

Public comment:
Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic
Historic District Amendment



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL

CURTIS JONES, JR.
ROOM 404, CITY HALL
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
(215) 686-3416 or 3417
Fax No. (215) 686-1934

COUNCILMEMBER - 4TH DISTRICT

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Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I strongly support approval of the proposed amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District. My office was instrumental in organizing support for the initial designation of the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District. The proposed amendment would further enhance the unique historic character of Ridge Avenue and contribute meaningfully to Philadelphia's broader preservation landscape.

The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District.

Historic designation has been shown to support property values and foster neighborhood stability. Numerous studies demonstrate that designated historic properties and districts experience long-term economic benefits.

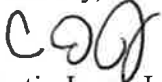
In the Roxborough neighborhood, which is experiencing rapid development resulting in the demolition of historic buildings, a major priority has become the protection of a historic corridor as an essential part of maintaining neighborhood identity. Constructed during the late 19th or early 20th century, these buildings were part of a critical era in Roxborough's development before the opening of the Walnut Lane Bridge in 1908. Residential development in this period retained a distinct architectural vernacular, often featuring local Wissahickon schist as well as modest Victorian, Gothic or Colonial Revival influences.

These buildings represent the pre-bridge, pre-automobile era of Roxborough's growth—an era defined by walkable streets and a mix of semi-rural and urban influences. They are emblematic of a neighborhood that evolved organically in response to its geography, labor history, and social networks.

In Roxborough, where community pride in our historic housing stock runs deep, historic designation affirms our collective commitment to protecting the legacy of those who built, lived in, and shaped our neighborhood more than a century ago. It also aligns with Philadelphia's growing civic movement to preserve and celebrate its architectural heritage—one that has made our city nationally recognized for its authenticity and sense of place.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Philadelphia's historic resources. I strongly urge you to support the historic designation of these properties and help safeguard the architectural and cultural heritage that defines Roxborough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'CJ Jones', written over the printed name.

Curtis Jones Jr.
Councilmember-4th District

TARIK KHAN, PH.D., CRNP
MEMBER
194TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

4001 MAIN STREET, SUITE 101
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19127
(215) 482-8726
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REPTARIK@PAHOUSE.NET
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025

Dear Members of the Commission,

As the elected representative for the 194th District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I am writing to advocate for the inclusion of fourteen historic buildings in the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District. Through discussions with residents and local civic organizations, as well as my review of the application, it has become clear that this amendment is essential for preserving our neighborhood's architectural heritage, while also protecting these significant structures from inappropriate changes or demolition.

Designating these fourteen additional buildings as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations. This protection is vital to maintaining the character of our community and preserving the cultural identity of Philadelphia as a whole. The documentation provided as part of the application reinforces the historical significance and origins of these buildings, underscoring their crucial role in defining the unique character of our area. Research has shown that historic designation stabilizes and can even increase property values within neighborhoods. By promoting thoughtful stewardship of our neighborhood's character, we can foster long-term investment and sustainable development while safeguarding the tangible heritage that makes our city special.

By recognizing these buildings, we not only honor our past but also enhance property values and encourage sustainable growth. Together, these structures represent a spectrum of architectural styles and periods. Some are grand edifices built with iconic Wissahickon Schist, while others are more modest constructions featuring brick and stucco. Each contributes to the distinctive historic context of the area, both architecturally and through their connections to the neighborhood's development patterns over a century ago.

We have a pivotal opportunity to protect these irreplaceable assets and, consequently, the character of our community. Preserving these homes through designation aligns with broader efforts to maintain the authenticity and unique sense of place that distinguish Philadelphia from other cities. This authenticity is what draws residents and visitors alike to neighborhoods such as Roxborough.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tarik Khan", written over a horizontal line.

Tarik Khan

State Representative, House District 194



Roxborough Manayunk Wissahickon Historical Society

RMWHS, 6245 Ridge Ave, Phila PA 19128 | rmwhsarchives@gmail.com | www.rmwhs.org

August 22, 2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

The Roxborough Manayunk Wissahickon Historical Society supports the approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the historic district. The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings has been provided in the amendment's inventory.

These fourteen buildings reflect the unique historic character of Roxborough, and their historic designation can contribute meaningfully to Philadelphia's broader preservation landscape. Additionally, historic designation has been shown to support neighborhood property values and foster stability which contribute to long-term economic benefits.

In Roxborough, which is experiencing rapid development resulting in the demolition of historic buildings, a major priority has become the protection of our historic corridor as an essential part of maintaining neighborhood identity. Constructed during the late 19th or early 20th century, these fourteen buildings were part of a critical era in Roxborough's development before the opening of the Walnut Lane Bridge in 1908. Residential development in this period retained a distinct architectural vernacular, often featuring local Wissahickon schist as well as modest Victorian, Gothic or Colonial Revival influences.

These buildings submitted for inclusion in the historic district represent the pre-bridge, pre-automobile era of Roxborough's growth -- an era defined by walkable streets and a mix of semi-rural and urban influences. They are emblematic of a neighborhood that evolved organically in response to its geography, labor history, and social networks.

In Roxborough, as with other sections of the 21st Ward, community pride in our historic properties runs deep, historic designation affirms our collective commitment to protecting the legacy of those who built, lived in, and shaped our neighborhood more than a century ago. It also aligns with Philadelphia's growing civic movement to preserve and celebrate its architectural heritage -- one that has made our city nationally recognized for its authenticity and sense of place.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Philadelphia's historic resources. I strongly urge you to support the historic designation of these properties and help safeguard the architectural and cultural heritage that defines Roxborough.

Sincerely,

Georgie Gould, President
215-808-9302

Ruth Fuelleborn, Treasurer
Virginia Buchanan, Secretary
Sylvia Myers, Historian

Carol Berryman
Brian Berryman
Gail A Carr
Kenneth R Carr Jr
Lyda M. Doyle
Susan Jackson

Robert & Kathleen Lawson
Craig & Rosemary Lord
David Rittenhouse Morrison
R. Glen Peterson
Donald A. Simon
Kris Soffa
Joanne Zimmerman

Manayunk Neighborhood Council, PO Box 4667, Philadelphia, PA 19127

www.ManayunkCouncil.org 215-487-2125



Kevin Smith, President
Adam Ertel, Vice President
Susan Shimp, Treasurer.
David Bass, Recording Sec.
Arlene Jones, Corresponding Sec.
John Hunter, Sgt at Arms

Kathleen Lambert, Trustee
Tyra Duhan, Trustee
John Carpenter, Trustee
Geoff Woolery, Trustee
Jeremy Inman, Trustee

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street - 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

August 27 2025

Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic
Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission

We are writing as a neighboring Civic Association and Registered Civic Association with the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia to support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

These buildings reflect the unique historic character of Roxborough and contribute meaningfully to Philadelphia's broader preservation landscape.

The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District.

Historic designation has been shown to support property values and foster neighborhood stability. Numerous studies demonstrate that designated historic properties and districts experience long-term economic benefits.

In the Roxborough neighborhood, which is experiencing rapid development resulting in the demolition of historic buildings, a major priority has become the protection of a historic corridor as an essential part of maintaining neighborhood identity. Constructed during the late 19th or early 20th century, these buildings were part of a critical era in Roxborough's development before the opening of the Walnut Lane Bridge in 1908. Residential development in this period retained a distinct architectural vernacular, often featuring local Wissahickon schist as well as modest Victorian, Gothic or Colonial Revival influences.

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In Roxborough, where community pride in our historic housing stock runs deep, historic designation affirms our collective commitment to protecting the legacy of those who built, lived in, and shaped our neighborhood more than a century ago. It also aligns with Philadelphia's growing civic movement to preserve and celebrate its architectural heritage—one that has made our city nationally recognized for its authenticity and sense of place.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Philadelphia's historic resources. I strongly urge you to support the historic designation of these properties and help safeguard the architectural and cultural heritage that defines Roxborough.

Sincerely,

Kevin Smith
President, Manayunk Neighborhood Council

Cheryl Feldman
203 Lemonte Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
cherylgailfeldman203@gmail.com
(267) 239-6170

19 August 2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Roxborough Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

I live three blocks from Ridge Avenue in a house built in the early 1800's or possibly the late 1700's. In 1984, my husband and I purchased our current home, which had been abandoned for ten years, lovingly restored it, and raised our family here. Over the years, I have come to appreciate how much preserving the historic character of this neighborhood is a significant unifying force – even more so as the long term and increased number of newer, younger residents find commonalities in living together in this beautifully green section of Philadelphia with such a rich architectural and cultural history.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

Historic designation has been shown to stabilize and even increase property values in neighborhoods like ours. By encouraging the thoughtful stewardship of a neighborhood's character, we support long-term investment and sustainable development while preserving the tangible heritage of our city.

The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District. Some of these houses are grander, built with Wissahickon schist, and some are more modest, built with bricks and stucco. All contribute to the unique historic context of the area, both architecturally and in their association with the development patterns of the neighborhood more than one hundred years ago.

Preserving these homes through designation aligns with broader efforts to maintain the authenticity and unique sense of place that distinguishes Philadelphia from other cities. It is this authenticity that draws residents and visitors alike to neighborhoods such as Roxborough.

Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Feldman".

Cheryl Feldman
Vice President, Ridge Park Civic Association

Brian Bishara

Fountain Street Auto Service

6501 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128
(215) 487-6422

August 19, 2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a business owner located on Ridge Avenue within the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District corridor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

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respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Bishara', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brian Bishara
Owner, Fountain Street Auto Service

Margaret Mary Logan

Pastore Auto Tags & Insurance, Inc.

6774 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19128
(215) 482-3500

August 19, 2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a business owner located on Ridge Avenue within the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District corridor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

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respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Margaret Mary Logan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "L".

Margaret Mary Logan
Pastore's Auto Tags & Insurance

Eric Peterson
451 Delmar St.
Philadelphia, PA 19128

08/25/2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

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Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,
Eric Peterson

Sara Stroman
4749 Fowler St
Philadelphia, PA 19127
sstroman@gmail.com
717-919-4133

8/25/2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

Historic designation has been shown to stabilize and even increase property values in neighborhoods like ours. By encouraging the thoughtful stewardship of a neighborhood's character, we support long-term investment and sustainable development while preserving the tangible heritage of our city.

The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District. Some of these houses are grander, built with Wissahickon Schist, and some are more modest, built with bricks and stucco. All contribute to the unique historic context of the area, both architecturally and in their association with the development patterns of the neighborhood more than one hundred years ago.

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Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,
Sara Stroman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Stroman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sara" and last name "Stroman" clearly distinguishable.



Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

From Luisa Ossa <chiquipaisa72@gmail.com>

Date Mon 8/25/2025 11:50 AM

To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Luisa Ossa

373 Fairway Terrace]

Philadelphia, PA [19128

luisamarcelaossa@gmail.com

267-761-7073

08/25/2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

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Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,

Luisa Ossa, Ph.D.

Marlene Schleifer

Ridge Park Civic Association
4876 Smick Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
mgschleifer@verizon.net
[215] 206-6386

22 August 2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

We are writing as a **Registered Civic Organization** within the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia to support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

These buildings reflect the unique historic character of Roxborough and contribute meaningfully to Philadelphia's broader preservation landscape.

The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District.

Historic designation has been shown to support property values and foster neighborhood stability. Numerous studies demonstrate that designated historic properties and districts experience long-term economic benefits.

In the Roxborough neighborhood, which is experiencing rapid development resulting in the demolition of historic buildings, a major priority has become the protection of a historic corridor as an essential part of maintaining neighborhood identity. Constructed during the late 19th or early 20th century, these buildings were part of a critical era in Roxborough's development before the opening of the Walnut Lane Bridge in 1908. Residential development in this period retained a distinct architectural vernacular, often featuring local Wissahickon schist as well as modest Victorian, Gothic or Colonial Revival influences.

These buildings represent the pre-bridge, pre-automobile era of Roxborough's growth—an era defined by walkable streets and a mix of semi-rural and urban influences. They are emblematic of a neighborhood that evolved organically in response to its geography, labor history, and social networks.

In Roxborough, where community pride in our historic housing stock runs deep, historic designation affirms our collective commitment to protecting the legacy of those who built, lived in, and shaped our neighborhood more than a century ago. It also aligns with Philadelphia's growing civic movement to preserve and celebrate its architectural heritage—one that has made our city nationally recognized for its authenticity and sense of place.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Philadelphia's historic resources. I strongly urge you to support the historic designation of these properties and help safeguard the architectural and cultural heritage that defines Roxborough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marlene Schleifer". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a small flourish at the end.

Marlene Schleifer, President

Nathan Doty
328 Gates Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
njd5030@gmail.com
267-495-7590

August 23, 2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

My family is in close proximity to the buildings in question, some of which are only a 5 minute walk away from our house.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

Historic designation has been shown to stabilize and even increase property values in neighborhoods like ours. By encouraging the thoughtful stewardship of a neighborhood's character, we support long-term investment and sustainable development while preserving the tangible heritage of our city.

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Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the

Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,
Nathan Doty

Matt Pasquali
322 Gates Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
mattpasquali224@gmail.com
518-253-6682

August 26, 2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

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Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,
Matt Pasquali

Maura Reilly
322 Gates Street
Philadelphia, PA 19128
maurajreilly@gmail.com
215-688-7598

26 August 2025

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

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

I live near several of these fourteen historic buildings, and they are beautiful homes that contribute to the unique character of the neighborhood. Each structure represents the long history of Roxborough and the pride that residents feel for the neighborhood. Historic buildings are a testament to the love and care that residents have for the neighborhood, which is a significant piece of the foundation of building a strong community.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

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The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District. Some of these houses are grander, built with Wissahickon Schist, and some are more modest, built with bricks and stucco. All contribute to the unique historic context of the area, both architecturally and in their association with the development patterns of the neighborhood more than one hundred years ago.

Preserving these homes through designation aligns with broader efforts to maintain the authenticity and unique sense of place that distinguishes Philadelphia from other cities. It is this authenticity that draws residents and visitors alike to neighborhoods such as Roxborough.

Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,
Maura Reilly



August 26, 2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

As developers and neighbors, we at Baker Street Partners have made it a priority to invest in Ridge Avenue over the years. We continue to own and operate several key assets along the corridor, including 6906 Ridge Avenue. We fully support the amendment to expand the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District and welcome the recognition of these additional properties.

Our approach to development has always been rooted in restoration and respect for what came before us. We believe preservation and progress are not at odds; they can, and should, work together. By protecting the buildings that define Roxborough's history, we ensure that future investment builds on authentic foundations rather than erases them.

We also recognize the critical role the Ridge Park Civic Association and the Historical Commission play in this process. We value that partnership and remain committed to responsible development that honors Roxborough's past while creating opportunities for its future.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your ongoing work to safeguard Philadelphia's architectural heritage.

Sincerely,

Steve Olszewski

Steve Olszewski
Baker Street Partners



Support for Amending Ridge Ave Thematic Historic District

From Christian Santarelli <csantarelli@protonmail.com>

Date Mon 8/25/2025 2:52 PM

To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Christian Santarelli

4741 Fowler St Philadelphia PA 19127
csantarelli@protonmail.com (570) 237-0009 08-25-2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing as a Roxborough neighbor to strongly support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

Designating the fourteen additional buildings on Ridge Avenue as historic will help ensure their preservation for future generations, safeguarding them from inappropriate alterations or potential demolition. This protection is important not only to maintain the integrity of our neighborhood streetscape but also to uphold the collective character that defines our historic neighborhood.

Historic designation has been shown to stabilize and even increase property values in neighborhoods like ours. By encouraging the thoughtful stewardship of a neighborhood's character, we support long-term investment and sustainable development while preserving the tangible heritage of our city.

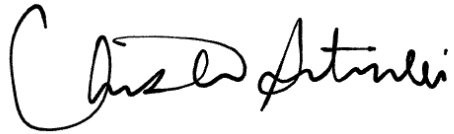
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Preserving these homes through designation aligns with broader efforts to maintain the authenticity and unique sense of place that distinguishes Philadelphia from other cities. It is this authenticity that draws residents and visitors alike to neighborhoods such as Roxborough.

Local interest in historic preservation continues to grow, and residents in our neighborhood and throughout the city are recognizing the value of protecting our architectural legacy. I urge the Commission to take this opportunity to support the community's vision for a neighborhood that respects its past by incorporating historic architecture and ensures that it is sustainable into its future.

Thank you for your attention and your ongoing commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Santarelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Christian Santarelli

Eve Jacobs & Jeffrey Tucker/Ryan Samuel Associates LLC

Women Wise Holistic Healthcare and Wellness LLC AND Ryan Samuel Associates LLC

7350 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128

***Contact@womenwiseholistichealthcareandwellness.com AND
RyanSamuelAssociates@gmail.com***

610-808-6388

8/26/25

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

We are writing as the property owner and a business within the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia to support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

These buildings reflect the unique historic character of Roxborough and contribute meaningfully to Philadelphia's broader preservation landscape.

The evidence for correct dating of the fourteen buildings is provided in the amendment's inventory, and historic designation can now correct their omission from the Historic District.

Historic designation has been shown to support property values and foster neighborhood stability. Numerous studies demonstrate that designated historic properties and districts experience long-term economic benefits.

In the Roxborough neighborhood, which is experiencing rapid development resulting in the demolition of historic buildings, a major priority has become the protection of a historic corridor as an essential part of maintaining neighborhood identity. Constructed during the late 19th or early 20th century, these buildings were part of a critical era in Roxborough's development before the opening of the Walnut Lane Bridge in 1908. Residential

development in this period retained a distinct architectural vernacular, often featuring local Wissahickon schist as well as modest Victorian, Gothic or Colonial Revival influences.

These buildings represent the pre-bridge, pre-automobile era of Roxborough's growth—an era defined by walkable streets and a mix of semi-rural and urban influences. They are emblematic of a neighborhood that evolved organically in response to its geography, labor history, and social networks.

In Roxborough, where community pride in our historic housing stock runs deep, historic designation affirms our collective commitment to protecting the legacy of those who built, lived in, and shaped our neighborhood more than a century ago. It also aligns with Philadelphia's growing civic movement to preserve and celebrate its architectural heritage—one that has made our city nationally recognized for its authenticity and sense of place.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Philadelphia's historic resources. I strongly urge you to support the historic designation of these properties and help safeguard the architectural and cultural heritage that defines Roxborough.

Sincerely,

Eve Jacobs, MSN, CRNP, APNC, WHNP-BC Nurse Practitioner/Founder/Owner/CEO
Women Wise Holistic Healthcare and Wellness LLC

Jeffrey Tucker/Ryan Samuel Associates LLC

Theresa Kehler

Upper Roxborough Civic Association (URCA)
845 Green Valley Dr
Philadelphia, PA 19128
urca19128@gmail.com
215-605-9647

August 27, 2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Re: Support for Amending the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

We are writing as a neighboring RCO within the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia to support approval of the amendment to the Ridge Avenue Thematic Historic District with the addition of fourteen historic buildings that were previously omitted from the Historic District.

These buildings reflect the unique historic character of Roxborough and contribute meaningfully to Philadelphia's broader preservation landscape.

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Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Philadelphia's historic resources. I strongly urge you to support the historic designation of these properties and help safeguard the architectural and cultural heritage that defines Roxborough.

Sincerely,
Theresa Kehler