

# ON THE WEST SIDE

## THE UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



April/May, 2015

<http://www.uchs.net>

Joseph Minardi, Editor

### UCHS HOUSE TOUR POSTPONED

The UCHS House Tour has been postponed until later this year. We will pass along details about the house tour as they become available.

The UCHS would like to thank Melani Lamond for her years of service as Vice-President, President, Registrar, event coordinator, and other important responsibilities. Melani resigned from the Board recently to refocus on her career in real estate. She has been an invaluable resource of neighborhood knowledge, and her hard work will be difficult to replace. We at the UCHS wish Melani well in her future endeavors.

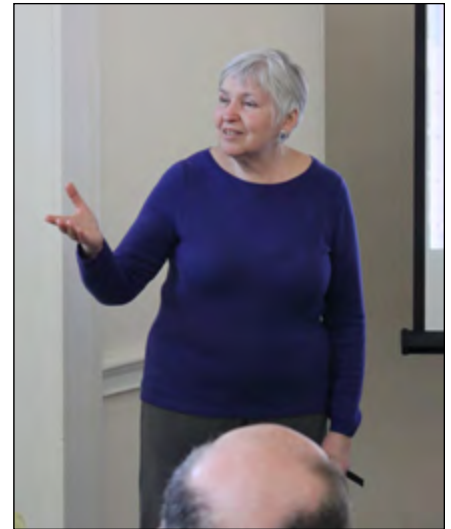
### “YOUR WEST PHILADELPHIA HOUSE” WORKSHOP AT THE WOODLANDS WRAP UP

The Woodlands Mansion was the place to be on April 12th. A nice crowd came out to hear the “Your West Philadelphia House Workshop” presentation by Aaron Wunsch, Ph.D., on how to research the history of your home; when was it built, and who lived there. Dr. Wunsch had everyone’s attention as he put his experience as an Assistant Professor in Historic Preservation at Penn as a researcher. Various methods of finding useful information of a property included deeds, maps, and census data. Accompanying the joint event between The Woodlands and UCHS were helpful handout sheets containing valuable research sources.

The UCHS would like to thank The Woodlands’ Executive Director, Jessica Beaumert, for all of her help in arranging and coordinating the workshop, and for the use of the historic Woodlands Mansion, plus help getting the word out.

If you, the West Philadelphia homeowner, have uncovered anything of interest about the history of your house, we would love for you to share this with us. Send your stories to [info@uchs.net](mailto:info@uchs.net) and we’ll put them in future issues of *On The West Side*.

*Top left; Aaron Wunsch, Ph.D., demonstrating the use of atlases; Top right; University City Historical Society President, Elizabeth Stegner, welcoming guests; Bottom; Jessica Beaumert, Executive Director of The Woodlands, and the gathering in the main room of The Woodlands Mansion.*





## SPRUCE HILL MAY FAIR 2015

Come out to Clark Park and pay a visit to the UCHS table at the 57th annual Spruce Hill May Fair.

The May Fair of 2015 will have even more for youngsters. A Pennsylvania farm will bring ponies for rides and a petting zoo. That's in addition to the bounce tent and 40-foot-long obstacle course that will also be at the fair, along with music, games, and great food.

The 57th annual May Fair will be on Saturday, May 9th in Clark Park, at 43rd Street and Chester Avenue. The hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with no rain date. We hope to see you there!

## 4224 BALTIMORE AVENUE TO BE REVIEWED BY CITY

In the (seemingly) never ending saga that is 4224 Baltimore Avenue, the latest chapter has the project going before the Civic Design Review Committee. Councilwoman Jan-nie Blackwell is now supporting the 78-foot tall apartment building with ground level retail. The project, as currently proposed, will contain 60 parking spaces for cars and 50 for bicycles. The latest incarnation is the result of three public meetings.

4224 Baltimore Avenue will go to three public meetings before it can be greenlighted:

**Tuesday, April 7** before the Civic Design Review Committee  
**Tuesday, April 28** before the Phila. City Planning Commission  
**Wednesday, April 29** before the Zoning Board of Adjustment

UCHS President, Elizabeth Stegner, will attend the ZBA meeting to give the Society's support for the project.

## Ask the Experts

### RESTORING MARBLE FIREPLACES | Addendum

*In the last issue we gave some information regarding the restoration of marble fireplaces. Some additional and important advice about prying apart a marble mantle was added by UCHS Board member, Moira Nadal, a graduate of Bryn Mawr College where she was a Growth and Structure of Cities major.*

It is tricky to pry apart a marble mantel. If this is a mantel that is not on the wall, one that has been purchased to install, or is moving from somewhere else, you should try to wash/soak the mantel in clean warm water because sometimes the pieces are held together by mortar with a high lime ratio and that will begin to dissolve in water which will make the work of prying it apart much easier. The less tough work that can be done, and the fewer sharp hard tools that can be used, the better. It is incredibly easy to have a slip of the hand and seriously damage this kind of piece. Replacement pieces are expensive and extremely hard to find, so try to avoid further damage. Sometimes there are also metal anchors in the masonry, so don't let it soak for long because you don't want to add rust stains to the mix. I've done a couple and yes they are incredibly time intensive but also easy to mess up. And if you are doing this *in situ* and pry a piece off, you'll want friends and padded blankets on hand. You don't want pieces to fall onto the ground or on your person. So heavy!! Otherwise, the advice is good and I appreciate the notes about staining, which is very important.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR HOMEOWNERS\*

*Continued from previous issue*

### Lincrusta-Walton

An embossed, linoleum-like wall covering made of linseed oil, developed in 1877 in England by Frederick Walton.

### Linoleum

A floor covering made primarily of linseed oil and flax, invented in 1864 in Frederick Walton.

### List Carpeting

A woven, flatpile floor covering using strips of selvage as weft.

### Moquette

A term used in America toward the end of the nineteenth century to describe cut-pile carpets virtually identical to machine-made Ax-minsters.

### Oilcloth

A term used during the second half of the nineteenth century to describe floorcloths.

### Parlor

The room reserved for guests, which consequently contained the best furnishings. Also called "drawing room."

### Parquet

A floor covering composed of thick hardwood blocks laid in geometric patterns and blind-nailed to the subflooring.

### Pivot Blinds

Window shutters with movable louvers instead of fixed louvers or solid panels.

### Portiere

A curtain hung at a doorway as a substitute for a door or as decoration.

### Primary Colors

The three hues -red, yellow, blue, from which all other hues are derived..

### Rag Carpet

A floor covering using strips of fabric as weft in a woven carpet or, if braided, as the entire carpet.

### Rainbow Paper

A wallpaper (generally French) in which the ground or pattern was composed of blended colors. The technique was also known as *ombré* or *irisé*.

### Roller Blind

A nineteenth century term for window shades.

### Swag

Fabric looped or draped in horizontal folds and suspended from a pole or cornice above a window, called a "French shawl" at the end of the nineteenth century.

### Tapestry Brussels

Looped-pile carpeting developed in Scotland c. 1832 in which the face yarns were preprinted to form a pattern when woven.

### Tertiary Colors

Colors formed by mixing a primary and a secondary color; e.g. citron is obtained by mixing yellow and green.

\*From *Victorian Interior Design*, Henry Holt and Company, New York, New York, 1986.

*Continued in next issue.*

## University City: Then & Now: 48th Street and Warrington Avenue



1909

*Photo courtesy of The University of Pennsylvania Archives.*



2010

*Photo by Joseph Minardi.*

The intersection of 48th and Warrington is dominated by the Castle Apartments (901 S. 48th), built in 1904. The "then" photo shows the apartment building just five years after its completion and before the addition of the multi-tiered veranda facing 48th Street. The architect for the Castle Apartments was Richard C. Loos.



# ON THE WEST SIDE



## PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

*Robert K. Marple*

Robert K. Marple apprenticed in the office of Willis G. Hale before beginning his independent career as an architect, primarily working on residences in the Cedar Park neighborhood. Marple appears to have been active as an architect from 1887 to 1901.

### Selected Relevant Commissions:

- 1892:** George Ross, residences (2), 4514-4516 Baltimore Av  
George Ross, residences (2), 4517-4519 Springfield Av  
Residences (2), 34th & Spring Garden Av.  
Residences (3), Spring Garden Av. "above" 34th  
Gabel, W.T., residences (9), 34th & Spring Garden Av.
- 1893:** George Ross, parsonage, 47th St below Chester Av  
George Ross, residences (7), Springfield Av. north of 45th  
Stovell, James A., residence, 4526 Springfield Av
- 1894:** Elliott, Frank S., residence, 45th and Chestnut St
- 1895:** Kimball, William S., residences (4), 4048-54 Spruce St  
Winner, I. Franklin, residences (10), 4503-4521 Chester Av
- 1896:** Freeze, William H., residences (11), 45th & Locust area  
Residences (4), WS of 45th, "near" Chester Av
- 1897:** George Ross, residences (6), WS of 51st, South of Florence  
George Ross, residence, SE cor of 51st and Florence



*Twin houses designed by Robert K. Marple. Photo by Joseph Minardi.*

## Did you know?

The University of Pennsylvania's President's House (3812 Walnut Street) was originally the house of Otto Eisenlohr, 1910-1911. The house, designed by Horace Trumbauer, was strongly influenced by French Classicism of the seventeenth century. Otto Eisenlohr was a cigar manufacturer.



*The President's House (Eisenlohr Hall), 3812 Walnut St. Photo by Joseph Minardi.*



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