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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Public Health and Human Services
Streets and Services
Whole Council

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.

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.”

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:

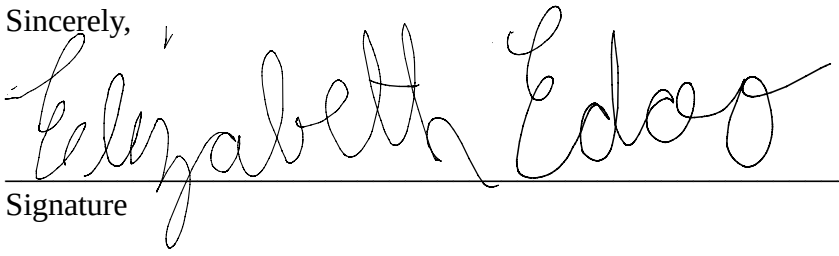
I am writing to express my strong support for adding the property at 48-60 W. Logan Street (the former Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown) to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

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

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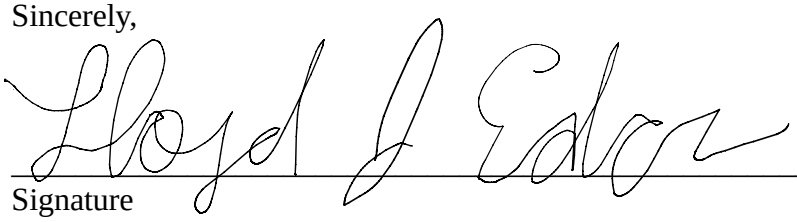
Sincerely,



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:

Preservation Criteria…. Significance to the Community

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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

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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 the 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,

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

Senate of Pennsylvania

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INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION
JUDICIARY

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

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,

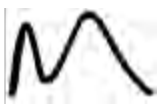
I am writing to respectfully request you decline the application to designate the former St. Francis of Assisi Church at Logan and Greene Streets as historic.

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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AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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

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,

Sharif Street
Senator
3rd District PA

Outlook

Fw: Support for designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/13/2026 7:13 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Mason Carter <mcartern88@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 12 November 2026 23:01:37
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Support for designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown

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 Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the Committee on Historic Designation:

I live in Germantown, and I am writing in strong support of the nomination of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The church is a landmark of Lower Germantown and a fixture of our neighborhood, and it satisfies Criteria for Designation D, E, and J.

Criterion D. Dedicated in 1928, St. Francis is a monumental Romanesque Revival church of rusticated North Carolina granite, trimmed in Vermont marble and terra cotta. Its rose window, triple-arched portal, and 118-foot tower are classic features of the style.

Criterion E. The church is the work of F. Ferdinand Durang, son of the noted ecclesiastical architect Edwin Forrest Durang. This Commission has already found, in designating his St. Donato's Church, that Ferdinand Durang's church work significantly influenced Philadelphia's development.

Criterion J. Founded in 1899, the parish was a central institution of Irish Catholic Germantown, growing to nearly 3,000 families and about 1,200 schoolchildren. Its congregation carried the cost of this church through the Depression and the war years, retiring the debt in 1945.

I believe that the owner's November 12 filings do not change the fact that this building is worthy of designation. The legal memo says Durang was never recognized for anything, but the Commission found, in 2021 and again in 2023, that his church work significantly influenced Philadelphia's development. It calls the congregation short-lived, but the parish lasted more than 110 years and paid off this church in 1945. The costs and condition issues both filings stress are not designation criteria; they belong in a hardship review. And the memo says the school itself planned to adapt the church for gym and assembly use, which shows the building can be reused.

The church has stood at the corner of Greene and Logan for nearly a century, and it is one of the most recognizable buildings in Lower Germantown. I support DePaul Catholic School, and I believe this church can serve the school and the neighborhood for many more years. Nearby churches show how. The former St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Wayne Avenue sat empty for years before the Waldorf School of Philadelphia moved in in 2015. In Mount Airy, the former Mount Airy Presbyterian Church property now holds 19 condominiums, and its sanctuary is planned as a theater and will become a new location for the Lantern Theater. With its open 60-foot nave, St. Francis is just as adaptable. I respectfully ask the Committee to recommend, and the Commission to approve, designation under Criteria D, E, and J.

Sincerely,

Mason Carter

Outlook

Fw: DePaul Catholic School

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/13/2026 7:14 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Sean Morris <suburbanbeat@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, 12 November 2026 20:27:21
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: DePaul Catholic School

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

Hello. My name is Sean Morris and I am a Germantown resident writing to urge the PHC to nominate the DePaul Catholic School. These historic reasons are the reason people want to live here. Germantown can truly not afford to lose any more. Thank you.

Best,
Sean

Outlook

Fw: St Francis of Assisi Nomination

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/13/2026 12:12 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Gregory Paulmier <gregbpaulmier@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2026 12:11 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St Francis of Assisi Nomination

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

November 13, 2026

Greg Paulmier
221 West Winona Street
Philadelphia, Pa.19144

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St 13th floor
Phila., PA 19102

Attn: Dr Farnham/Preservation

Subject: Support for the Historic Designation of **St Francis of Assisi** at 48-60 W Logan St and Greene St. Philadelphia, PA 19144

Dear Philadelphia Historical Committee/Commission,

Please accept this letter as formal documentation of my full support for the nomination of **St Francis of Assisi** at 48-60 W Logan St and Greene St Philadelphia, PA 19144.

The building's architectural merits and historical value are clearly demonstrated in the nomination materials. It has long and important associations to our neighborhood, and deserves the formal recognition and legal protections that only listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places provides. I strongly urge you and the commission to support its designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Paulmier

DARISHA K. PARKER, MEMBER
198TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

116A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202198
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2198
(717) 787-7727

1335 WEST TABOR ROAD, SUITE 109
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19141
(215) 849-6426
TOLL-FREE: (833) 787-5117
FAX: (215) 849-5476

REPPARKER@PAHOUSE.NET

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGING & OLDER ADULT SERVICES
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
COMMERCE
INSURANCE
RULES

CAUCUSES

PHILADELPHIA HOUSE DELEGATION
PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS, *VICE CHAIR*
PA SAFE CAUCUS
WOMEN'S HEALTH CAUCUS

Mr. John Farnham
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, l3th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Former St. Francis Assisi Churcho 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.

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

Sincerely,

Darisha K. Parker

DARISHA K. PARKER
State Representative
198th District

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Outlook

Fw: Urgent Request to Protect St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lower Germantown

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/13/2026 3:21 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: V Ross <vceross@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2026 3:15 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Urgent Request to Protect St. Francis of Assisi Church in Lower Germantown

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 Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to urge the Commission to take immediate steps to protect the former St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Lower Germantown from demolition and to consider the building for historic designation.

This monumental granite church is an important part of our neighborhood's architectural and cultural heritage. Its proposed demolition to create a playing field for DePaul Catholic School would represent an enormous and irreversible loss to the community.

While I recognize the importance of recreational space for students, surely there are alternatives to destroying a building of such architectural significance. At the very least, serious consideration should be given to preserving and adaptively reusing the church rather than simply demolishing it.

Equally troubling is the apparent lack of meaningful community involvement in a decision with such permanent consequences for the neighborhood. Lower Germantown residents deserve a voice in determining what is preserved and what is lost.

I strongly urge the Historical Commission to evaluate this building for historic designation and to take whatever steps are within its authority to help prevent its demolition while preservation alternatives are explored.

Thank you for your consideration. I would appreciate knowing what steps the Commission can take and how concerned residents can support the preservation process.

Sincerely,
Valerie Ross
Philadelphia, PA

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi church

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 7:31 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Carly Brand <carlybrand5@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, 14 November 2026 12:34:43
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi church

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

Hi, I'm reaching out to say that I would
love to see the St. Francis of Assisi church be remodeled and turned into a center for the arts instead of torn down for a sports field. Thank you!
Carly Brand
Sent from my iPhone

Judith Mackarey

533 West Hortter Street

Philadelphia, PA 19119

November 15, 2026

Preservation@phila.gov

Re: St. Francis of Assisi in Germantown

I am writing to request that the St. Francis of Assisi church be preserved, not demolished by the Independent Mission School. This building, like many in Philadelphia should be found to be historic.

One of the many values in the City of Philadelphia is the fact that its many buildings are in fact historic and honored, as was seen in the 250 year celebration. We do not want to take action that will detract from that. Northwest Philadelphia (Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill) is a great example of that!

I would request that Councilmembers Bass and Driscoll and State Senators Stret and Haywood support the preservation of this church. Politics should not be given priority over the best interests of their constituents.

Judith Mackarey

Outlook

Fw: Please, Do Not Tear Down Philadelphia's Magnificent Architectural Legacy- Save Germantown's St. Francis of Assisi.

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 9:17 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Kelly McShain <kmcshain@elfantwissahickon.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 9:16 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Please, Do Not Tear Down Philadelphia's Magnificent Architectural Legacy- Save Germantown's 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.

To The Historic Commission of Philadelphia,

I am writing today as a multi-generational Philadelphian; as a Restoration Investor in our Northwest Corridor architecture; as a professional Realtor; and as the Television Host of the Nationally broadcast, Emmy-nominated and Telly Award-winning 'The American Dream- For the Love of Philadelphia.'

Please, Do Not Tear Down Philadelphia's Magnificent Architectural Legacy- Save Germantown's St. Francis of Assisi.

I am privileged to stand on the frontlines of our World Heritage City every day helping to showcase Philly's preciously built architectural jewels- that triumphantly crown each of our many Neighborhoods. Iconic structures, such as 'St. Francis of Assisi in Germantown-' represent the bedrocks of our individual Communities, and serve as the nourishing focal points of our travels as we strive for Hope and inspiration throughout our weary days. Many will speak of Sacred and personal 'Rights of Passage' experiences which this specific Catholic Church has played in their family's foundational growth here in our City...The Church served them, and they now serve the City. As a devout Irish Catholic and the oldest of 9 children- it deeply resonates that my own McShain family attended these Masses, Yes. I, however, wish to acknowledge the importance of this stunning structure without its Sanctification- as a worthy, built Palace which STILL serves the needs of Religious and Secular alike...near neighbors and travelling passersby alike.

Does our past built legacies mean nothing? Or, do we build upon these Artist and Artisan constructed foundations- using the most precious building materials- with the understanding that we care. That we believe that Philadelphia neighborhoods deserve Beauty. We believe in our children and that they deserve to know they are connected to the Best of our Past- that transience and destruction aren't the values we wish to impart, but permanence- inspiring a future of Giving and Critical Thinking.

Reinvesting and seeking Creative Re- Uses serve our Greater Communities so much better than the dumpster and the landfill.

I am including my latest National Television Segment highlighting some of our great jewels of Philadelphia- this one in particular also hosts Paul Steinke, Executive Director of The Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia- discussing what important buildings mean to us on a visceral level. "Philly's Knock-out Punch: Art & Architecture on the Parkway," may be showcasing a highly visible Corridor for our City and well-known Architectural icons- but can so easily be directly translated to the modest corner of Greene St. & W. Logan. St. Francis of Assisi maintains a societally foundational offering to Germantown to our beloved City at large- please vote to designate this structure as the inspiring Historic Gift that it is...

I truly hope my added perspective helps. SO much more to say- but I wish to amplify and support all efforts to keep this Wonderful Building from being torn down.

Respectfully Shared,

Kelly McShain Tyree
Philadelphia Resident, 19126

https://youtu.be/DT3ZzzfT3_8

--
Kelly McShain Tyree
REALTOR, CNE, BA, MFA
Elfant Wissahickon Realtors
8039 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118
215.247.3600 # 279
646.526.6909 (preferred cell)
5 Star Client Testimonials- Zillow



National Television Host for "The American Dream- Philadelphia"
YouTube Channel: @FortheLoveofPhiladelphia

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

Date November , 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,

Hassida Emanuel

Signature

26 W. Logan St 19144

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 November 5 , 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,

Lourdes Torres

Signature

Lourdes Torres 311 Holly Dr. Levittown, PA 19055 Prlatina369@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 November 5, 2026

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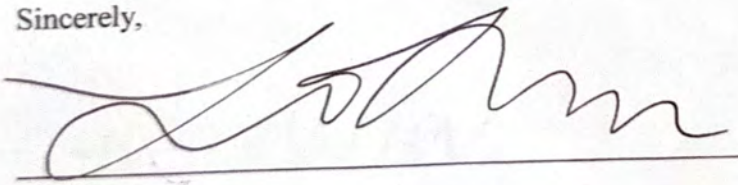
Sincerely,



Signature

L u Flowers read something rad @ gmail.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 November 6 , 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Signature

ALISON MINER 4634 CHESTER AVE 19143 ALISON.MINER@GMAIL.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 27 , 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Signature

Kalob Joseph 6132 Erdrick ST dagoodfather@gmail.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 29 , 2026

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

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Sincerely,

Signature

Mahmoud Mohamm 1630 Welsh Road
Print Name Address Phone Email Phila PA 19151 215-877-4992

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

Date November 29, 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Harriet L Faas

Signature

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

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

Sincerely,

Eileen M Bonner

Signature

Eileen M Bonner 3833 Patricia Dr 19154
215 370 5194 gutfp57@gmail.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 November 29 , 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Linda Lee McGinnis

Signature

LINDA LEE MCGINNIS 700 COVERNGTON AVE PHIL PHILA PA
LLFELL@MAC.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 November 29 , 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Maria DiBlasi

Signature

MARIA DiBLASI 33 ANNE DR HAMMONTON NJ 08037
RET825@VERIZON.NET

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 November 29 , 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Joines-Eyre

Signature

JACQUELINE JOINES-EYRE
70202 DELAIRE
LANSING

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 November 21, 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Signature

BRUCE GREEN 20E PLEASANT ST PHILA PA 19119-2142 greenbruce19144@gmail.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 November 21, 2026

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Sincerely,

Thomas Robinson

Signature

THOMAS ROBINSON

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 November 21, 2026

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Sincerely,

Signature

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 November 20, 2026

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Sincerely,

E. Turner
Signature

E. Turner
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 November 20 , 2026

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

Sincerely,

Margaret A Bromell
Signature

Margaret A Bromell 3130 N. 33rd St. 215 228-711
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 22, 2026

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

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Sincerely,

Signature

MasonFelps 2672653356 MasonFelps26@gmail.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 22, 2026

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Sincerely,

Signature

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 21, 2026

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Sincerely,

Signature

Fidel Rodriguez

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 27, 2026

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

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

Sincerely,

Signature

John Bazemore 5916 Alma St Bazemore_John@yahoo.com

Print Name Address Phone Email 267 ~~864467~~

8647315

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

Date October 27, 2026

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

Sincerely,

William M Hill

Signature

William M Hill 23 W. Enfield Rd
Feasterville, PA 19053

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 23 , 2026

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

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Sincerely,

Signature

Hoyd Edoo 1717 West Cayuga St / ljedoo@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 23 , 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

Bobby Edoo 1719 W Cayuga St Phila PA 19140 Bedoo911@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 27, 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.

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

Sincerely,

Carole Reilly

Signature

Carole Reilly Lieutenant 113 @ Comcast.net

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 27, 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.

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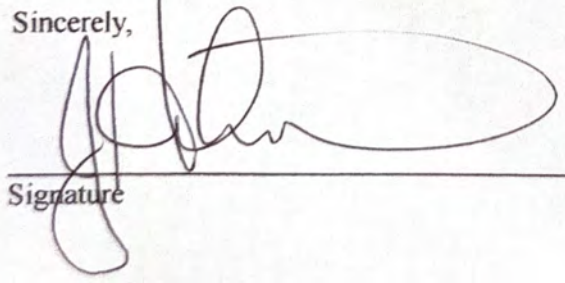
Thank you for your time and consideration of this important community matter.

Sincerely,



Signature

Jeffrey Hutchson 4405 Solly Ave 19136

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 27 , 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,

Carmen L Ortiz
Signature

133 W. Lippincott St
Print Name Address Phone Email Phila PA 19133
Coltr1862@gmail.com

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

Date October 27 , 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,

Carmen Sanchez

Signature

Carmen Sanchez 1537 E. Cheltenham Ave Phila PA 19124 Csanchez866@gmail.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 27 , 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.

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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

EUGENE HEFFRON 2159300023 GENEH369@VERIZON.NET

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 27 , 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,

Virginia Killman
Signature

Virginia Killman VirginiaKillman78@gmail.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 27, 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,

Charles Esposito

Signature

Charles Esposito 1105 Bloomdale Rd 215 313 4630

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 27, 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,

S. Itzko

Signature

Steve Itzko 6446 Akron St PhAtKop@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 29, 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,

Pamela O Canada

Signature

Pamela O. Canada 4614 Fernhill Rd Phila, PA 19144

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 27th, 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,

Evelyn Winslow
Signature

EVELYN WINSLOW, 7306 LONGSPUR PL. 19153 2711
Print Name Address Phone Email

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 11:30 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Emily Busch <birdiebuschmusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 11:29 AM
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.

To the Historic Commision of Philadelphia,

I am writing in regards to the projected demolition of St. Francis of Assisi at the corner of Greene St. and Logan St. in Germantown, PHL.

I am a near neighbor who lives on Greene St. and a longstanding believer in restoration over demolition as a path forward for our community and city at large. I have been very active in support of the preservation of Germantown's historic built environment and this is no exception. Germantown is already considered a National Historic Landmark so why do we have to continue to fight to prevent the demolition of buildings within this area as they all contribute to a whole history that makes this city and this neighborhood incredibly unique?

The building should be invested in and restored not demolished, which is the better lasting vision. The amount of craft and quality of materials alone is breathtaking but in addition the histories and intentions that came before us are worth preserving. These aren't buildings we knock down.

I will continue to believe that there is a vision for this building that is more imagined that leveling it, and that the current owners and investors can invest in a better future use for this building, one that is incredibly creative, forward thinking, and honoring of the past.

Sincerely,
Emily Busch

Outlook

Fw: 48-60 W Logan St for addition to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

---

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 11:48 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Laurence Harrington <laurenceharrington@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 11:39 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: 48-60 W Logan St for addition to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

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

To The Historic Commission of Philadelphia,

I am a Philadelphia based attorney. I have lived in NW Philadelphia since 2015 and have lived 2.5 block from Germantown's St. Francis of Assissi for the past two years. It is an absolutely gorgeous building that adds so much beauty and grace to the neighborhood. Buildings like this are simply not made any more and once gone the character of the neighborhood is forever changed. It is an immense disservice to all the people who live here to allow something this beautiful to be destroyed.

Therefore consider this email as one more voice in a chorus urging you to consider adding 28-60 W Logan St. to the Register of Historic Places.

Regards,

--
Laurence A. Harrington, Esq.
The Harrington Firm
www.theharringtonfirm.com
(484) 469-0468

Outlook

Fw: St Francis of Assisi church - Germantown, corner of Green and Logan Streets

---

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 12:05 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Kass Gallagher <kassg120@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 12:05 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Kass Gallagher <kassg120@comcast.net>
Subject: St Francis of Assisi church - Germantown, corner of Green and Logan Streets

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

To Whom it may concern,
I write to request that St Francis of Assisi not be torn down as I consider the church one of Philadelphia's magnificent architectural buildings.

Please, save Germantown's St. Francis of Assisi.

Respectfully,
Kathleen M. Gallagher
formerly from Ashmead Pl North in Germantown.

215-527-2332

Outlook

Fw: Support for the nomination of St. Francis

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 12:20 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Ken Weinstein <ken@phillyofficeretail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2026 12:18 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Support for the nomination of St. Francis

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

November 16, 2026
Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
preservation@phila.gov

Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I strongly support the nomination of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I urge the Committee on Historic Designation to recommend approval and the Historical Commission to designate the church and rectory.

In the late 1980s, I took on my second rehab project ever, at 4818 Greene Street, directly across the street from St. Francis. I remember what a vibrant gathering place the church was for the neighborhood. Today my office is just around the corner, and I drive past St. Francis twice a day, on my way to work and on my way home.

St. Francis began on this corner in 1910 with a basement chapel and a rectory. Many of its parishioners were Irish immigrants and their children. Between 1924 and 1928, those families built the Romanesque Revival upper church designed by F. Ferdinand Durang. Its 118-foot bell tower still marks the corner of Greene and West Logan Streets.

I have restored and reused seven churches in Northwest Philadelphia, with two more church projects in the works. At the former St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Germantown, my company, Philly Office Retail, worked with the Waldorf School of Philadelphia to turn the sanctuary into the school's Great Hall. I believe St. Francis can serve our community again, too.

About ten years ago, I came close to buying St. Francis myself. DePaul Catholic School asked me to step aside so it could buy the church, restore it, and use it to expand its educational program. On that understanding, I stepped aside. A decade later, the church still awaits restoration, and the school now seeks to demolish it. I regret my decision.

DePaul's students deserve a place to play. I believe there is enough green space nearby for a ball field. Just one block away, Loudoun Mansion stands in a city park of more than seven acres. I urge DePaul to explore with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation whether part of those grounds could serve its students.
I gave DePaul the chance to save St. Francis. Now I ask DePaul and Independence Mission Schools to give someone else that same chance by offering the church for sale to a buyer committed to restoring and reusing it. St. Francis is part of the fabric of our community. Once it is gone, it is gone forever.
Please approve this nomination.
Sincerely,

Ken Weinstein
--

Strengthening Community Through Economic Development

Check out available properties at PhillyOfficeRetail.com
Get RE Development Training, Mentoring and Networking at JumpstartGermantown.com
Borrow $$ for real estate projects by going to JumpstartPhilly.com
Keep wealth local by starting your own Jumpstart Program at GoJumpstart.org
Love the game of ping-pong/table tennis at TrolleyCarTTC.com

Outlook

Fw: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

---

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 1:59 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Jenn Ladd <jrladd89@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 13:48:40
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

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

Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144
Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I strongly support the nomination of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I urge the Committee on Historic Designation to recommend approval and the Historical Commission to designate the church and rectory.

Please recognize and preserve Philadelphia history, which this 100+ year-old church so obviously is.

Thank you,
Jenn Ladd
236 W. Winona St., 19144
--
Jenn Ladd
443.928.1226

Outlook

Fw: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 2:40 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Dara Silverman <dara.silverman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 14:29:54
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

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 Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee,

I live just a few blocks from St. Francis of Assisi, and I strongly support its nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

I'm an artist, and one of the things I love most about living in Germantown is the beauty and character of its historic architecture. Our neighborhood has so many remarkable buildings that tell the story of the people who lived here and the communities they built. St. Francis is one of them.

I pass the church regularly, and it's hard to imagine this corner without it. Its beautiful Romanesque architecture, imposing bell tower, and place in the history of the neighborhood make it worth saving. But this isn't just about preserving an old building. It's about preserving the character of a neighborhood and the possibility that these buildings can continue to serve our community in new ways.

Philadelphia has lost too many historic buildings to demolition. Once they're gone, they're gone. I believe St. Francis deserves the chance to have a second life, rather than be torn down before that possibility has been fully explored.

Please support the nomination and help protect this important piece of Germantown's history.

Thank you,

Dara Silverman

Dara Silverman **(She/Her)**



Agile Rascal Bike Theatre



Creative Structures

Structural Guidance for Artists, Writers and Entrepreneurs

Outlook

Fw: St Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 2:40 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: coopergem56 <coopergem56@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 14:30:27
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.

This letter is to beg you to save St Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church on 48-60 West Logan St, Germantown, Philadelphia.

Please place it in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

My parents were married in this church. All the other RC churches we attended have been torn down. All of our catholic heritage has been destroyed. One church we attended was built in the mid 1800's. All the history is lost. This was a huge part of the history of Philadelphia.

Please do something. We appreciate your efforts.

Thank you,

Don House

Sent from my Galaxy

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis Assisi 48-60 W. Logan 19144

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 2:29 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Gerry Givnish <gerrygivnish@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 14:22:07
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis Assisi 48-60 W. Logan 19144

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

Historical Commission:
St. Francis is important to my family and should not be demolished. Surely there is a good project that could repurpose the church and rectory. The DePaul School's plan for use as outdoor recreation for students is incomplete. The grounds will be available only during the school day would exclude neighborhood children. I live at 4825 Germantown Ave.
Gerry Givnish

Outlook

Fw: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 2:47 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Mary South <msouth12@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 14:45:46
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

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

November 16, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I strongly support the nomination of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I urge the Committee on Historic Designation to recommend approval and the Historical Commission to designate the church and rectory.

There are nearby places that could be used as ball fields but the type of history St. Francis represents isn't replaceable. I moved to Philadelphia from Brooklyn 15 years ago and the gorgeous architecture reflecting this city's history is my favorite aspect of this beautiful city. It seems to be increasingly discarded for cheap and ugly quick-builds, which is shameful. We need to be responsible stewards of all of our resources, and ripping down something lovely and useful when there are other options is wasteful and irresponsible, as well as very misguided.

Once our architectural history is gone, it is gone forever. Please approve this nomination.

Best,
Mary South
241 W. Pastorius Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Outlook

Fw: Public Comment regarding 48-60 W Logan Street

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/16/2026 3:13 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Arielle Harris <harris.ari@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 15:06:11
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Public Comment regarding 48-60 W Logan Street

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

To the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

I am writing to lend my voice in support of Germantown residents who are mobilizing to prevent Independence Mission Schools from demolishing the historic church building at 48–60 West Logan Street, formerly home to St. Francis of Assisi parish and later the DePaul School. I urge the Commission to designate the property and add it to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Germantown has a long and troubling history of institutional expansion at the expense of its historic built environment. Large institutions and developers repeatedly treat historic properties as obstacles to growth rather than assets worth preserving and incorporating into their portfolios. In an article for *Hidden City Philadelphia* nearly a decade ago, I documented the dozen or so buildings La Salle University had demolished for campus expansion since the 1960s. In response to my nomination of the Mary and Frances Wister studio to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, La Salle demolished the undesignated historic residential property next door, which had been used as an on-campus daycare. The lot remains vacant to this day. And lest we forget, in 2006 Philadelphia University demolished Red Gate, a remarkable work by architect George T. Pearson (an especially ironic loss given the school's eventual merger with Thomas Jefferson University, which now offers a degree in historic preservation). I could go on with even more examples, but I will keep my comments localized to what's been going on in Germantown. These are particularly frustrating examples of how historic buildings can be lost in the name of institutional growth without any meaningful long-term plan or benefit to the surrounding community.

Demolishing a usable building for playing fields is asinine in 2026. We should be thinking more seriously about sustainability, embodied carbon, construction waste, and the environmental costs of demolishing buildings. There are opportunities in this case to rethink campus planning, explore alternative configurations, and find solutions that meet educational needs without sacrificing the neighborhood's architectural heritage. What does it teach children when a historic building in their community is demolished because an institution finds a different use for the land more convenient for

them? We should be teaching the next generation that history matters and that responsible growth requires imagination and stewardship rather than simply clearing what is already there.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arielle Harris (19147)

Outlook

Fw: St Francis Of Assisi 48-60 West Logan Street

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:24 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Paul Walsh <paul@elfantwissahickon.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 15:38:44
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St Francis Of Assisi 48-60 West Logan Street

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

Re: Preservation of St. Francis of Assisi – 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia

Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
preservation@phila.gov

Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the future of St. Francis of Assisi, located at 48–60 West Logan Street in Germantown. I believe the historical preservation of this property should be a priority, and every reasonable effort should be made to protect its architectural integrity and preserve its place in Germantown's history.

My connection to Germantown is both personal and lifelong. I was born and raised in Germantown and graduated from St. Francis of Assisi in 1977. The neighborhood and its institutions helped shape who I am, and St. Francis holds a particularly special place in my personal history.

Professionally, I have spent my career as a real estate broker, own investment properties, and operate a company with deep roots in the Germantown community. Through both my personal and professional experiences, I have developed an appreciation for the importance of preserving the historic character of the neighborhoods that make Philadelphia so special.

St. Francis of Assisi is more than just an old church building. It represents generations of families, traditions, memories, and community history. For many people who grew up in Germantown, this building is part of their story. Its architectural presence and historical significance make it an important part of the neighborhood's identity.

Germantown is fortunate to retain so much of its historic character. Its churches, homes, and landmarks tell the story of the generations who built and shaped this community. The loss of a significant structure like St. Francis would be more than the loss of a building; it would mean losing an irreplaceable connection to our shared past.

I strongly believe that every reasonable effort should be made to explore opportunities to save and preserve this property. There may be opportunities for adaptive reuse that would allow the building to serve a new purpose while maintaining its historical and architectural integrity.

Having grown up in Germantown, attended St. Francis, and continued to maintain strong personal and professional ties to the community, I feel a genuine responsibility to speak up. I would hate to see a building that has meant so much to so many people disappear when there may still be an opportunity to give it a meaningful future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to preserving Germantown's and Philadelphia's rich history.

Sincerely, Paul Walsh

Paul S. Walsh
President
Elfant Wissahickon REALTORS®
215-247-3600
License #AB061082L
ewrhomes.com

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Outlook

Fw: Please do what you can to give St Francis church and the Dodge house at 5000 McKean ave in Germantown I grew up around both of them and deserved a historical

---

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:25 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Raymond Rabold <rhrabold@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 16:50:34
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Please do what you can to give St Francis church and the Dodge house at 5000 McKean ave in Germantown I grew up around both of them and deserved a historical

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---

them

Outlook

Fw: Preservation of Saint Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:25 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: P OK <pokane600@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 16:24:13
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Preservation of Saint Francis of Assisi

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Re: Preservation of St. Francis of Assisi – 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia

Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
preservation@phila.gov

Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the future of St. Francis of Assisi, located at 48–60 West Logan Street in Germantown. I believe the historical preservation of this property should be a priority, and every reasonable effort should be made to protect its architectural integrity and preserve its place in Germantown's history.

My connection to Germantown is both personal and lifelong. I was born and raised in Germantown and graduated from St. Francis of Assisi in 1977. The neighborhood and its institutions helped shape who I am, and St. Francis holds a particularly special place in my personal history.

Professionally, I have spent my career as a real estate broker, own investment properties, and operate a company with deep roots in the Germantown community. Through both my personal and professional experiences, I have developed an appreciation for the importance of preserving the historic character of the neighborhoods that make Philadelphia so special.

St. Francis of Assisi is more than just an old church building. It represents generations of families, traditions, memories, and community history. For many people who grew up in Germantown, this building is part of their story. Its architectural presence and historical significance make it an important part of the neighborhood's identity.

Germantown is fortunate to retain so much of its historic character. Its churches, homes, and landmarks tell the story of the generations who built and shaped this community. The loss of a significant structure like St. Francis would be more than the loss of a building; it would mean losing an irreplaceable connection to our shared past.

I strongly believe that every reasonable effort should be made to explore opportunities to save and preserve this property. There may be opportunities for adaptive reuse that would allow the building to serve a new purpose while maintaining its historical and architectural integrity.

Having grown up in Germantown, attended St. Francis, and continued to maintain strong personal and professional ties to the community, I feel a genuine responsibility to speak up. I would hate to see a building that has meant so much to so many people disappear when there may still be an opportunity to give it a meaningful future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to preserving Germantown's and Philadelphia's rich history.

Sincerely
Patricia and Thomas O'Kane

Outlook

Fw: Support for designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:25 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: caleb cliff <soundsnice@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 16:24:21
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: Support for designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown

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Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission and the Committee on Historic Designation:

As a Germantown resident, I am writing in strong support of nominating St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. This Lower Germantown landmark satisfies Criteria for Designation D, E, and J:

- **Criterion D:** Dedicated in 1928, St. Francis is a monumental Romanesque Revival church crafted from rusticated North Carolina granite with Vermont marble and terra cotta trim, highlighted by its rose window, triple-arched portal, and 118-foot tower.
- **Criterion E:** Designed by F. Ferdinand Durang (son of Edwin Forrest Durang), the church reflects an architectural legacy this Commission has already recognized, specifically in designating St. Donato's Church, as significantly influencing Philadelphia's development.
- **Criterion J:** Founded in 1899, the parish was a cornerstone of Irish Catholic Germantown, growing to nearly 3,000 families and 1,200 schoolchildren. Its congregation carried the church's cost through the Great Depression and World War II, retiring the debt in 1945.

The owner's November 12th filings do not diminish the building's historic merit. Contrary to the legal memo's claims, the Commission affirmed Durang's influence on Philadelphia's development in both 2021 and 2023, and the parish was hardly short-lived lasting over 110 years and paying off its mortgage in 1945. Furthermore, maintenance costs and condition issues belong in a hardship review, not a designation hearing. The memo's own admission that the school planned to convert the church into a gym and assembly space proves the structure is viable for reuse.

St. Francis has anchored the corner of Greene and Logan for nearly a century. I support DePaul Catholic School and believe this church can continue serving both the school and the neighborhood,

much like other successful local conversions, such as the Waldorf School of Philadelphia's move into the former St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Wayne Avenue, and the former Mount Airy Presbyterian Church's adaptive reuse into condominiums and a new home for the Lantern Theater. With its open 60-foot nave, St. Francis is equally adaptable.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend, and the Commission to approve, designation under Criteria D, E, and J.

Sincerely,

Caleb W. Cliff

Outlook

Fw: Save St. Francis of Assisi Church.

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:25 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: mjhowley <mjhowley@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 17:13:13
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: Save St. Francis of Assisi Church.

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November 16, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
preservation@phila.gov

Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I grew up in Germtown and went through grades 1 through 8 at the St. Francis school graduating in 1961. For my last 3 years, I was an alter boy so I knew every inch of that beautiful church. My parents were Irish immigrants and attended services at the church frequently. I strongly support the nomination of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I urge the Committee on Historic Designation to recommend approval and the Historical Commission to designate the church and rectory.

St. Francis began on the corner of Greene and Logan Sts in 1910 with a basement chapel and a rectory. Many of its parishioners were Irish immigrants and their children. Between 1924 and 1928, those families built the Romanesque Revival upper church designed by F. Ferdinand Durang. Its 118-foot bell tower still marks the corner of Greene and West Logan Streets.

I believe St. Francis can serve our community again. St. Francis is part of the fabric of our community and, although I have moved away long ago, I still maintain strong ties to the St. Francis of Assisi

community. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. Please approve this nomination.

Michael J. Howley
202 Kenwood Estates
Griswold, CT 06351
Mjhowley@comcast.net
856 472 2330

November 16, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Philadelphia Historical Commission
preservation@phila.gov

Dear Historical Commission,

I write to ask you to designate the property at 48-60 W. Logan Street without hesitation. The former St. Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown has been a neighborhood landmark for well over a century, interpreting the story of the neighborhood as a working class, Irish Catholic enclave. The very existence of the church underscores the significance of nearby Wayne Junction since its growing industry brought the parishioners to lower Germantown in the first place.

We are living in rapidly changing times in our nation and city. Corruption and a lack of oversight among elected officials and powerful, monied interests is finally yielding to a awakening among the citizenry to the power of their voice to express their values and demand their implementation. Historic preservation has been erroneously seen as the concern of an elite few against the many, but that perception acts as a smokescreen while those who would destroy our community assets are actually the shortsighted elite amongst us. The People want their built heritage to remain as our city evolves.

The violent destruction of a neighborhood landmark for a playing field for select youth is not a value proposition the community can accept. It is inconsistent with the stewardship and history that Philadelphians and Germantowners want prioritized. If the current owners of the building are not interested in its restoration and reuse, then the former church should be sold to someone who would care for it. For soccer players nearby, the owners should consider themselves fortunate to have Happy Hollow Rec Center and a few close vacant lots within a couple of blocks in any direction from the subject property for athletic and recreational expansion.

Thank you for voting to designate an important piece of Germantown history.

Yours Truly,

Amy Lambert
Citizen of Germantown

Outlook

Fw: Reimagining St. Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:26 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Charlie Miller <charlie.miller.arts@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 17:33:44
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Reimagining St. Francis of Assisi

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Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I'm writing because I'm concerned about the possible demolition of St. Francis of Assisi in Germantown, and I wanted to share why I believe this building is worth preserving and reimagining.

First I want to say I understand that neighborhoods change. Germantown has changed, and it will continue to change. I don't believe preserving history means keeping a community frozen in time or preventing new ideas, new development, or new uses for old spaces. I actually want to see Germantown continue to evolve, grow, and thrive because I too love it here.

But I also believe that growth is stronger when it builds on what came before it rather than erasing it.

St. Francis of Assisi is more than an "old church building." It is part of Germantown's story. For generations, it was a place where people gathered, worshipped, raised families, celebrated important moments, supported one another, and built relationships. Its importance is not only architectural. There is a social, cultural, and human history connected to that building that cannot simply be recreated once it is gone.

That history has value even for people who may never have attended the church. Historic places help give neighborhoods a sense of identity and continuity. They allow people to see and understand the layers of a community - to recognize that the place they live today was shaped by generations of people before them.

But, I don't think preserving St. Francis means that it has to remain a church or remain exactly as it was. I would love to see a conversation about what a new life for the building could look like.

Could it become a community gathering space? A place for arts and cultural events, education, youth programs, neighborhood meetings, performances, or other services that meet the needs of

Germantown today? Could the building become a place where the community's history is honored while also creating something new for the people who live here now?

I also understand the very real concern about the cost of repairing and maintaining a building of this size and age. That is something we should take seriously. But I wonder if there are creative ways to make the rehabilitation itself part of the community investment.

Philadelphia already has programs that provide paid, hands-on training in trades such as carpentry and masonry, including programs connected to historic preservation. Could opportunities like these be explored as part of the rehabilitation of St. Francis? Instead of simply looking at the cost of repairing the building, perhaps we could also look at the possibility of using the project to train local residents, create pathways into skilled trades, and bring new people into the process of preserving the building.

There is something really meaningful about that idea to me: people from the community could literally help build the next chapter of this place. The original building represents the work, faith, and lives of generations who came before us. Imagine adding a new layer of history through the hands of people learning carpentry, masonry, preservation, and other trades while helping restore the building for the next generation?

I understand the desire for new recreational spaces and amenities in the neighborhood. Don't get me wrong I think those things are important too! But I hope we don't have to choose between having a vibrant, active community and preserving the places that tell us where that community came from. If the goal is to create a space for the community, I hope we can first ask whether St. Francis itself can become that space?

To me, preservation and progress do not have to be opposing ideas. We can preserve the history of St. Francis while giving the building a completely new purpose. We can create a place that serves the community today while still honoring the people who made it meaningful in the first place.

I care about the future of Germantown, and that's exactly why I care about preserving pieces of its past. I want to see the neighborhood grow, change, and thrive. I just don't want that growth to come at the cost of losing the places that give the neighborhood its identity and tell us who we are and where we came from.

I'm asking that the possibility of preserving and adaptively reusing this building be truly considered before demolition moves forward. I hope there can be an opportunity for preservationists, the City, community members, workforce-development programs, and other partners to come together and imagine what a new future for St. Francis could look like.

Thank you for taking the time to read my lengthy email - with utmost respect, care and appreciation

Charlie Miller

Outlook

Fw: Please do not let Saint Francis of Assisi be demolished!

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:26 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Carla Willard <carla.willard@fandm.edu>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 18:42:48
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Please do not let Saint Francis of Assisi be demolished!

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Dear Commission,

Please, please do not let Saint Francis of Assisi be demolished. The church means a lot to our Neighborhood. The most important moments of our lives have been celebrated at this church.

There must be a better way.

Please deny the demolition request.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Carla.

Carla Willard
265 W. Pastorius Street
Philadelphia PA 19144

Associate Professor
American Studies
Faculty in the Africana Studies Program
Franklin & Marshall College
P.O.B. 3003
Lancaster PA 17604-3003

Outlook

Fw: Nomination of 48-60 W. Logan St. for Addition to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:26 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Mary Pat Walsh <syvvie350@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 20:03:52
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Nomination of 48-60 W. Logan St. for Addition to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

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Dear Dr. Farnham and Historic Designation Committee Members:

I am writing to add my voice to the many who are advocating for the preservation of St. Francis of Assisi Church in our beloved Germantown. Its value to the community, the history of Philadelphia, and our architectural heritage cannot be overstated. Its loss would be tragic.

Multiple generations of my family and many lifelong friends were raised in the parish, attended school, received sacraments, got married, and held funerals there. The gothic majesty of the church, founded with hard-earned donations from largely Irish immigrants at the turn of the twentieth century, stands as a testament to, and celebration of, the commitment and resilience of earlier generations.

St. Francis is a magnificent structure that deserves to survive the current period of rushed demolition and second-rate development. With proper investment, creative re-use, and care, it can continue to be an anchor in the community for decades to come. It can serve as inspiration to developers looking at other opportunities in the area, contributing to its current resurgence. It can continue to attest to the history of Germantown and the City proper in a way that few other things can.

The quest for green space is admirable, but not at the expense of this architectural and historical jewel. Germantown is blessed with parks, recreation centers, backyards, and a gorgeous tree canopy. Those marvelous green spaces should do their jobs, and St. Francis of Assisi should be preserved.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

With warm regards,
Mary Pat Walsh
Philadelphia, PA

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi Church Germantown

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:26 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Jeanette Griffith <jeanettegriffith927@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 20:28:47
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi Church Germantown

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Hello,

I am writing to at least voice support for preserving this beautiful old church. I grew up on Greene St., and was baptized in St. Francis. My sister was also baptized there. Several of my aunts and uncles were married there. It is such a lovely neighborhood and will never be the same without it.

Isn't there a way to preserve the building by turning it into a place for community gathering, artists spaces, dance studio, even private offices would be far better than simply tearing it down. The neighborhood would benefit from it.

I hope there is a way to preserve it .

Thank you,

Jeanette Griffith

Outlook

Fw: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:27 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Mitchell Ryan <mitchell.y.ryan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2026 22:36:40
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

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Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the historic designation of the St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church at 48-60 Logan Street in Germantown, which is currently under consideration for inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

This building is important to our neighborhood as a manifestation of Germantown and Philadelphia's history, character and architectural heritage. Buildings like this help tell the story of our neighborhoods and preserve the unique identity that makes Philadelphia such a historically significant city. If this church is lost, the history and character it represents cannot ever be replaced.

I respectfully ask the historical commission to give serious consideration to the building's historic significance and support its designation on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your time, work and commitment to preserving Philadelphia's historic character.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Ryan
Germantown

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assissi 48-60 W Logan St

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:27 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Charlie Karl <cekarl1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2026 00:11:38
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assissi 48-60 W Logan St

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Hi, Please consider the nomination of 48-60 W Logan St for addition to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places- It is a magnificent building that has been important to the community of Southwest Germantown. I can't imagine that our community would be poorer if a building such as this was not recognized for it's beauty and presence.
Thank you
Sincerely,
Charlie Karl

Outlook

Fw: Francis of Assisi lower Church

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 7:27 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Beverly Edwards <bedwardsbsw@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2026 00:42:51
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Francis of Assisi lower Church

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Please do not demolish this building. It's beautiful and historic.
Sincerely,

Beverly Edwards

May your day be filled with peace ☮️ and productivity. 🌻

Outlook

Fw: Support for Historic Designation — St. Francis of Assisi (48-60 W Logan St) and Dodge Estate (5000 McKean Ave), Germantown

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From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 8:42 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>; Jon Farnham <Jon.Farnham@phila.gov>

From: maedchedonald@gmail.com <maedchedonald@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 8:40 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Support for Historic Designation — St. Francis of Assisi (48-60 W Logan St) and Dodge Estate (5000 McKean Ave), Germantown

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November 16, 2026

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

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission: As a Germantown neighbor, I write in full support of nominating both St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church (48-60 W Logan Street) and the Dodge Estate (5000 McKean Avenue) to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. St. Francis has anchored lower Germantown since 1910, its upper church built 1924-28 to F. Ferdinand Durang's Romanesque Revival design at Greene and Logan. The Dodge Estate is likewise a significant part of our neighborhood's history. Both deserve the recognition and protection that designation provides, and I urge you to support designating both.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Don Maedche
Treasurer West Central Germantown Neighbors
277 W Harvey Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Outlook

Fw: Please save

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 9:40 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: D Bondi <D.Bondi@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 9:39 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Please save

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Re: Preservation of St. Francis of Assisi – 48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia

Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Dr. Farnham and Members of the Committee on Historic Designation,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the future of St. Francis of Assisi, located at 48–60 West Logan Street in Germantown. I believe the historical preservation of this property should be a priority, and every reasonable effort should be made to protect its architectural integrity and preserve its place in Germantown's history.

My connection to Germantown is both personal and lifelong. I was born and raised in Germantown and graduated from St. Francis of Assisi in 1977. The neighborhood and its institutions helped shape who I am, and St. Francis holds a particularly special place in my personal history.

Professionally, I have spent my career as a real estate broker, own investment properties, and operate a company with deep roots in the Germantown community. Through both my personal and professional experiences, I have developed an appreciation for the importance of preserving the historic character of the neighborhoods that make Philadelphia so special.

St. Francis of Assisi is more than just an old church building. It represents generations of families, traditions, memories, and community history. For many people who grew up in Germantown, this

building is part of their story. Its architectural presence and historical significance make it an important part of the neighborhood's identity.

Germantown is fortunate to retain so much of its historic character. Its churches, homes, and landmarks tell the story of the generations who built and shaped this community. The loss of a significant structure like St. Francis would be more than the loss of a building; it would mean losing an irreplaceable connection to our shared past.

I strongly believe that every reasonable effort should be made to explore opportunities to save and preserve this property. There may be opportunities for adaptive reuse that would allow the building to serve a new purpose while maintaining its historical and architectural integrity.

Having grown up in Germantown, attended St. Francis, and continued to maintain strong personal and professional ties to the community, I feel a genuine responsibility to speak up. I would hate to see a building that has meant so much to so many people disappear when there may still be an opportunity to give it a meaningful future.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to preserving Germantown's and Philadelphia's rich history.

Sincerely, D. Bondi

Outlook

Fw: St Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 10:51 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Lorraine Wilson-Drake <lwilsondrake@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 10:46 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St Francis of Assisi

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Good Morning Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to ask that you consider adding St Francis of Assisi to the historical register so it would be saved from demolition. I am a more recent resident of Germantown and have completed two new construction projects in the neighborhood. I understand how expensive it is to take on a building like this and save the edifice but it can be done. These one of a kind buildings are so special and define the character of Germantown. This neighborhood has seen so much deterioration and disinvestment, it needs more preservation. There are plenty of buildings that are not so special and dangerous and should be torn down. This is not one of them. Please consider saving this amazing piece of architecture.

Many thanks,

Lorraine Wilson-Drake
4529 Pulaski Avenue
lwilsondrake@gmail.com
640-221-0976

WILSON-DRAKE
DEVELOPMENT

Outlook

Historic nomination of St. Francis of Assisi

From braceypam@aol.com <braceypam@aol.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 11:25 AM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Cc Pamela Bracey <braceypam@aol.com>

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Pamela Bracey

_____
(Sender Name)

Date: November 17, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St 13th flr
Phila., PA 19102

mail
email preservation@phila.gov

Attn: Dr Farnham/Preservation

Subject: Support for the Historic Designation of (insert address/name) Germantown Phila., PA 19144

Dear Philadelphia Historical Committee/Commission,

Please accept this letter as formal documentation of my full support for nominating St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 48-60 W. Logan Street Phila. PA, Germantown to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

The building's architectural merits and historical value are clearly demonstrated in the nomination materials. It has a long and important associations to our neighborhood, and deserves the formal recognition and legal protections that only listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places provides. I strongly urge you to support its designation.

When Philadelphia was made a First Class City in 2015, preservation of the unique historical and cultural assets was one of the criteria listed. Preserving St. Francis is certainly in line with that designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Bracey

_____
(name)

Outlook

St. Francis of Assisi Church

From Michelle Alvare <psumi7986@gmail.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 11:26 AM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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To Dr. Jon Farnam, Executive Director, and Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

PLEASE add St. Francis of Assisi Church, on the corner of Logan and Germantown Avenues, to the list of historic properties due to its age and architecture as well as its vital role in this community since the early 1900s. A church building of this stature and importance should not be allowed to be demolished, especially since there is a viable buyer who is interested in restoring it for its historic value. St. Francis is clearly a pillar in this neighborhood, and loosing it would errode the community's identity.

I hope the members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission realize the benefits that saving and restoring St. Francis of Assisi Church would add to the history and culture of the Germantown neighborhood in Philadelphia.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter on behalf of all people concerned about historic preservation in Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Alvaré

Outlook

Support for the Historic Designation of St. Francis of Assisi 48-60 W. Logan St. Germantown

From braceypam@aol.com <braceypam@aol.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 11:36 AM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Peter A. Hinds

Date: November 17, 2026

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St 13th flr
Phila., PA 19102

mail
email preservation@phila.gov

Attn: Dr Farnham/Preservation

Subject: Support for the Historic Designation of St. Francis of Assisi 48-60 W. Logan St. Germantown Phila., PA 19144

Dear Philadelphia Historical Committee/Commission,

Please accept this letter as formal documentation of my full support for nominating St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 48-60 W. Logan Street Phila. PA, Germantown to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

The building's architectural merits and historical value are clearly demonstrated in the nomination materials. It has a long and important associations to our neighborhood, and deserves the formal recognition and legal protections that only listing on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places provides. I strongly urge you to support its designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Hinds
computehinds@juno.com

Outlook

PROTECT THE MAGNIFICENT ROMANESQUE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS IN GERMANTOWN FROM THE BULLDOZER

From Michael Wallacavage <mike@mikewalla.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 12:49 PM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Cc Mike Wallacavage <mike@mikewalla.com>

1 attachment (417 KB)
pro-6VfUEThA.jpeg;

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The Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown, Philadelphia, stands as an irreplaceable architectural masterpiece that warrants protection from demolition due to its outstanding design and artistic pedigree. Constructed in phases beginning in 1910, the church is a distinguished example of Romanesque Revival architecture, characterized by its stately masonry, rounded arches, and monumental proportions. The building was envisioned by Francis F. Durang, a prominent Philadelphia ecclesiastic architect renowned for designing landmark Catholic structures across the region. Beyond Durang's structural vision, the church showcases the work of skilled artisans and liturgical artists whose craftsmanship defines the building's historic character, making its preservation vital to maintaining Philadelphia's rich architectural heritage. Equally compelling is the church's enduring role as a cultural and visual landmark in the Germantown community. Anchoring the corner of West Logan and Greene Streets for more than a century, the parish served as a spiritual home and gathering space for generations of local families from its founding in 1899 until its closure in 2012. Even after ceasing active worship, its towering presence has remained a defining fixture of the Southwest Germantown streetscape and a tangible link to the neighborhood's social history. Protecting Saint Francis of Assisi from demolition ensures that this beloved monument can be adaptively reused to continue serving the community rather than erasing a vital piece of Germantown's identity.

Michael A. Wallacavage
James A. Cochrane Inc. Realtor
P.O. Box 608, Kimberton, Pa 19442
(**Street**: 2203 Kimberton Rd. Phoenixville, Pa 19460)
Cell: 484-947-4975
Office: 610-469-6100
Fax: 610-646-6572
Email: mike@mikewalla.com
Website: www.cochraneinc.com
"Specializing in unique and historic homes in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley!"

Outlook

Support for the Historic Designation of St Francis of Assisi Germantown-W Logan & Greene (48-60 W Logan St)

From ann <adthyme@aol.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 12:55 PM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St 13th flr
Phila., PA 19102

Attn: Dr Farnham/Preservation
Subject: Support for the Historic Designation of St Francis of Assisi Germantown-W Logan & Greene (48-60 W Logan St)
Germantown Phila., PA 19144

Dear Philadelphia Historical Committee/Commission,

Please accept this letter as documentation of my full support for the nomination of Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

As a near neighbor to St. Francis of Assisi Church and the DePaul School since 1981, who, myself, attended Roman Catholic Schools for 12 years, is of Irish descent and the granddaughter and great granddaughter of Irish immigrants on both sides of my family, I am writing to express my unqualified and enthusiastic support of the nomination to designate Saint Francis of Assisi Church for all the reasons stated in the excellent nomination.

I would like to add that prior to the church closure in 2012, our family and block had a meaningful, ongoing relationship with the priests and nuns for years. A few examples: ridding the area of 3 unsafe, fire destroyed homes directly across from the rectory (this large grass covered lot would make an alternative recreational space for DePaul students); working on annual Philly Spring Clean-ups with volunteer college students recruited by the parish; starting a community garden to be shared by the school and the block.

Personally, I have fond memories of many community meetings in the school cafeteria or lower church, voting there and the fantastic annual rummage sales. We all loved the last pastor Father Gene Sheridan and he loved the neighborhood regardless of changing demographics. That is the Vincentian way. I suspect Father Gene, who is now elderly and retired, would silently shed a tear if he knew Independence Mission Schools (IMS) was planning to demolish the still beautiful and much beloved church.

Let me be clear, I support the DePaul School and view it as a quality educational institution that meets an important community need. The children deserve positive, nearby recreational opportunities. There are countless alternatives that do not involve demolishing the church.

That said, I am disappointed, even outraged, by the disrespect Independence Mission Schools' Board and staff have shown present day neighbors, Germantown, former parishioners and school alumni who have passed away, moved away or remain, since the nomination for designation was filed. These people, especially Irish Americans, are attacked as if their half-century or more of lived experiences were fleeting and meaningless. This is particularly glaring in the legal memo opposing the designation.

In the “Memorandum of Law of Independence Mission Schools in Opposition to the Designation” the following is stated:

> **(i) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community**
> That said, the subject is an example of a relatively short lived congregation which moved away and left it. (Nomination p.20, CivicVisions Report p. 5). The Nomination under criterion (i) asserts with no authority that the building was important to the Irish founders. Instead, those very families voted with their feet, left and abandoned the Parish. As late as the 1950 census, the Irish and to a lesser extent Italian component of the community was strong. By the 2010 Decennial Census, that population was entirely gone. The Nomination would saddle the DePaul School with the burden of maintaining a building of no use to the School, in memory of the people who never particularly valued it and moved away or died.

I constantly hear these vilified people, the ones still living, recollecting their time at the school and church in alumni and “growing up in Germantown” facebook groups. They speak of their personal experiences and that of their ancestors: weddings, funerals, baptisms, serving as altar boys, May processions and so on. They keep in touch with old friends, attend reunions, and share photos.

Yet, you say their time there was fleeting, that they abandoned the church and voted with their feet by moving away. You say they did not value the church. That is both mean-spirited and ahistorical. It does not account for block busting, fear mongering, very early red lining and disinvestment. Neighborhoods change all the time, but that does not render past experiences null and void nor reflect on the inherent characteristics of a building. That is set in stone, or in this case rusticated granite.

These words are arrogant, elitist and dismissive on the part of Independence Mission Schools' Board and staff and the people you've hired to make your case for demolition, as is the present day approach to nearby neighbors and Germantown in general. We now know talk and plans for demolition go back years. Yes, it is a complex issue and involves a great deal of money, but you did not inform the community of this path until after you set your plans in motion. That is incredibly disrespectful. Saint Francis of Assisi Church belongs as much to Germantown as it is the legal property of Independence Mission Schools for exactly one decade. It has been part of the fabric of our community – our heart and soul and landscape – for more than one century. Please think about that.

Respectfully,

Ann Marie Doley
W. Rockland St.
Germantown

Outlook

St Francis of Assisi 48 to 60 W Logan St Philadelphia Germantown Community.

From Rev. Chester H. Williams <jesus4620032004@yahoo.com>
Date Tue 11/17/2026 1:13 PM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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We the members are in total support that this church does not be demolished and considered a landmark for the city of Philadelphia Germantown .considering the years that this have given service to the community and it still can be used as a positive remaining as a church again we feel as though this is to be considered a landmark for visitors know how far Germantown has come.

Gracefully Submitted,

Rev. / Elder Chester H. Williams
President & Founder
Chew& Belfield Neighbors Club 501C(3)
Phone: (215) 849-8021
Web: https://1981cbnc.wixsite.com/cbnc
(New Website)!! Please share via Social Media: We look Forward to Connecting
Follow us on Facebook:
@chewandbelfieldneighborhoodclub
@reverendchesterhwilliams

Public Comment for 48-70 W Logan St
Received After the Close of Business
on November 17, 2026.

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church Preservation

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Wed 11/18/2026 12:17 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: The World Wide History Of History <jmanstamp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 6:24 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church Preservation

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Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is James Wilson. I am a Bucks County-based preservation advocate with a strong passion for the history of Philadelphia and Southeastern Pennsylvania. As a preservation advocate and a fellow Pennsylvanian, I urge you to fight for and protect the historic St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church. A building of such architectural significance should not be senselessly eradicated.

In a country that loses its historic resources every day for buildings that would be lucky to last half as long, a structure like St. Francis of Assisi deserves not only to be spared, but also to serve a community desperate for investment. When we invest in historic buildings, they invest back into the community. The fact that artisan craftsmanship such as this cannot be replicated in new buildings speaks to the need for saving.

In conclusion, once St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church is gone, it is gone FOREVER. Please continue to protect what makes Philadelphia so special and save St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
James Wilson

Outlook

Fw: Preservation of St. Frances of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Wed 11/18/2026 12:17 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: tatianna sykes <tsykes1934@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2026 7:32 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Preservation of St. Frances of Assisi

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my sincere support for preserving St. Francis of Assisi. I believe this historic and meaningful place deserves to be protected, maintained, and preserved for future generations.

Places like St. Francis of Assisi represent history, tradition, faith, community, and the memories of the people whose lives have been connected to them. For generations, places like this have served as important gathering spaces, providing a sense of belonging, connection, and identity to the surrounding neighborhood.

Preserving St. Francis of Assisi is about recognizing the importance of our city's history and understanding that once meaningful landmarks are lost, they cannot simply be replaced. Philadelphia is a city rich in history and culture, and protecting places that contribute to that history should be a priority.

I strongly encourage those involved in making decisions about the future of St. Francis of Assisi to consider the lasting impact of preservation. Rather than allowing an important piece of Philadelphia's history to disappear, we should explore opportunities to restore, maintain, and thoughtfully preserve this landmark so that future generations can appreciate its significance.

Preservation is an investment in our community, our shared history, and the legacy we leave behind. St. Francis of Assisi deserves that consideration and protection.

Sincerely,

Tatianna Sykes

11/17/2026

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

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

Please accept this letter in support of granting historic status to Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown. I am writing to you as a Catholic school educator and staff member with Independence Mission Schools (IMS), and I respectfully request to remain anonymous so that I may express my sincere opposition to the church's demolition without fear of professional repercussions.

While I am not stationed at the Germantown location, I have spent time around the church and seen firsthand the beauty, stability, and presence it brings to the block. Even from my experience visiting and observing the property up close, it is clear how naturally the church anchors the surrounding campus and neighborhood, giving the area its distinct character and spiritual grounding.

As a Catholic school educator, I find it unacceptable that IMS—which claims to be a Catholic school network—is moving to demolish a Catholic church. A Catholic institution should be a steward of its faith's history and community landmarks, not the force tearing them down. Watching an organization that represents Catholic education seek to destroy a historic house of worship runs counter to the very values we teach our students every day.

Saint Francis of Assisi Church is far more than just an aging building; it is an irreplaceable landmark that belongs to the history of Germantown and the broader Catholic community in Philadelphia. I strongly urge the Commission to approve this historic nomination and prevent its demolition.

Respectfully,
An Anonymous IMS Staff Member & Catholic School Educator
Philadelphia, PA

Date: 11/17/26
To:
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Subject: Letter of Support for the Historic Designation of Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Germantown

Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Germantown to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I am a current staff member and Catholic school educator at Independence Mission Schools (IMS), though I am submitting this letter anonymously to protect my position and share my personal convictions freely. Although I do not work at the Germantown campus, I feel compelled to speak out as a Catholic educator. It is deeply troubling to see IMS—an organization that identifies and operates as a network of Catholic schools—pursue the demolition of a historic Catholic church. Preserving sacred spaces and honoring our heritage should be central to Catholic education, not Discarded.

Secondly, to say that they need recreational space for the students when they barely want to give recess for students at all their schools is actually laughable. Some schools only get 30 minutes for lunch.

Beyond that principle, the profound historical significance of Saint Francis of Assisi Church warrants protection. As a longstanding anchor in Germantown, the church stands as a physical testament to the rich cultural, architectural, and social history of Northwest Philadelphia. For generations, it has served not only as a place of worship, but as a foundational pillar that helped shape the development and identity of the surrounding neighborhood.
Preserving landmarks of this caliber is essential to maintaining the historical fabric of our city. Once these architectural and cultural treasures are demolished, they can never be replaced. Designating Saint Francis of Assisi Church as historic will ensure that its legacy and craftsmanship remain intact for future generations of Philadelphians to learn from and admire.
Thank you for your time, consideration, and ongoing dedication to protecting Philadelphia's irreplaceable heritage.

Sincerely,

An Anonymous IMS Staff Member & Catholic School Educator
Philadelphia, PA

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

November 17, 2026

Re: Written Comment on Proposed Designation of 48-60 West Logan Street

RePoint Philadelphia supports SoLo Germantown Civic Association's nomination of the former St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. We urge the Historical Commission to recognize the building's historical and architectural significance and approve its designation.

The circumstances surrounding this nomination illustrate several challenges identified in the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Task Force's 2019 final report. The Task Force called for a more proactive preservation system, including a comprehensive survey of historic resources, stronger tools to review proposed demolitions, and greater public engagement before significant property decisions are made.

While the City has undertaken important cultural heritage work through initiatives such as Treasure Philly!, it is not a substitute for the systematic identification and documentation of the City's historic building stock that the Task Force recommended. **The St. Francis of Assisi case illustrates the consequences of this gap:** the building is now being considered for designation only after its owner had explored reuse options and advanced demolition planning. When near neighbors got word of these plans, a nomination was prepared by the Keeping Society of Philadelphia and submitted by the Registered Community Organization representing the neighborhood.

It is our understanding that when the property was acquired in 2016, the purchase was presented to the community as an opportunity to expand Independence Mission School's programs through the renovation and reuse of the buildings. In practice, the former school building was put to use, while the church remained vacant. **The contrast between the original public vision and the eventual decision to pursue demolition deserves attention.** After years of studying possible uses, the owner concluded that rehabilitation would cost too much. The community was given reason to expect these buildings would contribute to the school's future; instead, this neighborhood landmark now faces demolition.

The owner's plans are an important part of the discussion, but they should not end it. **Before demolition proceeds, there should be a meaningful opportunity to explore whether another institution, school, organization, or preservation-minded buyer could give the building a viable future.** The record gives us reason to believe that the building remains capable of being saved and reused. Its demolition should not be treated as inevitable simply because it is the owner's preferred option.

This is precisely where the Task Force's recommendations for "preservation-first" policies and adaptive reuse are relevant. Recommendation 1.D calls on City agencies and partners to adopt these policies "in order to revitalize vacant buildings."[i] **The report also urges the City to prioritize preservation and reuse more heavily than new construction or demolition of historically and culturally significant resources.** The former St. Francis of Assisi church building is exactly the kind of vacant historic resource to which these recommendations speak. A preservation-first approach means taking seriously the possibility of rehabilitation and reuse, including by a new owner or institution, before treating demolition as the solution.

The proposed replacement use of a playground and athletic fields raises additional questions about public process and community benefit. The owner has advanced these plans without a satisfactory opportunity for the neighborhood to discuss alternatives, including other forms of reuse that would preserve the building. The result could be a substantial

change to a prominent property—with the loss of a public-facing historic landmark and its replacement by recreational space primarily serving a private institution. There are other opportunities in the surrounding area to consider for outdoor recreation. These possibilities deserve consideration as part of a broader conversation about the school's needs and the neighborhood's resources, rather than assuming that demolition of this historic church is the necessary solution. Community engagement should happen while alternatives are still possible, not after a demolition plan has already become the owner's preferred course.

We also note that at the time of this comment submission, several elected officials, including Councilmembers Cindy Bass and Mike Driscoll, State Senator Art Haywood, State Representative Darisha K. Parker, and State Senator Sharif Street, have submitted comments opposing designation and supporting the proposed redevelopment. Their perspectives are part of the public record. However, the Historical Commission's determination should be based on the property's historical and architectural significance and the designation criteria, not on the preferences or influence of any single public official or institution. This is consistent with the Historic Preservation Task Force's warning that Philadelphia needs a flexible, community-driven process to protect historic resources—one that is not "at the mercy of a single power at the neighborhood, district, or citywide levels."[ii] The hundreds of comments submitted in support of preserving this handsome edifice demonstrate the wider public interest in its future, with more community members expected to participate in person and virtually at the Committee on Historic Designation meeting on November 18 and the subsequent Historical Commission Monthly Meeting.

The St. Francis of Assisi nomination is an opportunity to put the Task Force's vision into practice. Its report calls for preservation to be democratized and opened to a wider constituency, recognizing that the protection of historic resources should be shaped by broad public participation. RePoint Philadelphia urges the Historical Commission to approve this nomination and encourages the City to continue implementing the Task Force's recommendations. Philadelphia's historic places are a shared civic resource, and decisions about their future should reflect the informed participation of the communities they help define.

Respectfully submitted,
RePoint Philadelphia

This testimony was prepared and submitted by RePoint Philadelphia Action, a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. The views expressed herein reflect the organization's mission to advocate for sound preservation policy and accountability in civic planning.

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[i] Philadelphia Historic Preservation Task Force, *Final Report of the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Task Force* (Philadelphia: City of Philadelphia, 2019), 10, https://www.phlpreservation.org/_files/ugd/c0d485_4b1083963b1344c9aa60986bb0acf2d4.pdf.

[ii] Ibid., 53.

Outlook

Fw: St Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Wed 11/18/2026 12:48 PM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Barbara <barbschmi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 12:23 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St Francis of Assisi

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Philadelphia Historical Commission
Attention: Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
preservation@phila.gov

Re: Historic designation of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
48–60 West Logan Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, PA 19144

I am writing to ask you to reconsider your plans for Saint Francis Church in Germantown.
This was the church in which I was married. It has been a landmark in the area all my life and I understand there are other options to preserve the
building. Preservation of the building will enhance the neighborhood whereas destruction of the building will only harm the area.
Please look not only at this option but at what is irreplaceable to the psyche of the area. Please take a look again at the options.
I know there are other buyers and I pray that you will give them the opportunity to save it while improving the life of the community.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Barbara Schmitt
barbschmi@gmail.com

Outlook

Fw: Please Designate St. Francis of Assisi onto the Philadelphia Register

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Thu 11/19/2026 7:28 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Hovey, Lonnie <lhovey@wrallp.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2026 06:48:12
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Please Designate St. Francis of Assisi onto the Philadelphia Register

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I urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission to designate the St. Francis of Assisi church to the Philadelphia Register in order to protect this important neighborhood landmark.

Talk with you soon,

Lonnie

Lonnie J. Hovey, AIA, FAPT, NCARB | Associate Vice President

Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP
(Cell) 215.219.3755

lhovey@wrallp.com
www.wrallp.com

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Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Thu 11/19/2026 10:04 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: susan hauck <susan.hauck@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2026 10:01 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi

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Philadelphia Historical Commission Members,

I support the nomination of St Francis of Assisi church to the Register of Historic Places. A landmark of this significance can, and should, be preserved and adapted for a new use, rather than torn down!

Sincerely,
Susan Hauck

Virus-free.www.avast.com

Outlook

Fw: For Preserving St. Francis of Assisi

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Thu 11/19/2026 11:06 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Susan Babbitt <philad49@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2026 10:42 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: For Preserving St. Francis of Assisi

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Greetings:

The Preservation Alliance supports SoLo Germantown's nomination of the former St. Francis of Assisi church and rectory to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Surely a landmark of this significance can be preserved and adapted for a new use, rather than torn down.

The City's Committee on Historic Designation voted to recommend the church for designation on the Philadelphia Register. For the upcoming vote by the Philadelphia Historical Commission, expected to occur on Friday, December 11, I urge you to voice your support for preservation.

Sincerely, Susan Babbitt

Outlook

Fw: Preserve St. Francis of Assisi — You Cannot Teach Future Generations Values While Demolishing Heritage

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From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/20/2026 7:24 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Ibrahim <ialnasser.esam@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2026 17:30:38
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Preserve St. Francis of Assisi — You Cannot Teach Future Generations Values While Demolishing Heritage

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Dear Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am a Philadelphia resident writing in unequivocal support of historic designation for St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Some buildings hold more than their owners' investment. They hold the labor, sacrifice, artistry, prayers, and collective memory of generations. Their significance cannot be measured solely by the financial return they offer or the convenience of clearing the land beneath them.

The proposal to demolish this church for an athletic field is profoundly troubling. An athletic field may serve a purpose, but it does not justify destroying an irreplaceable part of Philadelphia's architectural and spiritual inheritance. Once this building is gone, no future change of heart, fundraising campaign, or recognition of its worth can bring it back.

It is especially painful that an institution bearing a saint's name would consider the destruction of a church an acceptable path forward. That contradiction deserves serious moral reflection with consideration to its implications. What does stewardship mean if it does not include caring for what previous generations entrusted to us? What does an educational institution teach when its decisions suggest that something beautiful, sacred, and historically significant becomes disposable the moment preserving it grows difficult? What values do those actions teach impressionable young children?

The ones before us who built this church built it with pure intentions driven by passion, love, and faith —the ingredients that make up the human spirit. I ask you this: what pure intentions are driving the demolition of this beautiful beacon of hope?

My objection is not to the children who do deserve a good athletic field. It is to the judgment of adults

who have lost awareness of the bigger picture when entrusted with the stewardship of what continues to ignite awe throughout the generations.

This proposal reflects a larger failure in how we assign value. When financial calculations become the final measure of what deserves to survive, we risk losing precisely those things that make a city more than a collection of real estate assets: beauty, memory, faith, craftsmanship, and a sense of obligation to people who came before us and people we will never meet.

Over the past 10 years, I have seen a troubling amount of new development that looks grey and bland thirsty for quick, mindless cash. Please preserve what is left of Philadelphia's soul. Let Philadelphia's image be about sustainability growth, and overcoming—not a vanishing oasis mirage.

I do not accept that demolition should prevail simply because preservation requires more imagination, cooperation, or effort. Financial difficulty should prompt a serious search for alternatives—not end the conversation about what this building deserves.

I urge the Commission to approve historic designation and uphold the public interest in protecting this church. I also urge its owners to pursue preservation, adaptive reuse, or a transfer to a willing preservation-minded steward with the seriousness that irreversible destruction demands.

We cannot claim to honor our history while making its physical destruction a matter of mindless convenience. Philadelphia deserves better. Future generations deserve the opportunity to encounter this building for themselves—not merely to hear that it once stood here, and that we chose not to save it.

With passion, love, and respect for the city and its bright faithful people,
Ibrahim Al-Nasser
Olde Kensington

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi Historic Buildings & Bell Tower

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/20/2026 11:33 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Ward Mintzer <wardmintzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2026 11:32 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi Historic Buildings & Bell Tower

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am a proud Germantownian. I went to Fitler School as a Kindergarten Student. Then, St. Francis of Assisi elementary School for all 8 years and loved that school. Literally, I have spent thousands of hours in the beautiful up and down St. Francis of Assisi Church. I have attended Memorials, Funerals, Masses and Wedding Nuptials in that exceptional building. I would hate to see that structure of memories destroyed for a sports field. It is an exceptionally designed and beautiful edifice, meant to last hundreds of years. It is a truly an Historic representation of the history of Germantown and Philadelphia and a memorial to the nickels and dimes of poor folks collected to place stone on stone to result in such a magnificent Center and Tower. I recall the pealing Bells of St. Francis calling the entire neighborhood to focus on Prayer and Fasting.

Needless to say, I request that all steps be taken, and votes affirm, that St. Francis of Assisi Church and Bell Tower, be preserved indefinitely as a Testament to the glory of Historical Preservation in Philadelphia.

Thank You,
Ward
Edward C. Mintzer, Jr., Esquire
C - 610-247-6218
wardmintzer@gmail.com

Outlook

Fw: former St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Fri 11/20/2026 11:47 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Sherie Ruppersberger <sherierupp@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2026 11:42 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: former St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church

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Hello,
Writing as a Germantown resident, asking you to designate the former St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church and prevent it from being torn down.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Sherie Ruppersberger

Outlook

FW: St francis Germantown

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/23/2026 9:02 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

-----Original Message-----
From: Natalie Ryan <natalieryan13@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2026 6:31 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St francis Germantown

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Please save the church in Germantown. It's a historical building that should be preserved and not torn down. Let's keep out history alive!!!
Thank you
Natalie Ryan

Sent from my iPhone

Outlook

FW: St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church (48–60 W. Logan Street)

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/23/2026 9:02 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Susan Morris <smorris312@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2026 7:08 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church (48–60 W. Logan Street)

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Dear Executive Director Farnham and Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for adding St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, located at 48–60 W. Logan Street in Germantown, to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I urge the Commission to approve this nomination at the upcoming December 11, 2026 meeting and protect this landmark from demolition.

For over a century, St. Francis of Assisi has been a defining architectural and cultural anchor in the Germantown community. Its historic Wissahickon schist stonework, craftsmanship, and presence along Logan Street represent an irreplaceable part of Philadelphia's built heritage and neighborhood identity. Once demolished, a landmark of this caliber and historical significance can never be recreated.

While I recognize the value of recreational space for students at DePaul Catholic School, tearing down a historic neighborhood landmark is an irreversible Loss when alternative options for open space exist nearby. Preserving St. Francis of Assisi allows the building to remain an asset to Germantown for generations to come, potentially through adaptive reuse that benefits both the school and the broader community.

Thank you for your time, your commitment to protecting Philadelphia's historic fabric, and for entering this letter into the official public record ahead of the December 11 hearing.

Sincerely,

Susan Morris

215.864.8172

Email: morris@ballardspahr.com

Sent from my iPhone

Outlook

FW: St. Francis of Assisi Church

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/23/2026 9:02 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Ann Rafferty <raffertyannh@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2026 8:07 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi Church

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Please designate St. Francis of Assisi Church for protection as a historically significant building in Germantown. I support the vote for its protection and historical preservation. I have lived in Philadelphia and its suburban communities all my life and appreciate the need to preserve our long and important history.
Ann Rafferty

Outlook

FW: Preserve St. Francis Church - we must

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Mon 11/23/2026 9:02 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Diana <dianabh13@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 21, 2026 11:09 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Preserve St. Francis Church - we must

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Please see my email below AND PLEASE CORRECT your email address - it is missing the R in Preservation, so my mail got sent back to me undelivered.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Diana <dianabh13@gmail.com>
Subject: Preserve St. Francis Church - we must
Date: November 21, 2026 at 10:32:46 PM EST
To: peservation@phila.gov

Dear People,
I am writing to express the urgency around saving and preserving St. Francis of Assisi church. What a landmark and magnificent and important landmark of our town, city and state.

I urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission to designate St. Francis of Assisi, preserve and protect this beautiful architectural treasure.

I am sure there are other properties of worn out buildings of zero significance that could be removed to make room for a playing field.

Please! and Thank you!

Sincerely,
Diana Barbera

Outlook

Nomination of 48-60 W Logan St for addition to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

From Andrew Puntel <apuntel@gmail.com>
Date Tue 11/24/2026 8:50 AM
To preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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To the Historic Commission of Philadelphia:

As a multi-generational Philadelphian, descendant of stone masons, and Church musician, I urge you to consider 48-60 Logan St. in Germantown in the register of historic places.

It features a unique and stunning interior and exterior and is an unparalleled venue for choral music performance. The social importance of the building to generations of working-class Philadlphians is something to be revered, respected, and preserved.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I unequivocally call for the preservation of this important cultural and historical structure.

Andrew Puntel
8619 Provident St, Philadelphia, PA 19150
(646)241-5108

Outlook

Fw: St. Francis of Assisi 48-60 W Logan St. Dec 11

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Wed 11/25/2026 8:38 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Matt H <wndsofchng06@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2026 4:27 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: St. Francis of Assisi 48-60 W Logan St. Dec 11

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Hello,

I am writing to express the importance of preserving St. Francis of Assisi church in Germantown. Not only is this an important cultural spot for the residents, it's a significant landmark that adds to the architectural character of Germantown. Lastly, the stone of this building is not something you can get anymore, why fill a landfill with this beautiful material? Please preserve this property on Dec 11.

Matthew Herman
101 Tasker st
Philadelphia PA

Outlook

Fw: Stop Allowing Historic Property

From preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Date Wed 11/25/2026 8:45 AM
To Joshua Schroeder <Joshua.Schroeder@phila.gov>

From: Dawn Ritzler <writzler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2026 7:45 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Subject: Stop Allowing Historic Property

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Whether a property has historic designation or not, if it is historic like any church it should not be torn down.
If you are deciding members of an HISTORIC commission you should know and support that!
Do not allow the tear down St Francis of Assassi in Germantown.
I am a lover of history and people from outside the city that I know are appalled by the number of historic places in this city that are gone! They say "But Philadelphia is the most historic city…". I say yes but it has the worst track record of destroying historic buildings. Stop it! Or get off the commission and make room for real historians.
Dawn Ritzler
Sent from my iPhone