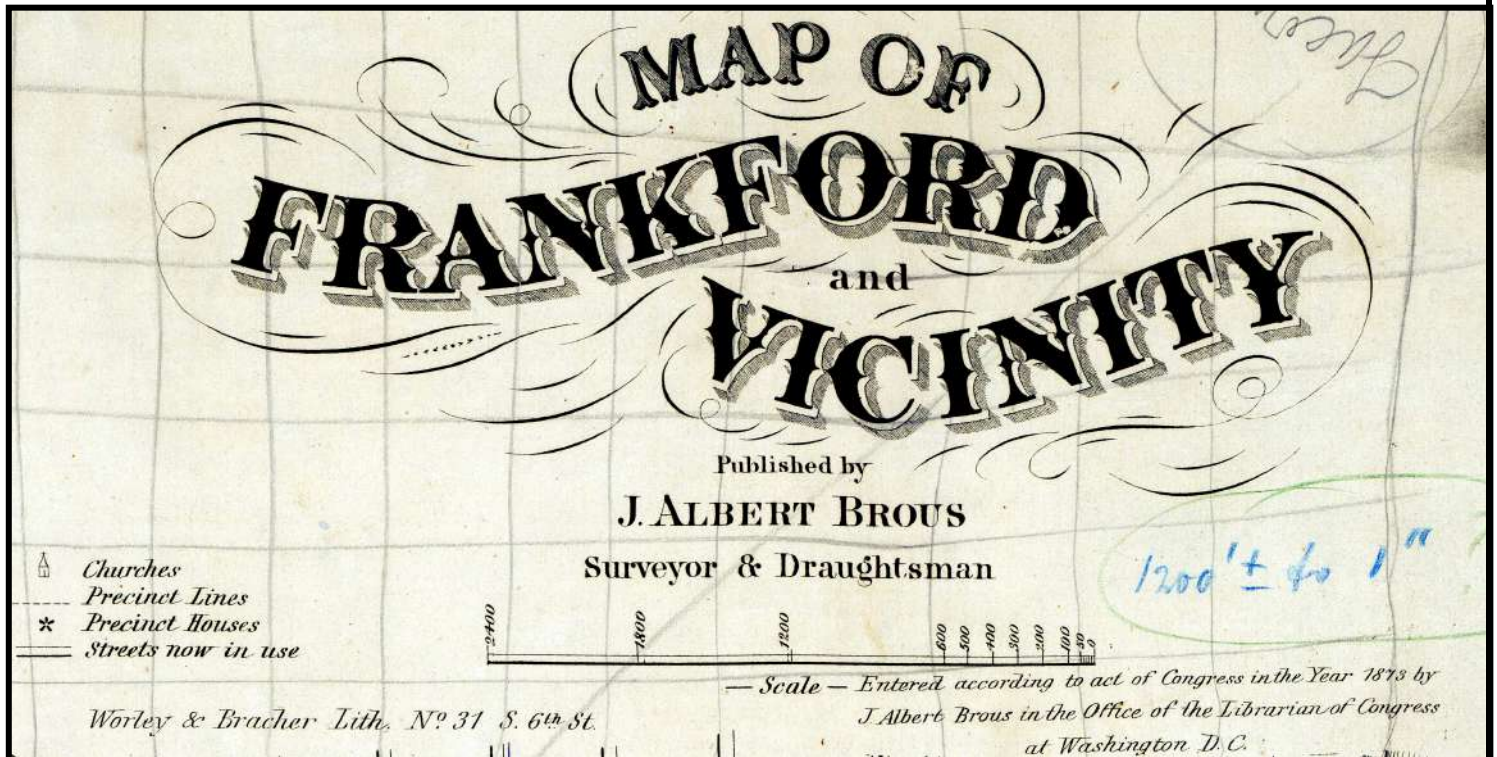


Image No. 33: Philadelphia Streets Dept. <https://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/view-image.cfm/RC-BB-y_ext>.

³⁹ Brous Family: Section S., Plots No.9 & 11, North Cedar Hill Cemetery. Records Accessed from manager of Oakland Cemetery 10th June 2022.

FRANK R. WATSON & FANNIE FOULKROD'S WEDDING — ST. MARK'S CHURCH, FRANKFORD

WATSON — FOULKROD. — On February 18, 1890, at St. Mark's Church, Frankford, by Rev. F. Burt Avery, Frank R. Watson to Fanny, daughter of Thomas S. Foulkrod.

Image No. 34: The Times. 24th February 1890.

Frank R. Watson married Fannie Foulkrod on the 18th February 1890 at St. Marks. Shortly after the wedding, they moved into a home occupied by her parents on Leiper Street.

ST. MARK'S P. E. CHURCH, FRANKFORD — [OLD BUILDING]



ST. MARK'S P. E. CHURCH, FRANKFORD, PHILA.

J. W. VABWOOD

Image No. 35: Courtesy of Princeton Theological Seminary Library. Web. 10th July 2022. <<https://archive.org/details/pa465jtanis>>.

Death of Dr. Foulkrod.

John Kenworthy Foulkrod, M. D., died of typhoid fever at his father's residence in Frankford on Sunday, January 6. Dr. Foulkrod graduated in 1878 in Philadelphia, and was a well-known practitioner in the northeast portion of Philadelphia—the Richmond district. He was active in political circles, and at the time of his death was district surgeon of the Twenty-fourth Police division and examining surgeon for the relief department of the Reading Railroad.

Image No. 36: Philadelphia Inquirer 8th January 1889.

FOULKROD. — First and final account of Frank R. Watson, Administrator of John K. Foulkrod, deceased.

Image No. 37: Philadelphia Inquirer 30th December 1890.

ST. MARK'S — NEW CHURCH — 1907.



Image No. 38: Courtesy of Bruce Connor Post Card Collection — NEPHN.

Dr. John Kenworthy Foulkrod was the owner of 4667 Leiper Street. His parents may have been living in this house at the time of his death. He died intestate. Frank R. Watson was the administrator of his estate.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ [...Purchased at sheriff sale and conveyed to Fannie F. Watson the wife of Frank R. Watson, being so seized inter alia departed this life on the 26th January 1896 having first made her Last Will & Testament...Direct as follows: I give and devise my house and lot No. 4667 Leiper Street Frankford to my husband Frank R. Watson absolutely and in fee simple in Trust during the lives of my Parents and the survivor of them for a home for them and him and upon the death of both of my parents — for the use of my husband absolutely and in fee simple — Last Will and Testament was duly filed 10th February 1896]. Extract from Philadelphia Deed Book: JV.117.330 Frank R. Watson of Philadelphia, Architect (Unmarried) to Nancy Kedward, the Wife of William Kedward of Frankford [house and lot No. 4667 Leiper Street Frankford] — 30th January 1900.

LEIPER STREET — FRANKFORD

4667 Mr. & Mrs. Thos. S. Foulkrod
4667 Mr. & Mrs. Frank R. Watson

Image No. 39: Boyd's Blue Book A Directory from Selected Streets of Philadelphia. C. E. Howe Co. 1890-91.

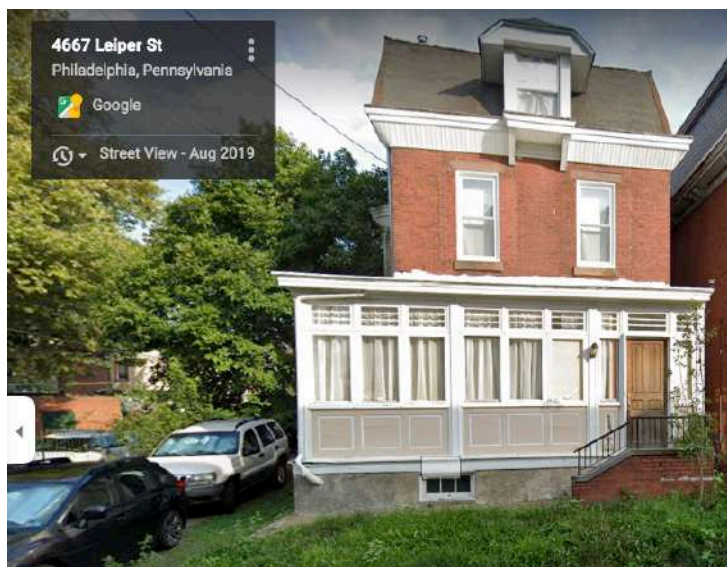


Image No. 40: 4667 Leiper St., Courtesy of Google Maps.

MARRIAGE LICENSE: WATSON — COLLINS

MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED
 Watson, Frank R., and Rebecca S. Collins.

Image No. 39: Philadelphia Inquirer 30th January 1900.

6401 Wayne Avenue – Ward 22. Germantown.

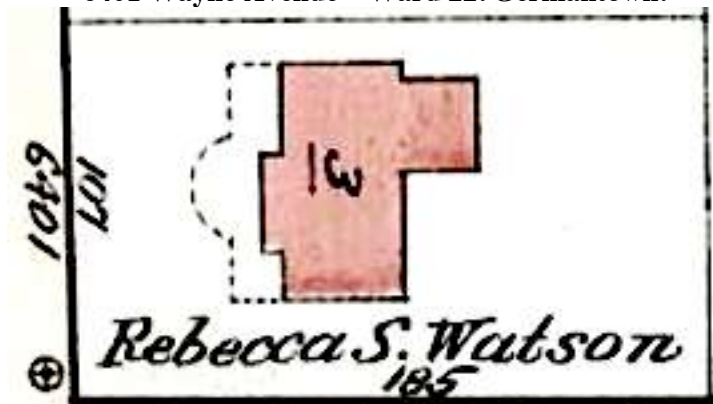


Image No. 41: G.W. Bromley, Phila. 1911. Ward 22. Plate No. 18 <<http://www.historicmapworks.com/Atlas/US/9968/>>.

Elizabeth Kenworthy, Wife of Thomas S. Foulkrod passed away on the 13th October 1893.

FOULKROD.—On October 19, 1893, Elizabeth Kenworthy, wife of Thomas S. Foulkrod. Funeral services on Tuesday, October 24, at 2 o'clock, at her late residence, 4667 Leiper street, Frankford. Interment private.

Image No. 42: Phila. Inquirer 24th October 1893.

Fannie Foulkrod Watson, passed away 26th January 1896. The marriage produced no children.

WATSON.—On the 26th instant, FANNIE FOULKROD, beloved wife of Frank R. Watson. Funeral services on Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock, at her late residence, 4667 Leiper street, Frankford.

Image No. 43: Phila. Inquirer 29th January 1896.

Frank R. Watson's father-in-law, Thomas S. Foulkrod passed away on the 24th February 1899.

FOULKROD.—On February 24, 1899, THOMAS S. FOULKROD. Funeral services on Monday at 1.30 o'clock, at his late residence, 4667 Leiper street, Frankford.

Image No. 44: Phila. Inquirer 26th February 1899.

45 WEST ORTHODOX STREET — FRANKFORD

45 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Watson

Image No. 45: Boyd's Blue Book 1890-91-Google Books.

"Anna Watson died intestate on the 19th November 1900 leaving her surviving husband Samuel Watson and only one child Frank R. Watson.⁴¹

After Frank R. Watson's marriage to Rebecca S. Collins, she purchased three tracts of land in Germantown.⁴² The house was constructed at 6401 Wayne Avenue. Watson & Huckel were the architects.

Watson's father died in this home.

WATSON.—On April 12, 1911, SAMUEL WATSON. in his 83d year. Relatives and friends are invited to attend funeral services, on Saturday, April 15, at 2 o'clock, at his son's residence, Mr Frank R Watson, cor Wayne ave and Johnson st. Gtn. Interment private.

Image No. 46: Philadelphia Inquirer 15th April 1911.

⁴¹ Ibid. Deed Book: JMH.714.571 Frank R. Watson and Rebecca S. his wife to Franklin Smedley — [9th January 1920].

⁴² Philadelphia Deed Book: WSV.812.137 Robert Killough of Philadelphia, Builder and Margaret his Wife to Rebecca S. Watson of Philadelphia, Wife of Frank R. Watson—20th February 1907 & Philadelphia Deed Book: WSV.877.208 —5th August 1907; Philadelphia Deed Book: WSV.1053.19 Samuel B. Bowen of Philadelphia and Emma Virginia his Wife to Rebecca S. Watson of Philadelphia, Wife of Frank R. Watson— 8th June 1908.

REBECCA S. WATSON'S RESIDENCE IN GERMANTOWN: WATSON & HUCKEL, ARCHITECTS

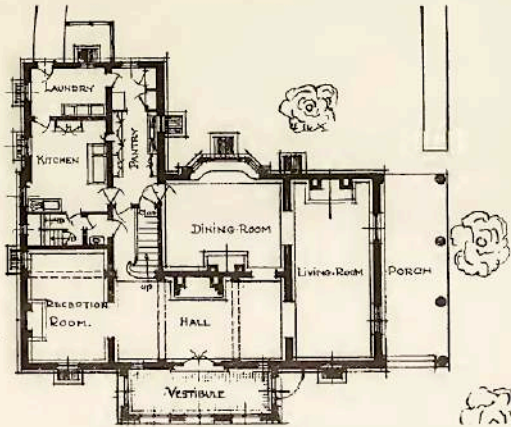
The Architectural Record
Vol. XXIX. MARCH, 1911 No. 3

RECENT PHILADELPHIA ARCHITECTURE.

253



Elevation.



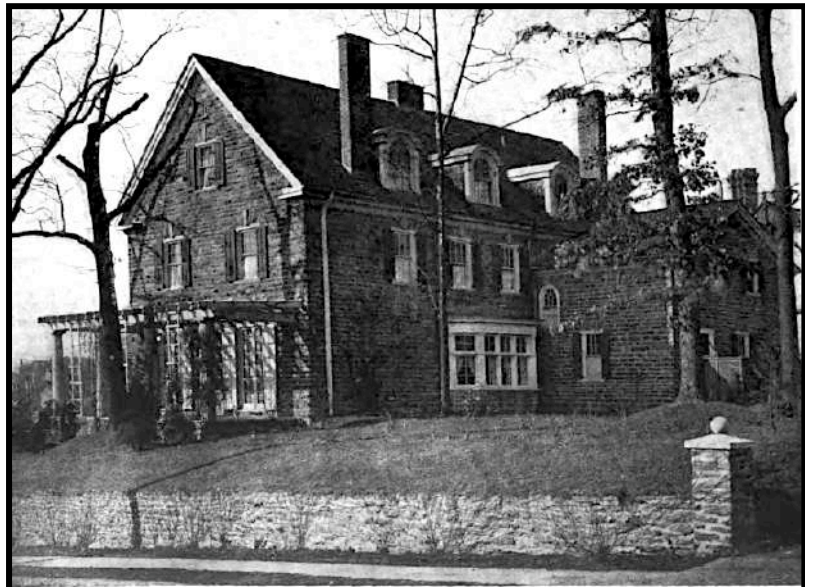
First Floor Plan.

RESIDENCE OF FRANK R. WATSON, ESQ.

Germantown, Pa.

Watson & Huckel, Architects

The American Architect - April 2nd 1913



REAR AND SIDE VIEW

HOUSE OF FRANK R. WATSON, ARCHITECT, GERMANTOWN, PHILADELPHIA, PA.
MESSRS. WATSON & HUCKEL, ARCHITECTS

Image No. 48: Accessed 2nd June 2024 – Google Books.
House of Frank R. Watson, Architect, Germantown,
Philadelphia, Pa. Messrs. Watson & Huckel, Architects

Image No. 47: Residence of Frank R. Watson ESQ.
Accessed 2nd June 2024 <<https://usmodernist.org/>>.



Image No.49: Redfin 06/06/2024 <<https://www.redfin.com/PA/Philadelphia/6401-Wayne-Ave-19119/home/167893051>>

WOMAN'S CLUB LAYS KEYSTONE FOR HOME

Germantown Organization
Erecting Quarters on His-
toric Johnson Estate

Structure Will Be Built Along
Colonial Lines; Exercises
Very Simple

On the historic Johnson estate, at Washington lane and Germantown avenue, where more than a century and a half ago the cornerstone of the Johnson mansion was laid, the Woman's Club of Germantown yesterday laid a cornerstone for its new building.

The exercises combined simplicity with sincerity. Officers of the club and of the Building Committee were seated with the speakers on a platform, while the club members grouped themselves below.

Over all seemed to spread a certain note of sadness—a sadness that carried with it a sense of responsibility. As the women on the ground stood in the shadows cast by the old trees, and as the women on the platform faced the old gray weather-beaten mansion built in 1768, their minds went back to the past. They contrasted their opportunities and those of the Colonial women, and as the cornerstone was laid, it seemed almost as if the women of today took a pledge before the women of yesterday to assume all the responsibility which comes with increased opportunity.

Suggests "Crossways" As Name

This thought of the responsibility of the woman of today was emphasized by Charles F. Jenkins in his address.

"I am glad," he said, "that you are going to retain the old mansion. This is sacred, historic ground. Too many of our old historic mansions have been removed.

"It was a far step from the rude log cabins of the first settlers to the stately mansions like the Wister House and the Chew House.

"There is a contrast between the woman of yesterday and today. As she toiled from early to late with her household cares, as she worked in the fields with the men and between times at the spindle and the loom, she never could have visioned the time when women would gather and erect a hall for club purposes."

GERMANTOWN WOMEN LAY CLUBHOUSE CORNERSTONE



Image No. 51: Philadelphia Inquirer – 22nd November 1922

Johnson House at 6306 Germantown Ave. in Philadelphia.



Image No. 52: Accessed 20th August 2024. Temple University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center. Web.
<<https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll3/id/50399/rec/2>>.

Image No. 50: Philadelphia Inquirer
22nd November 1922

MR. AND MRS. FRANK RUSHMORE WATSON OF "EDELMAR," CHESTNUT HILL

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Watson, of 6401 Wayne avenue, will give a theatre party and supper on November 4 in honor of Miss Amelia L. Seixas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore G. Seixas, of 5215 Wissahickon avenue, Germantown.

Image No. 53: Philadelphia Inquirer 26th October 1921

William H. Wilson & Company have effected settlement for the Colonial-type house at the northeast corner of Wayne avenue and Johnson street sold by them for Frank R. Watson to A. Lahman, for a price close to \$75,000. The lot is 107 by 185 feet.

Image No. 54: Philadelphia Inquirer 10th September 1924

Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Watson and their daughter, Miss Margaret Watson, and Mrs. Watson's daughter, Miss Eleanor S. Collins, of Wayne avenue and Johnson street, will move shortly to their new home in Montgomery avenue, Chestnut Hill.

Image No. 55: Philadelphia Inquirer 01st May 1925

Woman's Club of Germantown, musicale and tea, at the home of Mrs. Frank R. Watson, Montgomery ave, Chestnut Hill. Rosemary Mueller, soprano; Clara Zager, violinist; Frank R. Watson, organist;

Image No. 56: Philadelphia Inquirer 22nd October 1933

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rushmore Watson, of "Edelmar," Chestnut Hill, will have as their guests over New Year's Mrs. Charles Addams Worrell, of New York, and her family. Mr. and Mrs. Watson and Miss Collins will be at home from 4 until 6 o'clock on New Year's Day.

Image No. 57: Philadelphia Inquirer 29th December 1934

About the same time Rebecca S. Watson made purchases in Montgomery County, 6401 Wayne Avenue was sold.⁴³

Montgomery County Online Services

DEED 0934 00583	1 WATSON REBECCA S +	2 COOKE NINA L B	Deed	12/17/1924
DEED 0929 00254	2 WATSON REBECCA S +	1 LOHMANN ALFRED P +	Deed	09/16/1924

Image No. 58: <<https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/>>.

Subdivision: Wyndmoor. County: MONTGOMERY.
This magnificent manor home was designed by well known Philadelphia architect Frank Rushmore Watson in 1924.



Image No. 59: Home For Sale – 8750 Momtgomery Ave. Accessed 22nd September 2024. Web.
<<https://www.longandfoster.com/homes-for-sale/8750-Montgomery-Avenue-Wyndmoor-PA-19038-219113896>>.

⁴³ Philadelphia Deed Book: JMH.1934.309 Frank R. Watson and Rebecca S. his Wife to James P. Rothwell Jr. of Philadelphia — 6th September 1924.

F. R. WATSON DIES; CHURCH ARCHITECT

Episcopal Cathedral
Designer Honored
By Secretary Hull

Frank Rushmore Watson, designer of the Episcopal Church at Roxborough and an authority on church architecture, died Tuesday in Chestnut Hill Hospital, after an illness of six weeks. He was 81.

Born in Frankford, Mr. Watson was graduated with a B. A. degree from Central High School in 1877. He began his practice as an architect in 1883.

NAMED BY HULL

At the time of his death he lived on Montgomery ave. above Birch la., Chestnut Hill, and had offices in the Architects Building, 17th and Sansom sts.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Watson was a delegate to the Pan-American Congress of Architects in South America in 1923 and 1927. He was again named a delegate this year by Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

In addition to a number of church buildings throughout the East, Mr. Watson designed the Muhlenberg College chapel and was later awarded a degree of Doctor of Fine Arts from the college.

OFFICIAL OF MISSION

He was vice president of the Whosoever Gospel Mission, president of the Architects Building Corp., and a member of the Historical Society of Frankford, Mediaeval Academy of America, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Science and Art Club of Germantown and the Union League.

Surviving are his wife, Rebecca; a daughter, Mrs. William S. Taylor, and two stepdaughters, Miss Eleanor Collins, of Chestnut Hill, and Mrs. Charles Worrall, of New York. Funeral services will be held today at 3 P. M. from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill.



NO. 61: TRINITY OXFORD GRAVEYARD. PHOTOS 19th APRIL 2022 BY NOMINATOR.



NO. 62: ANNA BROUS — BELOVED WIFE OF SAMUEL WATSON | SAMUEL WATSON



NO. 63: FANNIE FOULKROD — WIFE OF FRANK R. WATSON -DIED 26th JANUARY 1896



NO. 64: FRANK RUSHMORE WATSON 28th February 1859 – 29th October 1940

Image No. 60: Philadelphia Inquirer
31st October 1940

⁴⁴ Web. <<https://www.tcophilly.org/overview>>. [Note: Gravestones of Thomas S. Foulkrod and his Wife Elizabeth Kenworthey are not shown].

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Wright, Miss Eleanor E. "The Jolly Post" *The Pamphlet of the Historical Society of Frankford, Pa. For 1911. Papers Read Before the Society*. Dispatch Publishing House, Frankford. Phila. 1912. 16—26. Web. 7th May 2022.
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WEB RESOURCES:

ATHENAEUM OF PHILADELPHIA.

<https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/117215>.

FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA, DATABASES:

Philadelphia City Directories.

Philadelphia Inquirer Newspaper.

HeritageQuest Online at the Library.

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Edmunds' Glass Plate Negative.

<<https://www.freelibrary.org/>>.

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GREATER PHILADELPHIA GEO-HISTORY NETWORK:

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<<https://www.philageohistory.org/rdic-images/index2.cfm>>.

INTERNET ARCHIVE — non-profit library of millions of free texts: <<https://archive.org/>>.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SURVEY: HABS PA-110. CHALKLEY HALL.

<<https://www.loc.gov/resource/hhh.pa0758.photos?st=galle>>.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA — (DEED TRANSFERS) ONLINE SERVICES:

<<https://www.montgomerycountypa.gov/>>.

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<<https://www.phila.gov/departments/departments-of-records/>>.

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP FROM PHILADELPHIA, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, D.C. 20540 to 4650 USA.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn07905_039/>.

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<<https://digital.library.temple.edu/>>.

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The History of Frankford Monthly Meeting Timeline: <<https://quaker.org/legacy/frankford/History.htm>>.

GENEALOGY:

BROUS FAMILY @ PlanetMurphy.org. Accessed 4th June 2022. Web.

<<https://www.planetmurphy.org/pagebuild.php?pagebody1=index.html>>.

WATSON FAMILY — Margaret Taylor. Mar. 5, 1902 to Feb. 14, 2006

Peg' Taylor (daughter of) Rebecca Sharpless Delaney Watson and Dr. Frank Rushmore Watson.

Web. 25 Sept. 2024. <<https://archive.kitsapsun.com/news/local/margaret-taylor-ep-423601310-359499801.html>>.

[Note: The Kitsap Sun is a daily newspaper published in Bremerton, Washington, United States.]



Image No. 65 Philadelphia Inquirer 1st May 1896.

A Partnership began: With the close proximity of their childhood residences in Frankford – simultaneously attending Central High School [differing curricula] – perhaps as traveling partners.

Watson's father-in-law was Thomas S. Foulkrod, a builder, contractor and carpenter. Thomas Foulkrod lost several properties at Sheriff Sale, which were purchased by one Samuel Huckel.⁴⁸

Better Homes Week, Frank R. Watson — Chairman⁴⁹



Image No. 66 "Awarded first prize" 1933-04-25.

⁴⁵ *American Ancestry: Giving the Name and Descent, in the Male Line of Americans Whose Ancestors Settled in the United States.....etc, Vol. 6 ..* J. Munsell's Sons, 1891. 145. Web. 02nd August 2024. <<https://archive.org/details/americanancestry06hugh/mode/2up>>.

⁴⁶ **Philadelphia Deed Book: WSV.194.506** William Thomson of Philadelphia, Physician and Rebecca G. his Wife to Frank R. Watson and Samuel Huckel Jr. [8th Ward on Walnut Street near Sansom]—15th July 1903.

⁴⁷ **Philadelphia Deed Book: JMH.1519.318** Fidelity Trust Company and Earle Wentworth Huckel executors and Trustees under the Will of Samuel Huckel Jr. deceased and Frank R. Watson of the City and County of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania and Rebecca S, his wife hereinafter called the grantors to Alexander H. Miller. — 25th April 1923 ["All that certain lot or piece of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon erected Situate in the Eighth Ward of the said City of Philadelphia described as follows... — cites: **Philadelphia Deed book WSV.194.506**].

⁴⁸ [The Foulkrods', both husband & wife, speculated in real estate: **Philadelphia Deed Book LRB.46.342** William Overington of Frankford and Eliza his Wife to Elizabeth Foulkrod of Frankford aforesaid, Wife of Thomas S. Foulkrod [Eight Contiguous Tracts: Leiper at Orthodox] — 2nd August 1864]. **Common Pleas Court - OCP Sheriff Book 79 page 19—1879 and OCP Sheriff Book 92 page 145—1879. Deed to Samuel Huckel (probably the elder).**

⁴⁹ Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. Web. 02nd July 2024. <<https://digital.library.temple.edu/digital/collection/p15037coll3/id/24371/rec/1>>.

SAMUEL HUCKEL JR, ARCHITECT — NAMESAKE OF SAMUEL HUCKEL, WATCHMAKER — FRANKFORD

Census records and City directories indicate years 1870 through 1880 (during his education), Samuel Huckel Jr. lived with his aged Grandfather Samuel Huckel, a retired Watch Maker at 47 E. Harrison Street in Frankford.⁵⁰

47	116	124	Huckel Samuel W No 81				Retired Jewellery Maker
			Elizabeth W No 30	daughter	1		Keeping House
			Samuel Jr W No 22	Grand. Son	1		Architect
			Frankford Lizzie H W No 8	Grand daughter	1		Going to school

Image No. 67: 1880 Census. Accessed 06th June 2024. HeritageQuest @ <<https://www.freelibrary.org/>>.

WATCH MAKER • SAMUEL HUCKEL • FRANKFORD PENNA.⁵¹



Image No. 68: Courtesy of American Antiquarian Society⁵²

U.S. 1880 Federal Census Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes.

BLIND.	
<p>Material not only for a complete enumeration of the blind, but for an account of their condition. It after making the proper entries upon the Population Schedule (No. 1), transfer the name (with</p>	
<p>Caused by using watchmaker Eye glass</p>	

Image No. 69: – HeritageQuest <<https://www.freelibrary.org/>>.

⁵⁰ Deed: RDW.75.92 Thomas Castor of Frankford, Wheelwright to Samuel Huckel of Frankford aforesaid Gentleman [Contiguous Lots No.34 & Lot 35 on the Northeasterly side of Harrison Street] — 10th April 1856. [Note: 1661 Harrison Street - ½ a block distance off (Main Street) Frankford Avenue].

⁵¹ Spear, Dorothea N. *American Watch Papers: With a Descriptive List of the Collection in the American Antiquarian Society*. American Antiquarian Society, 1952. 336. Web. 2nd August 2024. <<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/44807225.pdf>>.

⁵² WATCH PAPERS: American Antiquarian Society. Web. 2nd August 2024. <<https://collections.americanantiquarian.org/watchpaperscollection/>>.

NOTICE: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

This nomination was researched, prepared and submitted *pro bono publico* by Joseph J. Menkevich

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The Historical Society of Frankford did not solicit this nomination nor did they participate in any part of its completion.

Kim Chantry, preservation planner of Philadelphia Historical Commission, and Aaron Wunsch (separately) provided aid and guidance in completing the Architectural Description in this nomination. – **Thank You.**

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Aaron Vickers Wunsch ⁵³

Associate professor, Historic Preservation/ Landscape Architecture



Photo – Courtesy of Weitzman School of Design University of Pennsylvania.⁵⁴

Leges sine Moribus vanae

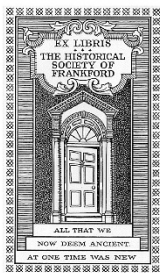
~ F I N I S ~

⁵³ ACADEMIA. Web. 27th September 2024. <<https://independent.academia.edu/AaronWunsch>>.

⁵⁴ Web. 25th September 2024. <<https://cpcrs.upenn.edu/bio/aaron-wunsch>>.

Addendum to nomination document for
1505-07 Orthodox Street

9 May 2025



The Historical Society of Frankford

1507 Orthodox Street
Frankford, Philadelphia, PA 19124
www.thehistoricalsocietyoffrankford.com
215-743-6030

Preserving and presenting the history of Frankford and vicinity

April 29, 2025

Zachary Frankel
Chair, Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Frankel and members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

The Historical Society of Frankford has gone on record opposing the current nomination of 1507 Orthodox Street because of its errors of both omission and commission. Those errors could have been avoided had the process been conducted collaboratively, considering the needs of both the owner and the nominator. That is an important lesson that as a historical organization we would like to use to help make the process more transparent and collaborative for others in our neighborhood. The Historical Society of Frankford can serve as a resource for both historic building owners and potential nominators to help facilitate partnerships and avoid inaccuracies and misunderstandings that naturally arise when there is no communication between the two. Exploring our resources for the study of historic buildings in the Frankford neighborhood as an interactive collaboration between owners and nominators would help build trust in a process that often devolves into an “us vs. them” scenario. The current process may add buildings to the register, but it is not necessarily the best public policy for building community spirit.

Despite our significant issues with the text of this nomination, meeting with the staff at the Philadelphia Historical Commission did help assuage our other concerns about what designation would mean. We think other owners who might consider historic register nomination would benefit from such information. The Historical Society of Frankford is willing to host a meeting or meetings at which preservationists and preservation agencies, such as the Philadelphia Historical Commission and Preservation Alliance, could help demystify the process of historic nomination. We believe these sessions and collaborative meetings with owners of properties that are priorities for historic designation could promote a stronger representation of Frankford on the Philadelphia Historic Register. As we noted in our original letter to the Committee on Historic Designation, no Frank R. Watson buildings in Frankford, including two historic churches, are currently on the register. We encourage Mr. Joseph Menkevich, nominator for 1507 Orthodox, to use his extensive research on Frank Watson to support the nomination of these buildings. The Historical Society of Frankford could help celebrate these nominations with an exhibit on Frank R. Watson’s life and architectural work in the neighborhood. We also encourage Mr. Menkevich and staff at the Historical Commission and Preservation Alliance to work with our resources to promote the nomination of other historic buildings in Frankford.

In our letter to the Committee on Historic Designation, the Historical Society of Frankford requested that this nomination be rejected based on the errors and misinterpretations we documented, particularly regarding Criterion J: “Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.” Because of the errors in the current nomination, we argue that this nomination does not accurately address that criterion. As we noted in our letter to the committee, we have been compiling information to prepare our own historic register nomination for our 1930 building. Our archives are rich with material to create an accurate description of our organization’s significance to the community of Frankford. Rejecting this nomination would allow the Historical Society of Frankford to address both criteria accurately, correcting the documented errors in the current nomination. That pause would also allow us to promote the neighborhood historic preservation initiatives that we have described above. We believe that Frank R. Watson’s significant church architecture in Frankford should be recognized on the historic register prior to the 1930 Georgian-style fireproof building that he created to further the society’s mission to collect and preserve Frankford history.

Over the past few years, the society has made strides in that mission. We are building a digital—eventually online—catalog; actively promoting our monthly lectures on topics of relevance to the history of the neighborhood; developing programs for local school children; encouraging library researchers and museum visitors; and building a dependable volunteer “staff.” These projects cannot be completed overnight. Celebrating success on these fronts in an accurate historic nomination that uses our unique resources would be a much better addition to the Philadelphia Historic Register.

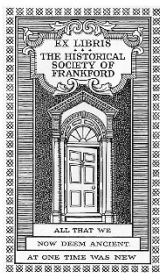
We are also concerned that should the Historical Commission accept the current nomination, it will become a public record despite having documented errors and misinterpretations. We respectfully suggest that knowingly accepting an inaccurate document as the basis for approving a legal action, in this case inclusion on the Register of Historic Places with its attendant obligations, is not good public policy. Even disregarding any legal implications, a nomination’s inclusion on the historic register conveys the Commission’s acceptance of its accuracy. Future researchers will use the document in good faith, but perpetuate uncorrected errors. This is why having the input of owners in the nomination process is so important.

For these reasons, and those expressed in our letter to the Committee on Historic Designation, dated April 1, 2025, we respectfully request that the current nomination of 1507 Orthodox Street be rejected. The Historical Society of Frankford will then be able to focus on its core mission initiatives. The society board will be happy to work with Mr. Menkevich to produce an accurate nomination for the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. We will also continue to compile historic information on our building to facilitate its admission to the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Places, as the state arm of the National Register.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry Kolankiewicz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "K".

Jerry Kolankiewicz
President, Board of Directors
Historical Society of Frankford



The Historical Society of Frankford

1507 Orthodox Street
Frankford, Philadelphia, PA 19124
www.thehistoricalsocietyoffrankford.com
215-743-6030

Preserving and presenting the history of Frankford and vicinity

April 1, 2025

Emily Cooperman, PhD
Chair, Committee on Historic Designation
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Dr. Cooperman and members of the Committee on Historic Designation:

The Board of Directors of the Historical Society of Frankford has received notice that Joseph J. Menkevich nominated our building, 1507 Orthodox Street, for inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. We appreciate Mr. Menkevich's efforts, but we respectfully contest this nomination as premature, incomplete, and sometimes inaccurate. The Historical Society of Frankford is a 120-year-old organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and presenting the social, economic, cultural, and architectural history of Frankford and the surrounding area. We believe that members of our institution, or persons we designate, are best qualified to prepare and present any public documentation of the significance of its history and that of its 1930 building. Had we contracted with a historian to compile a nomination for Philadelphia's register, we would not have considered the document under review acceptable for submission. We believe this nomination to be hastily prepared and lacking important criteria that would demonstrate the significance of the Historical Society of Frankford. We will provide specific criticisms that we believe will corroborate our position that Mr. Menkevich has not adequately provided documentation to meet the two "Criteria for Designation" that he has identified.

The board of the Historical Society of Frankford is not averse to the idea of historical recognition, but we feel that process should be one we spearhead ourselves. For the past several years, the board has prioritized gathering information from public records and our extensive archives to complete an application for historic designation through the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's State Historic Preservation Office. We believe the criteria for the Pennsylvania Register of Historic Places, as the state arm of the National Register of Historic Places, may be more compatible with our institution's mission and historical strengths. The HSF board believes that developing a nomination for the Philadelphia Register in 2030, the centennial of our building's construction, is an important subsequent goal.

Before addressing the nomination form itself, we assume that the notation under "7. Significance," that the "Period of Significance" is "from 1930 to 1930," is a typographical error. The Historical Society of Frankford's significance and mission, as described above, continues to the present day.

Nomination Form

1. **Location**—The reference to the Jolly Post Tavern is misleading and irrelevant to the significance of the Historical Society's 1930 building. Mr. Menkevich's nomination shows a February 18, 1814, map of the estate of George Webster. On April 1, 1814, Webster's widow Esther sold to merchant Jacob Coates the Jolly Post hotel (on Main Street/Frankford Avenue) and property along what is now Orthodox Street from Main Street to the Overington estate on Leiper Street (Deed Book MR10, 101-103). About 1850, with the death of Coates' widow, the property was subdivided into more than fifty lots and sold by Coates' executor Joshua Pierce. The Historical Society's 1930 building is situated on what were lots 22-24, first sold in 1864. (See #5 below)
5. **Boundary Description**—Some historical context would be helpful here. Joshua Pierce began advertising the Coates' lots for sale in the 1850s, but none on Orthodox Street was purchased until 1864. The deed recorded in Deed Book LRB 147, 464-66 (cited by Menkevich from the 1920 Smedley deeds), confirms that Anna Brous Watson's parents sold her Coates lots 22 and 23 (1507 Orthodox). The original deed is difficult to read, but other sources show that her mother's first name was generally spelled "Merittes," not "MRRITTES" as it appears in the nomination. John G. Kemp purchased lot 24 (1505 Orthodox) on July 14, 1864 (Deed Book LRB 45, 175-77). Kemp was the brother-in-law of organ builder John Roberts, who bought lots 25-27 for his residence and workshop at Penn and Orthodox Streets in 1865 and 1866. In 1875, Kemp sold lot 24 to Daniel S. Hallowell (DHL 15, 506-507). In 1884, Hallowell sold it to Hannah Rodgers (JOD 201, 63-65).
6. **Description: General & Historical**—Considering that the purpose of the Historical Society's building was—and is—to preserve its historic collections, this description demonstrates a lack of understanding of the society's holdings and its current efforts to improve both preservation and access. The information was gleaned from generic guidebooks to Philadelphia collecting institutions, not from research in the Historical Society of Frankford's rich archives. HSF board member Frederick Prescott has researched the building's documentation in our archives and compiled a short history of the Historical Society and its property, which is available to our research and program visitors. Mr. Prescott's essay provides more details than this nomination.

There are many inaccuracies and omissions in this section. First, the building permit used as an illustration on the first page of this section is not the one for the 1930 building under review, but rather a 1920 permit for alterations to the old Samuel and Anna Watson family home at 1507 Orthodox. A longtime member of the Historical Society, architect Frank R. Watson desired that his vacant family home and its grounds be used for the Society's purposes, precipitating William Smedley's purchase of the property for \$5000 and its transfer to the Historical Society.

Mr. Menkevich cites the two 1920 deeds related to the purchase of 1507 Orthodox and the 1927 deed related to the purchase of 1505 from the Rodgers family, but does not note the significance of that time gap. The Society used the former Watson home as its headquarters for meetings and collections preservation for several years, making various alterations to improve utility. However, the organization was already outgrowing the space when in 1927 the Rodgers family offered 1505 Orthodox Street for sale, allowing the society to purchase the adjoining lot. The society's annual report for 1929 confirms that the organization was still considering expanding the old building, perhaps by merging it with 1505. In March 1930, the HSF board resolved to demolish the existing structures and replace them with a modern, fireproof building. HSF archival records are unclear about the selection of Frank R. Watson as architect, but they suggest that his services were likely a gift. He supported the demolition of his old home to allow for construction of the new building.

“New Home of the Historical Society”—Caroline Smedley focuses on the modern structure that will preserve and make accessible a large collection of important archival materials and artifacts, noting that it was “modernly equipped and fire-proof throughout.” She describes some of its architectural elements, but emphasizes its usefulness for preservation and access, not its significance as a landmark structure. Ms. Smedley does not mention the architect’s name, but highlights the Smedley donation.

The Colonial Doorway of the Samuel Wakeling House—The “Allengrove” door is one of the important artifacts that have been preserved as part of the Historical Society of Frankford’s collections. However, much of what is included on this page is extraneous to the significance of the society’s mission and building.

Physical Description—The architectural description compiled by board member Frederick Prescott, easily accessible to visitors, provides greater detail than is presented here. Mr. Menkevich’s captions for images 16 and 17 note that gates were locked when he took his photographs. He was not denied access. Board members of the Historical Society of Frankford were not notified that Menkevich was compiling this application until it had been submitted to the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Image 21 shows a “wooden framed bulletin board” that is not original to the building. It was added recently and was designed to mimic the limestone memorial marker that is original to the building.

7. Statement of Significance

Criterion J:

The author has cited the meetings of only two groups—the DAR and the Frankford Woman’s Club—to represent this “extremely significant” building. However, its function as a meeting place for outside groups was ancillary to its primary mission to preserve and make accessible its collections and to provide programming about those collections. The most significant meetings were those of the Historical Society of Frankford itself, featuring lectures by a wide range of experts and on a variety of topics. A review of the *Papers Read* catalog at the Historical Society would have demonstrated this.

This section demonstrates the inattentive editing that is found elsewhere in the nomination. The “decedents” of Betsy Ross would not have been meeting anywhere, so we assume the author means “descendants.” According to the DAR Flag House Chapter’s website, it “was founded by thirteen descendents [sic] of Betsy Griscom Ross in the Frankford section of Philadelphia.” Menkevich identifies Ross as the “designer of the Stars and Stripes”—likely meant as a throwaway line—but by 1930 there would already have been discussion about the accuracy of that designation. Regarding the Frankford Woman’s Club, the Historical Society of Frankford would be better recognized as the repository for their archival materials, which are available for research.

“Big Pageant Shows Frankford Growth”—The Historical Society of Frankford participated in historical and industrial pageants in the neighborhood from the organization’s founding. But the two events mentioned as evidence of “significance” did not take place in the building that is currently being reviewed. They were fundraisers for the Historical Society of Frankford and its new building, but both were held at the estate of William Overington at Orthodox and Leiper Streets. The “new headquarters” at 1507 Orthodox Street in 1920 and 1923 would have been the Watson home.

Criterion E:

The author has clarified some of the confusion regarding the Watsons’ 1507 Orthodox Street home and the 1930 building designed by Frank R. Watson, which used that address after his childhood home had been torn down. Yet, in the 1930 “Museum to Open Soon” article, the focus remains on the Smedleys and the primary purpose of the building—the permanent preservation of the archives and artifacts collected by the society for the previous 25 years. The architect’s name is not included.

Summary & Conclusion

Frank R. Watson is widely known as a significant architect in “church design” in Philadelphia. At least eight of his churches are on the Philadelphia Register. Yet, of the three churches he designed in Frankford—St. Luke’s Reformed Episcopal Church (1890; now owned by Frankford Friends School), St. Mark’s Episcopal Church (renovation, 1907), and Seventh United Presbyterian Church (addition, 1907; now Word of Faith Church)—none has been nominated. The nomination for Watson’s Roman Catholic Church of the Epiphany, 1101 Jackson Street (2021), includes many details about St. Mark’s as “one of Watson’s most demanding and important projects.” (p. 20) Considering that St. Mark’s remains an active house of worship, it is unclear why a 1930 Georgian revival building would be chosen to represent Watson’s work in Frankford rather than an important example of his church architecture. Records in the Historical Society’s archives allude to the reason behind the choice of the Georgian revival architecture. Members believed it was suggestive of the days of Franklin and Washington. Given the scope of the society’s collections, the building would reflect its contents.

Mr. Menkevich provides nine pages of extensive detail on Frank R. Watson’s biography, but half of them relate to events and projects outside of Frankford. Curiously, he notes that Watson was married in the old St. Mark’s Church, but not that he designed the 1907 church that he pictures on page 18. The “Appendix” on Samuel Huckel is completely extraneous, particularly given the scant attention in the nomination to the significance of the Historical Society of Frankford. Menkevich never mentions Watson’s longtime membership in the Historical Society of Frankford, which influenced his decision to encourage the society to purchase his family’s property, tear down his old home, and create a new headquarters on the site. It is clear from the announcements about the new building that the Historical Society wanted to show an “historic” face but function in a modern way. Watson provided the society with the utilitarian building it needed, but with a façade that would fit into its historic neighborhood. Watson certainly would not have considered the 1930 Georgian revival building to have been a significant example of his oeuvre, particularly since there were already several fine examples of that within walking distance of 1507 Orthodox Street. That likely explains why his name as architect was not included in the newspaper articles heralding the new building.

In closing, based on the flaws we have noted above, we strongly recommend that this nomination be rejected. The Historical Society of Frankford will continue to accurately document its history for eventual inclusion in the city, state, and national historic registers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry Kolankiewicz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jerry Kolankiewicz
President, Board of Directors
Historical Society of Frankford