Public Comment Received for
48-60 W Logan St

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
CITY COUNCIL

CINDY BASS
ROOM 508, CITY HALL
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
(215) 686-3424 or 3425
Fax No. (215) 686-1937
Email: cindy.bass@phila.gov

COUNCILWOMAN - 8TH DISTRICT

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Mr. John Farnham, Executive Director
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th FL
Philadelphia, PA 19102

September 1, 2026

Dear Mr. John Farnham,

Re: Former St Francis Assisi Church, 48-60 W Logan St

I am writing on behalf of Philadelphia's 8th Councilmanic District to express my support for Independence Mission Schools and DePaul Catholic School in their efforts regarding the former St. Francis of Assisi Church, located at 48–60 W. Logan Street.

I understand that Independence Mission Schools has spent considerable time and resources evaluating potential options for the former church property, including rehabilitation and adaptive reuse. After exploring these alternatives and considering the significant costs associated with restoring and maintaining the building, the school has determined that moving forward with demolition and transforming the property into recreational open space would better serve its students and the surrounding community.

DePaul Catholic School has been an important educational institution and community presence in the Logan neighborhood. The proposed creation of a playground and recreational field would provide much-needed outdoor space for students while allowing the property to continue serving a positive community purpose.

As Councilwoman for the 8th Councilmanic District, I am supportive of thoughtful investments that enhance the quality of life for our children, families, and neighborhoods. For these reasons, I support Independence Mission Schools and DePaul Catholic School in their efforts to move this project forward and respectfully ask that their plans for the former St. Francis of Assisi Church property receive your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bass
Councilmember - 8th District

Anonymous Public Feedback Regarding Saint Frances Assisi Church

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Saint Frances Assisi Church in Germantown for historic designation and preservation.

For well over a century, Saint Frances Assisi Church has stood as a part of the fabric of Germantown. Generations of families have walked through its doors. It has been a place of prayer, celebration, grief, hope, and community. Its walls have witnessed baptisms, weddings, funerals, holidays, and countless ordinary moments that, together, become the history of a neighborhood.

The condition of the church today is certainly concerning, and I recognize that the past decade has been difficult for the building and the community surrounding it. I also recognize the very real needs of DePaul Catholic School. As an educator, I understand the responsibility schools have to provide students with safe, functional, and supportive places to learn.

But I believe we have to ask ourselves an important question: What are we willing to lose in the process of moving forward?

The demolition of a Catholic church by a Catholic school would send a deeply troubling message to students, families, parishioners, and the Germantown community. Our children should be taught that history, faith, and community matter — not simply when they are convenient, but especially when preserving them requires effort and imagination.

A church is not just an old building. It is a repository of memories. It is where families brought their children to be baptized, where couples began their marriages, and where loved ones were mourned and remembered. It becomes part of the identity of the neighborhood itself. When a church like Saint Frances Assisi is demolished, we do not simply lose bricks, windows, and architectural details. We lose an irreplaceable piece of the community's story.

Philadelphia has already experienced the loss of historic churches that can never be recovered. In 2021, a similar argument was presented to the Historical Commission regarding the former Our Lady of the Rosary Church. The Commission ultimately declined to designate the church, and the West Philadelphia community lost one of its oldest and most architecturally significant resources. For many nearby residents, the loss was especially painful because they were unaware that demolition was being considered until it was too late.

We should not allow history to repeat itself.

As an educator, I believe deeply in preparing our children for the future. But preparing children for the future should not require erasing the places that connect them to the generations who came before them. Our students deserve modern, functional schools — but they also deserve to inherit a city with a history worth knowing and places worth remembering.

There may not be an easy solution. Rehabilitation will require time, creativity, resources, and cooperation. But the difficulty of preservation should not become the reason we abandon it. The decision to demolish Saint Frances Assisi Church is permanent. Once the building is gone, no future generation will have the opportunity to reconsider its value, restore it, or find a new purpose for it.

That is why I respectfully urge the Historical Commission to protect Saint Frances Assisi Church and to work with DePaul Catholic School, the surrounding community, preservationists, and other stakeholders to explore alternatives to demolition.

We have an opportunity to show our children that progress and preservation can exist together. We can teach them that the places that shaped our communities are worth fighting for. We can demonstrate that when something is difficult to save, the answer is not always to tear it down.

Saint Frances Assisi Church has already given more than a century to Germantown. Its story should not end simply because its future is difficult.

Please give this church — and the community that remembers it — the opportunity to have a future.

Thank you for your consideration.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CITY COUNCIL

Mike Driscoll
Councilmember
6th District
Room 313 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-686-3444 or 3445

October 1, 2026

Mr. John Farnham, Executive Director
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

RE: Former St. Francis Assisi Church, 48-60 W. Logan St.

Dear Mr. Farnham:

I am writing as the 6th Councilmanic District representative in support of the Independence Mission Schools and DePaul Catholic School and their proposed re-development of the former St. Francis of Assisi Church site at the above-referenced location.

District Councilwoman Bass indicated in her letter to you of September 1, 2026 as follows:

"I understand that Independence Mission Schools have spent considerable time and resources evaluating potential options for the former church property, including rehabilitation and adaptive reuse. After exploring these alternatives and considering the significant costs associated with restoring and maintaining the building, the school has determined that moving forward with demolition and transforming the property into recreational open space would better serve its students and the surrounding community.

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CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

CITY COUNCIL

In short, I echo Councilwoman Bass and her support of the recreational use plan and respectfully request your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Driscoll

Mike Driscoll

Outlook

Save St Francis of Assisi Church!

From scaronson <scaronson@protonmail.com>
Date Thu 10/15/2026 11:31 AM
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.

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,
Allowing the demolition of the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown would be a terrible loss to the community and to Philadelphia's history. The goal of the owners at Independence Mission Schools is inappropriate for this site, adding playgrounds at the expense of this historic structure, over 100 years old, is not a good idea.
Preservation studies have shown the building can be repurposed for other important uses, for the IMS school or for others. This work was supported by a grant from the Commonwealth that would be wasted if demolition is allowed.
Please urge the Commission to follow whatever steps are necessary to prevent another loss to our neighborhoods.
Thank you,
Sherman Aronson AIA LEED AP

Dr. Jonathan E. Farnham email: preservation@phila.gov
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St., 13th Flr.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Date October , 2026

Re: Support 48-60 W Logan St Phila PA 19144 former St Francis of Assisi Germantown

Dear Dr. Farnham Committe and Commissioners:

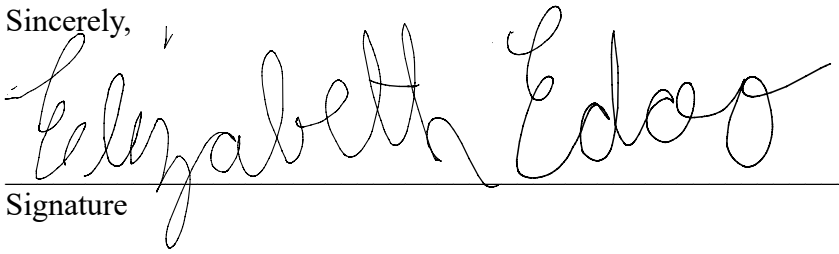
I am writing to express my strong support for adding the property at 48-60 W. Logan Street (the former Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown) to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

This monumental structure is a significant landmark and has been a familiar visual fixture in lower Germantown for over a century. Throughout its history, it served not only as a religious institution but as a vital social anchor for the local community.

The building fully meets the criteria for designation for the detailed reasons outlined in the nomination. I urge the Committee and the Philadelphia Historical Commission to approve this nomination, ensuring that this remarkable asset receives the formal recognition and protection it deserves for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important community matter.

Sincerely,



Signature

Elizabeth Edoo ledoo911@aol.com

Print Name Address Phone Email

Dr. Jonathan E. Farnham email: preservation@phila.gov
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St., 13th Flr.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Date October , 2026

Re: Support 48-60 W Logan St Phila PA 19144 former St Francis of Assisi Germantown

Dear Dr. Farnham Committe and Commissioners:

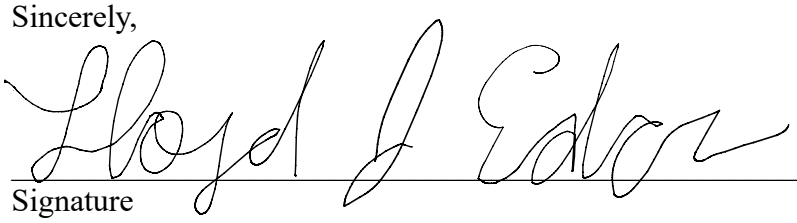
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Thank you for your time and consideration of this important community matter.

Sincerely,



Signature

Lloyd Edoo ljedoo@aol.com

Print Name Address Phone Email

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi Church Designation

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/2/2026 7:17 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Michael Simone <msimone825@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 31 October 2026 11:52:45
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi Church Designation

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Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to you today as a concerned resident of Germantown and to strongly support for the benefit of future generations; the nomination, designation and protection of Saint Francis of Assisi Church located at Logan and Greene Streets.

For over a hundred years, this church has stood as a cornerstone of our community's identity, architectural heritage, and shared history. Designating and protecting this community landmark would mean protecting an irreplaceable piece of Philadelphia's cultural fabric.
I urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission and our local leadership to nominate and designate the building for historical designation based on the following vital contributions:

Preservation Criteria…. Significance to the Community
Architectural Value……Features a distinct architectural design that defines our neighborhood's streetscape.
Cultural & Historical Anchor…. Served generations of Philadelphians, acting as a sanctuary, community hub, and a monument to the neighborhood's immigrant and diverse history.
Environmental Sustainability…. Preserving and retrofitting this existing structure prevents massive neighborhood disruption and avoids sending tons of granite and wood and masonry directly into landfills.

We have seen across Philadelphia that historic churches can be successfully adapted for the modern era—repurposed as community centers, affordable housing partnerships, or vibrant arts spaces—without erasing the physical history that makes our city unique.
Please protect this vital landmark before it is lost forever. I welcome the opportunity to discuss community-led preservation initiatives and alternative options with your office.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to preserving Philadelphia's irreplaceable history.

Sincerely,
Michael Simone

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/2/2026 7:17 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Howlin' Johnny <howlinjohnnywbyc@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 31 October 2026 20:17:56
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi

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

I am writing to you today as a concerned former resident of Germantown and parishioner of St. Francis to strongly support for the benefit of future generations; the nomination, designation and protection of Saint Francis of Assisi Church located at Logan and Greene Streets.

For over a hundred years, this church has stood as a cornerstone of the community's identity, architectural heritage, and shared history. Designating and protecting this community landmark would mean protecting an irreplaceable piece of Philadelphia's cultural fabric.

I urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the local leadership to nominate and designate the building for historical designation based on the following vital contributions:

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Please protect this vital landmark before it is lost forever. I welcome the opportunity to discuss community-led preservation initiatives and alternative options with your office.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to preserving Philadelphia's irreplaceable history.

Sincerely,

John W. Moss III

Mr. John Fortune
1246 Roosevelt Drive Apt B
Havertown, PA 19083
Ph: 215-900-9105

November 2, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To Whom it may Concern,

I like to mention the St. Francis of Assis; Church building located at 4821 Greene Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144 is set for a future demolition. That is a historical building please do not let for a demolish.

Thank You,
Mr. John Fortune

4TH DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
ART HAYWOOD

SENATE BOX 203004
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3004
717-787-1427
FAX: 717-772-0572

7106 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19119
215-242-8171
FAX: 215-242-6118

1168 EASTON ROAD
ABINGTON, PA 19001
215-517-1434
FAX: 215-517-1439

E-MAIL: SenatorHaywood@pasenate.com
FACEBOOK: @SenatorArtHaywood
INSTAGRAM: @SenatorArtHaywood
YOUTUBE: @SenatorHaywood
X: @SenatorHaywood
BLUESKY: @SenatorHaywood.com
WEBSITE: SenatorHaywood.com

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18 September 2026

Mr. John Farnham
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Former St. Francis Assisi Church, 48-60 W Logan Street

Dear Mr. Farnham,

I am writing to respectfully request you decline the application to designate the former St. Francis of Assisi Church at Logan and Greene Streets as historic.

The owner, Independence Mission Schools, operates the adjacent De Paul Catholic School and acquired the Church with the intent to convert it into assembly space. The Church has been closed for about 15 years, had a fire, and has been cited by the city. The condition of the building is such that it is not feasible for IMS, despite their best efforts, to raise enough money to preserve it. No other community congregation has expressed interest in utilizing the facility and taking on the challenge of maintaining it.

At this time, the School seeks to introduce some green space into the lives of the children by creating a play field along with converting a small adjacent parking lot also owned by the School into a playground area. The result will be a first-rate educational institution serving the community. Your declination of this application will enable this well-conceived plan to proceed.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Senator Art Haywood (D-4)
Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

1601 Cherry Street · Suite 1100 · Philadelphia, PA 19102-1310
Telephone (215) 587-4507 · Direct (215) 587-4549 · omtc@archphila.org

OFFICE of the MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

November 10, 2026

Jonathan Farnham, Ph.D., Executive Director
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Former St. Francis Assisi Church, 48-60 W. Logan Street

Dear Dr. Farnham,

I am writing to express the support of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for Independence Mission Schools (IMS) and DePaul Catholic School proposal to improve the school's campus, located at 48-60 West Logan Street in the City of Philadelphia. I am aware that this plan calls for the demolition of the former Saint Francis of Assisi Church building.

We believe the proposed improvements will provide lasting benefits for current and future Catholic school students and immeasurable benefits to the community-at-large.

The former Saint Francis of Assisi Parish was merged with nearby parishes in 2012. Subsequently, that church building was relegated to profane but not sordid use in accordance with the Code of Canon Law, meaning it formally ceased to function as a church. This building has not been utilized for any purpose in several years.

The Archdiocese sold the former Saint Francis of Assisi Parish campus property to IMS in 2016. That parcel included the school building, schoolyard and former church building. From the Archdiocesan perspective, that transaction was beneficial as IMS would continue the Catholic mission to educate children in Philadelphia neighborhoods. St. Francis Assisi Church was included in the transaction since the building was located on the same property, even though it suffered from fire damage in 2013. We understand and appreciate that IMS made efforts to identify ways to reuse the former church building prior to considering demolition. It is also our understanding and experience that the financial burden of adaptive reuse projects and maintaining these types of structures can be cost prohibitive and jeopardize the financial stability of a non-profit entity.

The proposed campus improvement plans proposed would be a great benefit to the current and future students and would continue the legacy of the parish which once existed on the property. For these reasons, we support the proposed plans for the property.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Eric Banecker
Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia

3RD DISTRICT
STATE SENATOR
SHARIF STREET

SENATE BOX 203003
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3003
717-787-6735
FAX: 717-772-0581

1621 W. JEFFERSON STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19121
215-227-6161
FAX: 215-560-1316

4458 A GERMANTOWN AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140
215-457-5200
FAX: 215-457-5206

Senate of Pennsylvania

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URBAN AFFAIRS & HOUSING

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING

E-MAIL: Sharif.Street@pasenate.com
FACEBOOK: @SenSharifStreet
X: @SenSharifStreet
INSTAGRAM: @SenSharifStreet
WEBSITE: SenatorSharifStreet.com

September 28, 2026

Mr. John Farnham
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Former St. Francis Assisi Church, 48-60 W Logan Street

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Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sharif Street
Senator
3rd District PA