



### STATE OF PRESERVATION IN WEST PHILADELPHIA: MEETING WRAP UP

A large gathering of concerned citizens of West Philadelphia convened at the Free Library at 40th and Walnut on August 24th to witness a presentation given by the University City Historical Society regarding historic preservation issues facing the neighborhood. The featured guest speakers for the evening included:

- George Poulin, architect and Board member of UCHS and PVCA
- Executive Director, Paul Steinke and Advocacy Director, Patrick Grossi of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia
- Greg Pastore, former Zoning Code Commissioner/member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Aaron Wunsch, architectural historian and Assistant Professor for Penn's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation
- Elizabeth Stegner, President of the UCHS

As many of you are well-aware, University City and the entire City of Philadelphia are facing increasing pressure to preserve its large inventory of historic buildings. As Paul Steinke pointed out during his address to the meeting, the city has been part of an urban renaissance since the beginning of the new millennium. Although it's refreshing to see so many people once again interested in city living, one of the consequences is increased pressure to demolish existing structures, many of which are of an historic nature, and replace them with cheap new construction. Most of this new building is out-of-scale with the existing neighborhood, often built right up to the property line. Despite a few recent success stories (such as the three properties in the 4000 block of Chestnut), demand and developer greed remain at an all-time high.

Another hot button issue was zoning. Often times the city's zoning code can be something akin to decoding an ancient language. In University City, many of the commercial corridors are zoned for higher density, which incentivizes developers to buy distressed properties and replace them with new multi-unit apartments, often as by-right (no need for a hearing before the ZBA).

Historic designation was another important topic. Local designation on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places is the best way to save a building or group of buildings. It was pointed out the anyone can nominate a building for the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Nomination forms are available on the Philadelphia Historical Commission website, and the Preservation Alliance also has a link on their website on how to nominate an individual building, structure or object to the Philadelphia

Register of Historic Places.

[www.preservationalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/How\\_To\\_Nominate.pdf](http://www.preservationalliance.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/How_To_Nominate.pdf)



*Top photo: capacity crowd at the August 24th meeting; bottom left, UCHS Board member, George Poulin; bottom middle, Paul Steinke; bottom right, guest speakers fielding questions from the audience.*

Exterior alterations to properties on the Register are monitored by the Philadelphia Historic Commission. Historic Overlays set standards for new construction but do nothing to prevent demolition of historic buildings contained there within.

Some suggestions are:

- Support sensitive development that preserves and enhances Philadelphia's multifaceted past.
- Identify and designate a group or groups that best represent historical development.
- Facilitate partnerships to utilize under-used religious buildings.

A brief Q&A session took place after the guest speakers made their presentations.

The UCHS would like to thank all of those who attended the August 24th meeting. It was really heartening to see the room filled to standing-room capacity, as it is a sign that the people of West Philadelphia really do care about the state of preservation in their neighborhoods. We would also like to extend a huge thanks to our guest speakers and UCHS Board members George Poulin, Elizabeth Stegner and Kelly Wiles for organizing and facilitating the event. Additional kudos goes to the Free Library of Philadelphia at 40th and Walnut, itself an historic building in University City, for use of their meeting room.

## THE UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Mission of the University City Historical Society is to promote awareness of the history of University City and to protect and promote its heritage. Our focus so far has been on the architecture and its history. But buildings are for people, and people live in communities. What do we know about life in University City today and its social history? Everyday life has changed a lot since the buildings were built, even since UCHS began its work almost fifty years ago, and our environment continues to change.

So we are beginning a new project: An oral history of University City. We are initiating it because there has been so much change in our neighborhoods, and we wanted to record it and not just through photos. How did it come to be what it is today?

How do we think of the past? How is it changing now? As University City has grown, Philadelphia has become a global city. The story of University City may make an interesting comparison with other cities, not only in the U.S. but elsewhere.

We need your help. Would you know of any residents or former residents willing to talk to us about their recollections or would you yourself be interested? If so, please feel free to email us at [uchSORALhistory@gmail.com](mailto:uchSORALhistory@gmail.com). As the project develops, we shall post the stories in our newsletter *On The West Side*. We don't want this part of our history to be lost.

## PHILADELPHIA CITIZENS PLANNING INSTITUTE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2016 CLASSES

**WHAT:** Want to learn about the nuts and bolts of planning, zoning, and development in Philly? Become a more engaged citizen and apply to be part of the Citizens Planning Institute's fall session.

Special topics this session include community engagement 101, historic preservation, and urban agriculture and food access.

Citizens Planning Institute (CPI) is the education and outreach arm of the Philadelphia City Planning Commission.

To date, 360 participants representing over 130 different neighborhoods have completed CPI!

Visit our new website: [www.citizensplanninginstitute.org](http://www.citizensplanninginstitute.org) for applications and more information.

**WHEN:** Applications will be accepted from **August 22nd – September 19th** for the classes running **October 5th – November 16th**. Classes are held on **Wednesday evenings from 6-9pm**.

**WHERE:** Applications available online: [www.citizensplanninginstitute.org](http://www.citizensplanninginstitute.org) or call **215-683-4648** for a hard copy.

Classes held at **1515 Arch Street** in Center City.

**Sponsor:** Philadelphia City Planning Commission & Citizens Planning Institute (CPI)

### University City Then & Now: East side of 48th Street, north of Baltimore Avenue



*Courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Archives*



*Photo by Joseph Minardi.*

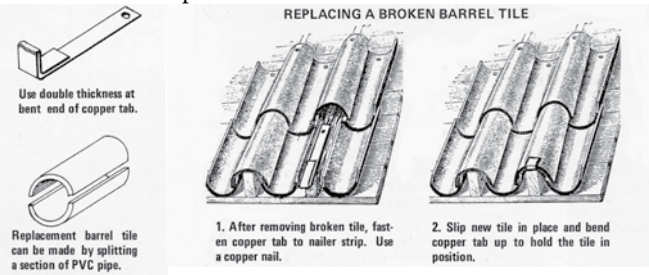
Living near Baltimore Avenue was a great convenience for the growing streetcar suburb of West Philadelphia. The twin homes in the before-and-after photos were well-situated to take advantage of the Baltimore Avenue trolley line, which whisked the white collar suburbanites to their office jobs in Center City. The Victorian twins on the right of the photos were built in April of 1897 by Charles Henderson while the Colonial Revival twins on the left were built by Charles W. Budd in March of 1903. Rising above the homes is the Gothic Revival tower of the Calvary United Methodist Church (1904), which is the headquarters of the University City Historical Society.

## REPLACING A BROKEN CERAMIC ROOF TILE

**Q:** What's the best way to replace a broken ceramic tile?

**A:** Broken ceramic tiles are replaced fairly easily. As with slates, the hardest part is getting to the trouble spot without breaking more tiles. If any damaged tile remains, remove it by breaking it up with careful hammer blows. Cut the nail with a slate ripper, or insert a hacksaw blade under the covering tiles. Hold replacement tile with a copper tab. Use a double thickness of copper at the end of the tab. This extra stiffness helps keep the tab from getting unbent from the weight of the tile or the force of descending ice and snow. Finding replacement tiles that match can be a problem. You may get lucky and locate a dealer in salvage roofing. If you just need a couple of

pieces of barrel tile, you can fake it. Get a piece of PVC drain pipe, slice it in half, and paint it to match.



From *The Old House Journal*, April 1983.

## CARPETS & RUGS: A GLOSSARY

*Continued from previous issue.*

**Najavo Rug:** A traditional, coarsely woven rug, popular in the American Southwest. It's characterized by symbolic forms like chevron and diamond motifs. With the increasing popularity of the Arts and Crafts doctrine, this indigenous handicraft and its facsimiles became popular in the turn-of-the-century houses all over the country. Today, the old designs are still made, but with commercial yarns and dyes in a sophisticated range of color combinations.

**Oriental Carpet:** A luxury prior to about 1750, this carpeting was frequently used as a table or furniture covering. Then as now, it was hand-knotted in silk or 100% wool to form a long-wearing loop pile in an infinite variety of designs. Due to inexpensive labor in Central Asia, these traditional carpets are still produced by hand.

**Pile:** The uncut or cut loops of yarn that form the wearing surface of the carpet -- the fibers being upright as opposed to flat.

**Rag Rug:** Still available, this timeless rug is woven of strips of cotton rags or fabric running from selvage to selvage. Rag rugs were used mostly in upstairs halls and bedrooms.

**Rug:** A soft floor covering of any size that doesn't cover an entire floor. It's usually finished on all four sides and can be laid on the floor without being fastened.

**Savonnerie:** Carpeting with a deep, textured pile, first produced in France in 1628. Usually baronial in size, it was often better suited to the formal, austere room of the country that produced it. Hand-knotted and woven in designs such as bouquets of flowers tied with ribbons or cartouches and scrolls, they were often so rich in soft colors and naturalistic design that one might hesitate to step on them. Originals now bring high prices, but Savonnerie-type rugs can often be bought for considerably less.

**Saxony:** Luxurious, high-pile, Wilton-type carpeting made from wool, first produced in 1893 in Saxony. Now the term is loosely applied to deep-pile carpeting, even when made from synthetic fibers.

**Strip Carpet:** Narrow-width rugs used for halls or stairs, or sewn together for a carpet

**Tuft:** Tufts are machine-produced by twisting together fiber strands of yarn to form a pile, cut or uncut. The pile is frequently clipped at different heights to give sculptured look. Since the 1950s, tufted carpeting has almost overwhelmed the market.

**Turkey-Work Carpet:** In the 18th century, Americans hand-crafted fabrics that ingeniously imitated the appearance of expensive Oriental or "Turkey" carpets. Worsted yarns were pulled through a coarse, open-textured cloth, then knotted and cut. By the 1870s, the mane loosely described geometric carpet patterns and is still occasionally used in that reference today.

**Twill:** A basic weave in which the weft and warp threads are woven to produce a diagonal pattern; the herringbone is a variation of this.

**Venetian:** An inexpensive, flat-woven (pileless) 27 to 36-inch-wide carpet, frequently found in bedrooms, offices, stairs, and passageways. It was usually a gaily colored, striped pattern of worsted warp concealing the weft. Introduced about 1800, it was also produced in check designs, and usually tacked to the floor to prevent it from bunching up. Reproduction patterns and colors are currently being woven.

**Wilton:** A pile carpet woven in 36-inch-wide strips on a Wilton loom which is controlled by a Jacquard attachment. The loom draws up all yarns of a single color at a time, while the pile and the other colors remain hidden beneath the surface. Originally made of wool with a cut pile, today the term is applied to cut and uncut pile carpets (usually narrow widths) produced in wool or synthetic fibers on a Wilton loom. Then, as now, floral and geometric borders can be sewn onto broadloom for the effect of a fine carpet without the full cost.

**Worsted:** In carpets, worsted yarn is spun from the longer types of staple (wool), then carded to lay the fibers as nearly parallel as possible, and finally combed to extract the shortest fibers. The result is a strong thread used to produce the most durable (and expensive) carpets.

From *Old House Journal*, Joni Monnich, August-September, 1983.

# ON THE WEST SIDE



## PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

*James C. Fernald (fl. 1895-1929)*

*Continued from previous issue.*

### Selected Relevant Commissions:

**1903:** McClatchy, J.H., residences (31), Haverford & Girard, West of 60th

Patterson, William C.,

Residences (9), Haverford & Wyalusing, West of 57th

Residences (3), WS of 63rd, N of Girard

Stiteler, J.M., residences (5), NS of Vine, W of 64th

Residences (7), ES of 53rd, N of Warren

Residence, SS of Spruce, East of 52nd

Residences (5), NS of Race, 115' E of 63rd

Residences (76), 57th and Cambridge, Poplar, Girard area

Residence, SE corner, 54th & Haverford

**1904:** Shoemaker, Samuel, residences (79), 58th & Wyalusing area

Shuster, Samuel, residences (8), 49th & Reno area

**1905:** Diesel, H.N., residences (38), 51st & Chester area

Johnson, Joseph, residences (3), 52nd & Pine area

McGill, A.C., residences (10), 47th & Westminster

Quaker City Realty Co., residences (56), 55th & Alden area

Shoemaker, Samuel,

Residences (76), 60th & Haverford, 55th & Poplar areas

Residences (44), Catharine, E of 52nd

Residences (13), WS of 53rd, S of Girard

**1906:** Fry, John L.,

Residences (22), 5110-5152 Cedar Avenue

Residences (14), 600-626 S. 51st

Residences (7), 524-536 S. 51st

Hallowell, Charles J., residences (22), 54th & Girard area

Quaker City Realty Co.,

Residences (38), 243-280 S. Cecil St

Residences (41), 57th & Spruce area

Shoemaker, Samuel,

Residences (20), 61st and Walnut area

Residences (33), 61st and Race area

**1907:** Crawford, Daniel, residences (121), 60th & Lansdowne area

Diesel, H.N., residences (20), Farson St, north of Chester

Patterson, William A., residences (48), 54th and Irving

Shoemaker, Samuel, residences (54), 62nd and Sansom area

Stewart, James F., residence, Southeast corner, 55th & Walnut

Stuetzer, George H., residences (13), Vine St, E of 58th

**1908:** Berry, William E., residences (2), NS of Spruce, W of 56th

Cave, John C., residences (12), 61st and Master area

Crawford, Daniel,

Residences (12), 59th & Lansdowne area

Residences (25), Redfield & Lansdowne area

Dodson, U.G., residences (3), 5117-21 Pine

Gartling, Charles F., residences (3), 5117-21 Pine

Patterson, William A., residences (2), Thompson, W of 54th

Shoemaker, Samuel,

Residences (19), Vine & Salford area

Residences (38), Summer Street, West of 59th

Stuetzer, George H.,

Residences (9), 58th & Race area

Residences (12), ES of Hobart, 73' S of Race

Wilson, William D., residences (12), Sansom, E of 51st

Residence, ES of Conestoga, 92' West of Girard

Residences (2), 5222-4 Market Street

*To be continued in next issue.*

### University City Historical Society

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