

3440 W. Penn Street
Public Comment

April 17, 2026

To the Philadelphia Historical Commission and Kim Chantry

RE: 3440 W. Penn Street

As a neighbor and owner in the Tudor East Falls Historic District, I am distressed to see quality original materials in the form of rolled steel casement windows replaced on the façade of 3440 W. Penn Street. These windows are character defining elements that make the neighborhood historic and charming.

Many property owners in the district are helping to keep the neighborhood appeal but the owners of 3440 W. Penn Street have made a poor decision to replace original windows with cheap vinyl ones. They were ill informed and negligent not to contact the Philadelphia Historical Commission staff that are readily available to help support the maintenance of these historic homes. Not only that, the owners failed to request an L&I permit when changing windows in an historic district.

This lack of civic pride and initiative should not be condoned and the owners should be required to replace the newly installed windows with those that “will match the old in design, color, texture, and where possible materials”. It sets a bad precedent when regulations are not enforced. It effects not only the individual house but the quality of the neighborhood.

The claim of an emergency by the owners is specious. The owners themselves have created a crisis for the Tudor East Falls Historic District that needs to maintain its architectural integrity. Please direct the owners to replace the newly installed vinyl windows with replacement windows that match the old. Better still, they could rehab and install original rolled steel casement windows that neighbors have salvaged.

Thank you for your considering my comments,

Nancy Pontone
3428 Midvale Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19129

April 21st Meeting - Public Comment

From Ed Doubleday <ed@doubledaydesign.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 9:38 PM

To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>

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To the Board and Kim:

I am responding to the request for public comment for the April 21st meeting concerning the acceptance of the revisions to 3440 W. Penn Street.

I am a neighbor on this particular block and have been pleased with the overall historic district designation in hopes that it would preserve the integrity and character of this very special neighborhood. Many of my neighbors felt compelled to move here because of the special attributes, but unfortunately once here, they seem to want to alter, remove, damage, ruin or otherwise change the very attributes that drove them here initially. Makes no sense.

Anyway, the owner of 3440 W. Penn has removed beautiful, and to my knowledge functioning, original windows. This is not the first time poorly executed renovations have taken place because a segmental block wall was constructed in the garden which is most definitely not in keeping with the historic character. So, first the wall, then cheap vinyl replacement windows. The quality of the workmanship is so poor that instead of proper wood trim around the windows, rough 2x4 lumber was used. The vinyl windows are of the lowest grade possible. These events tell me that this owner is indifferent to the historic designation and has not, and most likely will not, adhere to it. Many neighbors have come to me to complain about this disgrace.

In conclusion, I would not like to see him "get away with it" and be allowed to keep these unsuitable windows. These alterations have degraded the entire neighborhood. My hope is that the historic commission stands firm and the owner is forced to replace them. Otherwise, what is the point to having a Historic Commission if owners can just do what they want anyway.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Ed Doubleday

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