



Box 3, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105

March, 1985

HOSPITAL TO ADD TWO STORIES TO PARKING GARAGE

A special general membership meeting was held on January 23 at the request of the administration of Pennsylvania Hospital to discuss the proposed extension of the parking lot at 8th and Delancey Streets by the addition of two additional stories of parking, which would enlarge the structure to a height of 65 feet and add approximately 140 spaces to the existent 440.

Ted Bartley, architect of the hospital, presented a rendering of the proposed building as well as schematic drawings. The present five-story plus roof building was designed to hold an additional floor. New construction methods now enable this construction to hold an additional two floors. The present plans call for the commencement of construction in June of 1985 and the completion in March of 1986. These dates were chosen so that the most disruptive portion of the construction will be performed when school is closed. Moreover, the hospital generally has a smaller census during the summer. The lot will be open during construction.

Mr. Bartley explained that the plans must be reviewed by the Advisory Board of design as the structure is located in an area under the jurisdiction of the Redevelopment Authority. Thereafter, a zoning hearing is necessary as the structure will require a variance. This is necessary because the building will exceed the coverage limits of the space it is constructed upon.

In response to questions, Mr. Bartley stated that the employees presently pay for parking at the rate of \$5 per month. He admitted that the area was served by adequate public transportation and that a higher monthly rate might reduce the number of employees parking there.

Questions were asked about the 1978 agreement between the SHCA and the hospital which permits the building to extend to a 65 feet height, but which also requires the approval of Air Management. He stated that they had discussed the construction with John Brotherston of Air

(Continued on page 8)

I-95 EIS DRAFT READY IN APRIL

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and the City of Philadelphia, presented the I-95 Access Improvement Program's preliminary interim report in September of 1984. Jack Smythe, head of The Delta Group, a consulting firm employed to make the two-year access study, offered literature on the study and described the six alternatives for improving vehicular access throughout the study area at a general meeting of the SHCA. The access study was in compliance to the Consent Decree obtained through litigation initiated by the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition which represented several waterfront community groups. The Decree, signed in 1975 and amended in 1979, required the study of access needs between the Ben Franklin and Walt Whitman Bridges. The Consent Decree also required an Environmental

Impact Statement for any additional access to I-95.

The Draft Environmental Impact Study is expected to be available the beginning of April to neighborhood civic groups and to individuals who request a copy in writing. Copies will also be available in Philadelphia's libraries. This EIS draft is subject to a 45-to-60-day review which includes a public hearing scheduled, tentatively, for April 30th. The location of the hearing has not been chosen, yet will be conveniently located in the area of the neighborhood groups involved. According to Delta spokesman Sam Little, the final EIS will address all comments written to the federal, state and city departments involved or brought up at the public hearing.

This EIS draft will offer an additional vehicular access alternative to the six already presented. This seventh alternative, *The Ramp Completion with Market Street Ramp*, listed as alternative number four in the draft, is a combination of the Queen Street off-ramp alternative to I-95 northbound and the Market and Morris Streets on-ramp to I-95 southbound. The EIS draft will project traffic conditions twenty years from the earliest expected completion of the ramps, which covers up to the year 2008. According to Mr. Little, Delaware Avenue reconstruction is still scheduled to be started this summer or fall, but it may begin sooner than that, with completion in a three-year construction time frame. Mr. Little emphasized that no I-95 accesses would be opened until the Vine Street Expressway is completed because the Expressway is an important part of the overall plan to relieve access pressure.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

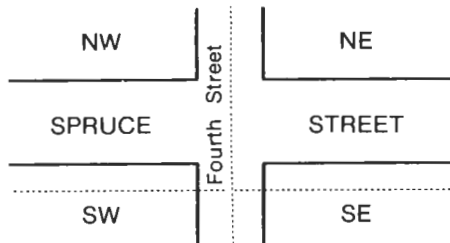
The next general membership meeting of the SHCA will be held on March 20th at 8 p.m., Old Pine Community Center, 4th and Lombard. A presentation will be made by representatives of the Hall-Mercer MH/MR Community Mental Health Center on its program to aid recently deinstitutionalized persons.

Clean-Up Day plans will be announced. Pennsylvania Hospital's proposed expansion of the 8th and Delancey Street garage by two levels, and the Hospital's plans to build on the vacant lot at 7th and Pine Streets will be reviewed.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING

SHCA Nominations Are Open

The general membership meeting to be held on May 15, 1985 will be the meeting at which the election of officers and directors will be conducted. Members who wish to run for any of these positions should file a petition with the signatures of either 10 members who are residents of the district from which they wish to be elected if the office sought is that of quadrant director, or 10 members if the position sought is that of an officer. These petitions should be addressed to the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. They should be mailed so that they will be received no later than April 15, 1985.



SHCA QUADRANTS

As the diagram above indicates, Society Hill's eastern and western quadrants are divided by Fourth Street. The northern quadrants include all residences on Spruce Street.

Society Hill Sheraton Nears Reality

For residents near Second and Dock Streets, the news of groundbreaking for the Society Hill Sheraton on January 30 was bittersweet. For some it means noise, dirt, congestion and inconvenience, yet for others this construction signals a four-story luxury hotel with landscaped grounds, outdoor cafes and retail stores, all of which will be an improvement over the former parking lot.

This 365 room hotel will cover 2.4 acres and cost an estimated \$41 million; its completion date is June 1986. It will include basic and luxury overnight amenities, as well as a health club, sauna, indoor pool with sunroof, a bi-level restaurant, an entertainment lounge for 200, a 7400 square foot ballroom for 700 guests, outdoor gardens, sidewalk cafes, retail stores, and underground parking for 264 cars.

Although this site has been slated for a hotel since 1960, it was not until 1983 that Rouse and Associates, a Malvern-based national developer and general partner in the project, was selected to develop the property by the City. The hotel will create an estimated 300 permanent jobs, and according to city estimates, will contribute \$1 million annually in City taxes.

The hotel's exterior was designed by a New York firm and will be brick with varying roof heights and complemented by iron fences, trees, flowers and fountains. According to a statement by Rouse, the hotel was designed to blend in with the

neighborhood's tradition and charm.

As you will recall, the site was recently the scene of an archaeological dig which revealed the oldest-known artifacts of their kind in Philadelphia, as well as streets, stores and home foundations from the 17th century.

During the ground-breaking ceremonies, Willard Rouse acknowledged the cooperation of the Society Hill Civic Association and the Society Hill Towers Association in getting the project underway. Both groups have been diligent in their efforts to monitor the hotel's development.

The original plans were approved by the SHCA at its January 12, '83 meeting when they were chosen over those of two other developers. However, revisions to those plans were made which did not require neighborhood approval. Some neighbors are concerned about the change of access to the 264-car underground garage. The original plans called for one entrance/exit from Front Street and another from the off-street entrance facing Dock Street. The new scheme according to Project Director Lois Attalla, affords only one entrance/exit on the southern side of the hotel at Dock Street where many residents feel traffic is already congested. Another change is proposed for the northwest corner of the hotel—a sidewalk cafe to be situated along Walnut Street—a feature some residents oppose, however, Attalla says these cafe plans are very tentative.

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BE A BLUE RIBBON NEIGHBOR—JOIN THE SPRING CLEAN UP

Sweeping, shining, painting, and planting are the order of the day on Saturday, May 4th, when the Society Hill Civic Association sponsors the Sixth Annual Spring Clean Up Day.

Linda Blakemore, the 1985 SHCA Clean Up chairperson, said that the day will begin with the red trolley, filled with scouts, balloons, and free cleaning supplies, driving through the streets as a reminder that it is time to wash our community face.

At 11:30 a.m., city officials will gather together with kids, clowns, and neighbors on the steps of the Central Penn Bank at 2nd and Pine Streets for the annual awards. Prizes will be given for posters made by young artists from area schools, and several city street sweepers will be honored for their good work in our neighborhood. After the awards, everyone is invited to a community picnic in the Central Penn parking lot.

New this year will be the prizes for kids under 12 who bring in litter-filled trash bags plus one of the specially marked "treasure trash" soda cans. There will be a neighborhood flier later. And for the first time, SHCA will award blue ribbons to those residents who always keep their walks clear, their household trash properly bagged and disposed of, their window boxes and planters filled with flowers and greens, and their pooper-scoopers on the ready.

Prior to the event, block captains under the chairmanship of Donna Willman, will inventory needed repairs in Society Hill. Damaged signs, potholes, dead trees and stumps will all be documented and turned over to the appropriate city officials for action. Keep your fingers crossed.



(Photos by Susan Dudley)

At Spring Clean Up Day 1984, SHCA's President Steve Miller presented the Golden Scoop Award to Mayor Wilson Goode as City Managing Director Leo Brooks looked on. SHCA's Corresponding Secretary and Block Captain head Donna Willman and her son Kirk (right) put some muscle into pushing their brooms on Second Street.



So on Saturday, May 4th, get up and wash the windows, wash the steps, wash the walk, and wash the dog. Then join the rest of your blue ribbon neighbors for the first-ever Society Hill Spring Clean Up and Community Picnic.

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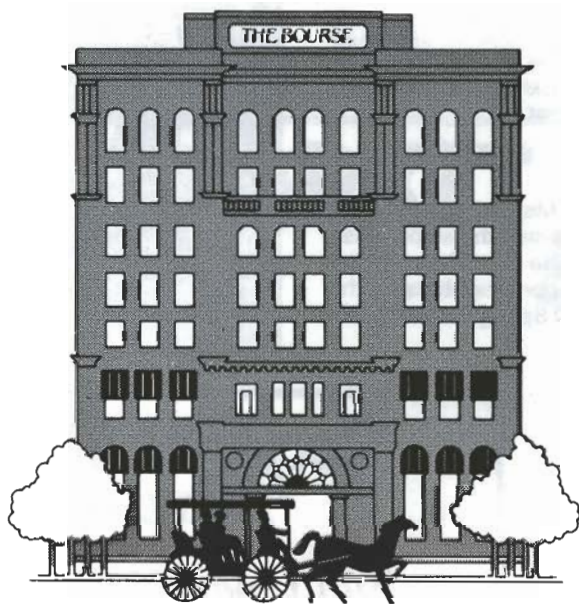
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Hours: Mon-Sat 10-6; Wed & Fri until 8; Sun 11-6.

Restaurants open later.

WASHINGTON SQUARE— MORE YEARS OF NEGLECT?

Once again, Washington Square is to be forgotten. Congressman Foglietta's proposal to have the National Park Service take over the responsibility for maintenance was changed in Congress. The Park Service is to become involved only in activity in programming the Unknown Soldiers' Memorial in the square. There are no improvements or changes in the forecast. The replacement and resetting of all the flagstone pavers through the square and the perimeter will be deferred.

"Potter's Field," the graves of more than 2,000 anonymous soldiers who died after the Battle of Germantown and other skirmishes—far more casualties of the American Revolution than are buried elsewhere in the nation—is forgotten once more.

In 1683, William Penn laid out five great Philadelphia squares. Originally named Southeast Square, Washington Square was renamed in 1825 when a memorial to President Washington was planned. The cornerstone was laid in the center of the square, but the memorial got no further.

Finally, in 1952, the history of the square was brought to light and plans were made to create a memorial to the unknown soldiers of the American Revolution. This project was undertaken on a local and voluntary basis, with no participation from the Federal or Commonwealth governments which financed Independence Square and Mall developments. About a quarter of a million dollars was contributed by firms and organizations located around the square. These groups, organized as the Washington Square Association, also planned the memorial and supervised its construction. An appeal for donations from the public brought thousands of small individual contributions.

Some cities have resorted to adoption programs to save or enhance public monuments. For Washington Square we could consider adopting a tree, a flagstone walkway, etc., once again appealing for private donations to make the necessary improvements, or we could allow the park to be forgotten once again.

We welcome your suggestions. Send them to Washington Square Committee, *The Resident Newsletter*, P.O. Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105.

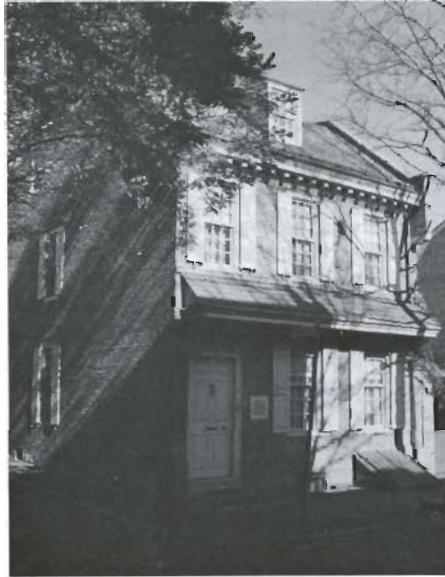
MEMBER BROCHURE READY

An attractive new brochure extolling the advantages of membership in the SHCA and including a convenient application to join is expected to be off the press in time for distribution at the March 20th general meeting. SHCA is grateful to member Norman Tissian of Spiro and Associates for his help with the design and layout of the work.

OPEN HOUSE COMES TO SOCIETY HILL

For the 7th consecutive year, visitors will converge from far and near to see Philadelphia at its spring-time best during Philadelphia Open House. An active committee of neighbors is organizing two tours to be held in Society Hill on Saturday, May 4 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Thursday, May 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to serve as hosts and hostesses in the private homes open for the tour. As there are two shifts during the tour times, volunteers will also be able to take the tour themselves. If you'd like to seize this opportunity, call Lisa Eizen at 925-8563 to sign up. For further tour information call Ginny Moore, 592-0605 or Libby Browne, 925-1372.

Expanded this year, Philadelphia Open House will run from May 3 to May 19. New tours this year range from The Academy of Music to The Zoo, from Haddonfield to Chester County, from "The Swedish Connection" to Bucks County. Old favorites include visits all over Center City, to Germantown, Chestnut Hill and the Main Line—and even trips on the Delaware River. Twenty-five organizations cooperate in sponsoring these tours under the aegis of the Friends of Independence National Historical Park. For a free brochure and further information call the Philadelphia Open House Office, 928-1188.



(Photo by Stanhope Browne)

Fifteen Society Hill homes of many different periods and architectural styles will be open during two Philadelphia Open House tours on Saturday afternoon May 4th and Thursday evening May 9th.

Attention Gardeners: It's Plant Sale Time

Local gardeners can look forward to the annual plant sale at Hill-Physick-Keith House on Saturday and Sunday, April 27th and 28th, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine. The HPK Garden Committee will, as usual, have a wonderful selection of hardy greenery, herbs, hanging baskets, and bedding plants especially selected to thrive in Society Hill's growing conditions.

The sale is to be held in the garden at the rear of HPK House at 321 South 4th Street (enter from Cypress Street). All proceeds will go to help maintain the historic house, owned by The Society for the Preservation of Landmarks.

A WONDERFUL PARTY!

Thank you, NewMarket and NewMarket management and the food purveyors' team for celebrating the opening of The Market at NewMarket with the Society Hill Civic Association members January 16th

Thanks to SHCA President Myrna P. Field, Party Chairperson Nancy Frenze, NewMarket Coordinator Joan Simon of Domsky & Simon Advertising Agency, Inc., and volunteers at the membership table: Liz Ostrander, Rosalie Thompson, and Loyde Harley.

Thanks to the spectacular turnout of Society Hill neighbors and all our new members. A good time was had by all!

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Number 1 in Society Hill

TUNE IN FOR A MOST UNUSUAL TEA PARTY

Philadelphia's 77-year-old Settlement Music School is having an unusual Tea Party and you're invited.

On Wednesday, March 20th, in cooperation with WFLN-FM, Settlement Music School will present a live concert (8:05-10 p.m.) featuring students, faculty, distinguished alumni and guest artists.

Settlement Music School has mailed out invitations to 100,000 Delaware Valley residents inviting them to stay at home for this Tea Party on March 20th and tune in to the live concert. Each Tea Party invitation will have a tea bag enclosed, compliments of Milford International Tea Company.

This unusual fund-raiser is primarily designed to make people aware of Settlement Music School and its vital place in the community, especially during the School's Three Year Campaign to raise \$2,000,000. Now in its second year, the campaign has already raised well over 50 percent of its goal.

The School provides quality education for all students of the Delaware Valley regardless of their backgrounds or ability to pay. The School, a United Way agency, is supported by individuals, corporations and foundations.

Guest artists included on the March 20th Tea Party include pianists Gary Graffman, Jerome Lowenthal and Leon Bates; sopranos Benita Valente and Wilhelmina Fernandez; Grover Washington, Jr.; guitarist Peter Segal; former executive director Sol Schoenbach and many others.

If you have not yet received your Tea Party invitation, call Settlement Music School today at 336-0400 and request one—and don't forget to tune in.

THE BALCH INSTITUTE

You have probably walked past it many times and may even have wondered what goes on inside but never ventured to find out. The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies on the west side of Seventh Street between Ranstead and Market is worth a visit. Only twelve years old, The Institute has already achieved international renown among historians and ethnic scholars for their library containing one of the finest collections of materials on ethnicity and the history of immigration in America.

What will interest most Society Hill residents, however, will be its museum which currently has on display "Destination Philadelphia: The Past Century of Immigration" which tells with photographs and artifacts the little known story of our city as an immigrant port of entry. Very few people know that Pier 53 at the foot of Washington Avenue was an "Immigrant Station" where from about 1890 to 1914 steamships from Europe brought thousands (60,000 in 1914 alone) of new arrivals. Old photographs, drawings, posters, steamship tickets, steamer trunks, clothing, kitchen utensils even a musical background help to create the era of the great immigration to America.

Visitors to The Balch Institute can also see its famous Banner Room collection of beautiful ethnic banners created by Philadelphia high school art students.

The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 South Seventh Street, Philadelphia. Museum open Monday—Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is Free.

Before you leave, record your own ethnic background on the Institute's "Ethnic Register" which records the ethnic cultural diversity of American Society.

STRANGERS AMONG US

It has become fashionable to blame the dirt which has become a hallmark of Society Hill upon the constant presence of tourists. Undoubtedly, these strangers do account for some portion of the refuse which lines our streets and sidewalks. But—

- tourists do not normally walk dogs,
- tourists do not receive mail,
- tourists do not deposit household rubbish in litter baskets,
- tourists do not place boxes and bags at curbside on days other than Wednesday, and
- tourists do not do the 100 other actions that account for the trash that we all view daily.

Those of us who have voluntarily elected to live in historic Philadelphia—a neighborhood of row houses—must also elect to voluntarily assume responsibility for not only the disposal of our own waste but also the disposal of the waste that should only occasionally find its way to either our front doors or those of our neighbors.

This city will never be able to afford to police daily the litter that will always find its way to our streets. YOU can and must become a BLUE RIBBON neighbor by doing your share!

Incidentally, the Sanitation Department has promised 26 new cans for the New-Market area. These cans, which are *not for household trash*, will be emptied daily.

SHCA NEWSLETTER COPY

All new items to be used in the *Newsletter* must be typed, double-spaced. For elite type, please set your margin at 63. For pica, set your margin at 75. This system allows us to estimate the column inches of editorial copy we have per issue. Also, please be accurate! Changes and mistakes are costly.

SOCIETY HILL PLAYHOUSE

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for orders over \$100. For orders under \$100, there's a minimal charge starting at \$2, and no higher than \$5. For your convenience, we deliver 1 pm to 7 pm, Monday, Thursday, Friday; 1 pm to 5 pm, Saturday.

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If you don't have the inclination or the time to do your own shopping, just pick up the phone and call Jennifer Marshall, The Market Food Coordinator. She'll shop for you and is also on hand to help plan your next party menu and help you out with expert cooking advice. Call her at 629-1234.

Free 1 Hour Parking

with purchases of \$10, or more at the NewMarket Parking Garage on Lombard between 2nd and 3rd. For validation just present your day's Market receipts totaling \$10, or more, along with your parking check to the garage cashier.



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2nd Street at Lombard Street, Phila., PA 19147
MARKET HOURS: Monday, Thursday & Friday 10 am to 8 pm;
Saturday 8 am to 8 pm; Sunday 9 am to 5 pm.
TELEPHONE: (215) 629-1234.

Cypress St. Parking Outrages Neighbors

Neighbors in the vicinity of Sixth and Cypress Streets are outraged over a plan to sell property zoned for residential use as 10 separate parking spaces for \$20,000 apiece.

The force behind the plan is the developer handling the property on the southeast corner of Sixth and Spruce Streets and the Rebecca Gratz house next door. The corner property, for which he paid \$160,000, has been converted into a single-family home and put on the market for \$485,000. The Gratz house will be made into 11 rental units, ranging from studio to two-bedroom apartments, with rents starting at \$600 a month. The developer plans to keep the Gratz property for five years to receive full tax credit, then will sell the units as condominiums.

The site behind these two properties, at Sixth and Cypress, was slated originally for four townhouses, with 10 parking spots for residents of the Gratz property. When the developer realized the cost to build would be \$75 a square foot, however, he scrapped the plan, according to neighbor Jim Foley, who telephoned the developer at his New York office and spent an hour and a half discussing his intentions for the properties. The plan to sell parking spaces apparently is motivated by a need to recoup losses the developer suffered while he was held up in court by neighbors

protesting the townhouse construction. One Cypress St. neighbor has filed a formal complaint with the Zoning Commission.

According to Foley, a number of people would be interested in talking to the developer about buying the lot, but he seems determined to put in parking spaces. To do so, however, will require new zoning, and neighbors promise to turn out to protest at the zoning hearing. If zoning is approved, they intend to pursue the matter into the courts.

The Dig on Second Street

If you haven't already noticed, Second Street, between Spruce and Delancey, has been closed due to a major sewer replacement.

According to Richard Mulcahy, Office Manager for the City's Water Department, the old brick sewer lines are being replaced with concrete. This daytime project, which should be completed in March, is being contracted by Marino Masse Inc. The cobblestones which have been torn up from the pavement will be replaced. Although many residents were unaware of exactly what was happening to Second Street, Mulcahy stated that all residents to be affected by the project were sent letters informing them about the upcoming work.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY GOES COMMERCIAL

A new commercial delivery system for *The Resident Newsletter* was initiated with our December issue. For the whole prior history of this publication we have relied upon a network of diligent volunteers to supply every household in Society Hill with the latest in our prose. Under the capable direction of Janet Andereck, 40 men and women sloughed through sleet, snow, and driving rain, climbed countless stairs, pried open innumerable mail slots and wakened thousands of sleeping dogs in their effort to get out the news.

The new delivery arrangement can in no way improve on the old volunteer system. For one thing, a neighbor is allowed to insert a message in a mail slot, but paid delivery people cannot. (It might be your door, but it's Uncle Sam's mail slot.) *The Newsletter* staff hopes eventually the new system will be as seamless as the old. We want to thank the volunteers for their past service. Hope you caught an extra hour's sleep last Saturday!

Hospital Garage

(Continued from page 1)

Management (686-7896) and that no problems in securing this approval were presently anticipated.

The new lot might be able to afford neighbors an opportunity to park at a competitive rate in the evening when it was not being used for hospital purposes. During construction, the builders will attempt to minimize interference with Delancey Street traffic and will offer spaces to anyone blocked out of their garage.

In response to questions concerning the visual impact of a 65' structure, it should be noted that the Duncan building is presently 55' tall to the front and 65' tall to the top of the gable. The Preston building is 114' tall. It is not anticipated that the enlarged structure will block the sun.

Mr. Bartley was asked to consider planting, with evergreens, the perimeter of the roof to minimize the visual impact of the roof on the residences which back upon it.

In response to a question concerning the use of the vacant lot at 7th & Pine Streets, the hospital is currently conducting a utilization study of this land anticipates securing an extension from the Redevelopment Authority. The SHCA representatives were assured that the association would be consulted before any permanent plans for the site were made.

A report will be presented at the March 20th SHCA meeting. (See *MARK YOUR CALENDARS*).

Joanne Davidow
and
Dolores La Greca

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RESIDENTIAL & CONDOMINIUM
SPECIALISTS



CLAY STUDIO CELEBRATES AN ANNIVERSARY

Fall of 1984 marked the tenth birthday of this nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the promotion of the ceramic arts and clay artists. Now an important cultural resource in our community, the Studio began modestly when five Philadelphia ceramists joined together to share space and facilities. A spool factory on Orianna Street in Old City was their first home, and proved so spacious that seven additional artists were enabled to be accommodated. A Board of Directors and the organization of classes soon followed.

By 1979, The Clay Studio, now a tax-exempt educational corporation, was overflowing the spool factory. New quarters were found at 112-114 Arch Street, and soon after the move eighteen artists were working and teaching there. The success of their relocation was unfortunately short-lived; everything was destroyed in a fire in the heating system early one bitter morning in 1980. The

devastated artists regrouped, and thanks to a huge outpouring of support, were able to reestablish the Studio at 49 North 2nd Street, its present location.

In the years since, The Clay Studio has expanded its educational, studio and exhibition programs. Nine resident and ten associate artists, as well as visiting potters, conduct classes and demonstrations on a regular basis. The well-equipped facility offers a variety of clays and glazes, several electric and two gas-fired kilns in a spacious work and storage area. In its continuing efforts to provide the public with opportunities to see new clay art, the Studio holds monthly shows in its own gallery. In 1983 it organized a major exhibit in Old City of works by nationally-recognized artists, and plans an even more ambitious show to be held at the Port of History Museum from April 26 to June 8, 1985.

The Clay Studio welcomes inquiries about its programs. 925-3453.

Eleanor Gesensway Is Preservationist of the Year

The Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation presented Mrs. Eleanor Gesensway with a gold-leafed certificate naming her as Preservationist of the Year in Philadelphia, as the highlight of the organization's Annual Meeting on February 4th. Mrs. Gesensway, long an active supporter of historic preservation causes in the city, was specifically cited for her work in organizing support for preserving the Lit Brothers building complex on East Market Street, and for promoting a stronger preservation ordinance in Philadelphia, which was signed into law by Mayor Goode on December 31st.

PHPC President Robert F. Bowman stated that "PHPC and the historic preservation movement have both grown by leaps and bounds since the organization's founding in 1979. Ellie Gesensway is an outstanding example of a growing number of concerned and informed citizens in Philadelphia who have acted to preserve our city's irreplaceable architectural heritage."

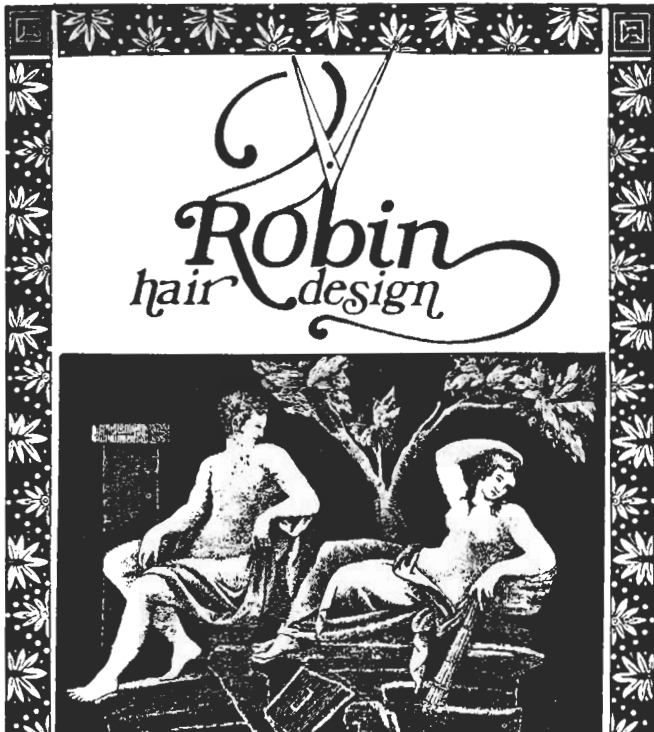


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A NEW LOOK FOR OLD PINE STREET CHURCH

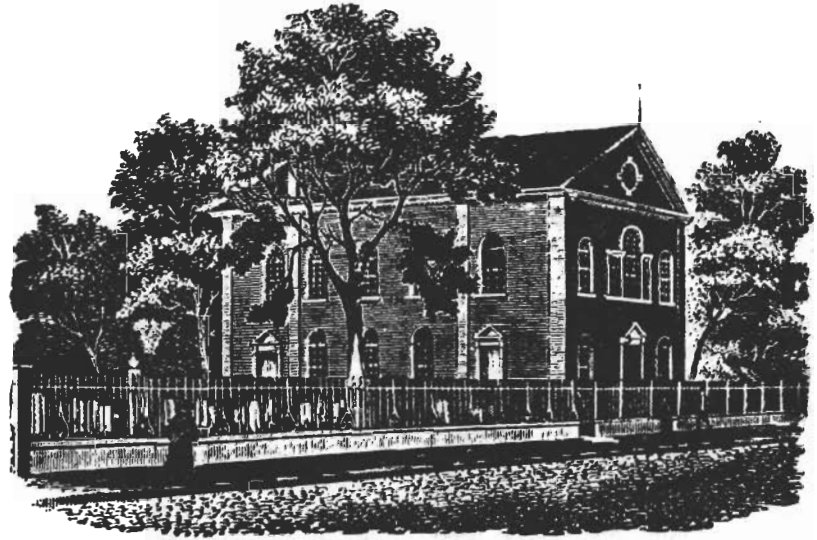
The building housing Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church is about to have yet another chapter added to its long, interesting history of alterations and renovations. The interior of its sanctuary is presently undergoing a major facelifting which, by Palm Sunday it is hoped, will transform a vast, dignified space from an austere monochrome to one alive with colors, patterns and religious symbols.

Old Pine's original appearance in 1768 was Georgian in style, similar to St. Peter's (without the steeple) and St. Paul's, and designed by the same architect, Robert Smith. Its main entrances in 1771 were on the long east wall, and its pulpit and communion table were in the center of the west.

In 1837 the interior space was drastically altered by the insertion of a floor which divided the building into two stories. The ground floor was partitioned into meeting rooms and offices, and the entire second floor became the sanctuary. The main entrance was changed to the north side of the building, reached by paired exterior stairs, and an alcove was added to the south side for the pulpit and seating for the elders. At this time the windows were enlarged to their present size, and identical ones opened in the west wall to match those in the east, so that the newlyoriented arrangement would be symmetrical. The exterior walls were stuccoed.

The church was beautified in 1857 by the addition of Greek Revival details, most magnificent of which is the monumental porch on Pine Street. The old bullseye windows in the gable ends were covered over, leaving only the sash and hinge of the north one in the attic wall. The sanctuary balconies and vestibules were constructed, columns and decorative details were placed across the front of the alcove, and the great bronze gaslight chandelier was hung below a huge rosette ventilator designed to disperse heat and gases. A new roof was installed a few feet above the original one.

By 1886 the clear window panes had probably been replaced with stained glass. A photograph of that date shows delicate applied decorations on the walls and ceiling of the sanctuary, with especially elaborate attention given to the alcove, the



OLD PINE STREET CHURCH BEFORE IT WAS ALTERED IN 1837.


focal point of the Presbyterian liturgy.

This decorative high point, reached in the Victorian period, was to decline over the following years as tastes changed and the church's mission shifted as a result of demographic and economic fluxes in the neighborhood. During the first half of the 20th century community services increased, the congregation declined, and the building slowly deteriorated. The Friends of Old Pine Street was formed in 1951 to raise funds for the renovation of the church. Walls were papered, trim was painted, lighting fixtures were hung beneath the balconies, and a new organ was installed.

Some thirty years later the members of the church took a hard look at the present and future of Old Pine Street and determined to implement long-range plans for the building. The ground floor was elegantly remodeled to handle the growing number of community outreach projects. An elevator installation was begun. The sanctuary clearly needed repairs and repainting, which would require its being filled with scaffolding, so why not go ahead with a total renovation?

Architect David Slovic was retained to

direct the project, and his firm designed the stencilled starbursts, thistles and friezes now being applied to the walls and ceilings. Although patches of some of the original patterns—stencilled and then hand-painted—were inadvertently uncovered by the removal of a marble plaque and a piece of wallpaper (and which will be preserved for the record), no attempt will be made to copy them exactly because of the constraints of time and money. "Our intention is to reproduce the feeling of the late 19th century interior through creative interpretation" said Harold Bair, Parish Administrator. The 1950's lighting fixtures have been removed, and wall sconces reminiscent of an earlier time will be installed. The gas chandelier will be re-wired. Stencilled religious symbols from the Old Testament to modern Christian times, designed by Lotus Yu, will be arranged chronologically, much as in the stages of the cross, above the wainscoting on both side walls. And everywhere there will be vibrant color such as the Old Pine Street sanctuary has not seen in years. The Post-modern Victorian result should be stunning.



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Staff for this issue—Charlie Bangert, Ruth Dugan, Nancy Frenze, Brenda Malinics, Karen Nicholson, Liz Ostrander, and Renee Saul.

Contributors to this issue—Myrna Field Baum, Libby Browne, and Ellen Miller.

Business Staff—Laurette Scherneck and Keith Straw.

Deadline for articles and ads for the next issue is April 8th. Articles may be delivered to staff members or mailed to *The Resident Newsletter*, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105. For advertising rates and information, please address Laurette Scherneck at *The Resident Newsletter*, Box #3, Philadelphia, PA 19105.



DARTS AND LAURELS

Dart—To those people who disobey the rules and do not shovel their walks, thereby creating hazardous icy paths—a menace to pedestrians.

Dart—To those “Sneaky Petes” who walk their dogs down the dark little streets (like Stampers Street) looking for plantings to hide all the evidence.

Laurel—To those people who proudly walk their licensed, up-to-date innoculated pets and pick up after them conscientiously.

Dart—To the owner of the unleashed, overgrown Doberman Pinscher with the studded collar who can be seen at dusk in the vicinity of 6th and South Streets frightening passersby.

Dart—To NewMarket for neglecting to repair the loose and missing bricks in their sidewalks.

Dart—To the Parking Authority for ticketing properly stickered cars causing irate owners the inconvenience of rectifying these annoying errors.

Laurel—To the City Streets Department for sending out crews to clear clogged storm drains after one of this winter’s snowstorms.

stephen d. cohen, d.d.s.

steven a. graubard, d.d.s.

joel e. elfman, d.d.s.

*lafayette building
437 chestnut street
philadelphia, pa 19106
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