

NOMINATION OF HISTORIC BUILDING, STRUCTURE, SITE, OR OBJECT
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

SUBMIT ALL ATTACHED MATERIALS ON PAPER AND IN ELECTRONIC FORM (CD, EMAIL, FLASH DRIVE)
ELECTRONIC FILES MUST BE WORD OR WORD COMPATIBLE

1. ADDRESS OF HISTORIC RESOURCE (must comply with an Office of Property Assessment address)

Street address: **204 South 12th Street**
Postal code: **19107** Councilmanic District: **1**

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **The Residence & Restaurant of Henry S. Minton**
Current/Common Name: **The 12th Street Gym**

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building Structure Site Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Occupancy: occupied vacant under construction unknown
Current use: **Unknown**

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach

6. DESCRIPTION

Please attach

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach the Statement of Significance.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from **1853** to **1893**

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: **c. 1818-36; 1853-54 (renovation); c. 1880 (façade)**

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: **Unknown**

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: **Unknown**

Original owner: **James Hutchinson, House Carpenter**

Other significant persons: **Henry S. Minton (1811-1883); William H. Minton (1837-1885); and Theophilus John Minton (1847-1909)**

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

The historic resource satisfies the following criteria for designation (check all that apply):

- (a) Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; or,
- (b) Is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- (d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; or,
- (e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth or Nation; or,
- (f) Contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation; or,
- (g) Is part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif; or,
- (h) Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristic, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City; or,
- (i) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history; or
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach

9. NOMINATOR: Keeping Society of Philadelphia

Author: **Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian**

Date: **20 July 2018**

Author: **J.M. Duffin, Archivist & Historian**

Email: **keeper@keepingphiladelphia.org**

Street Address: **1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320**

Telephone: **717.602.5002**

City, State, and Postal Code: **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107**

Nominator is is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 20 July 2018

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete

Date: 7 November 2018

Date of Notice Issuance: 8 November 2018

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: South 12th Street Owner LLC

Address: 430 Park Avenue, Suite 505

City: New York State: NY Postal Code: 10022

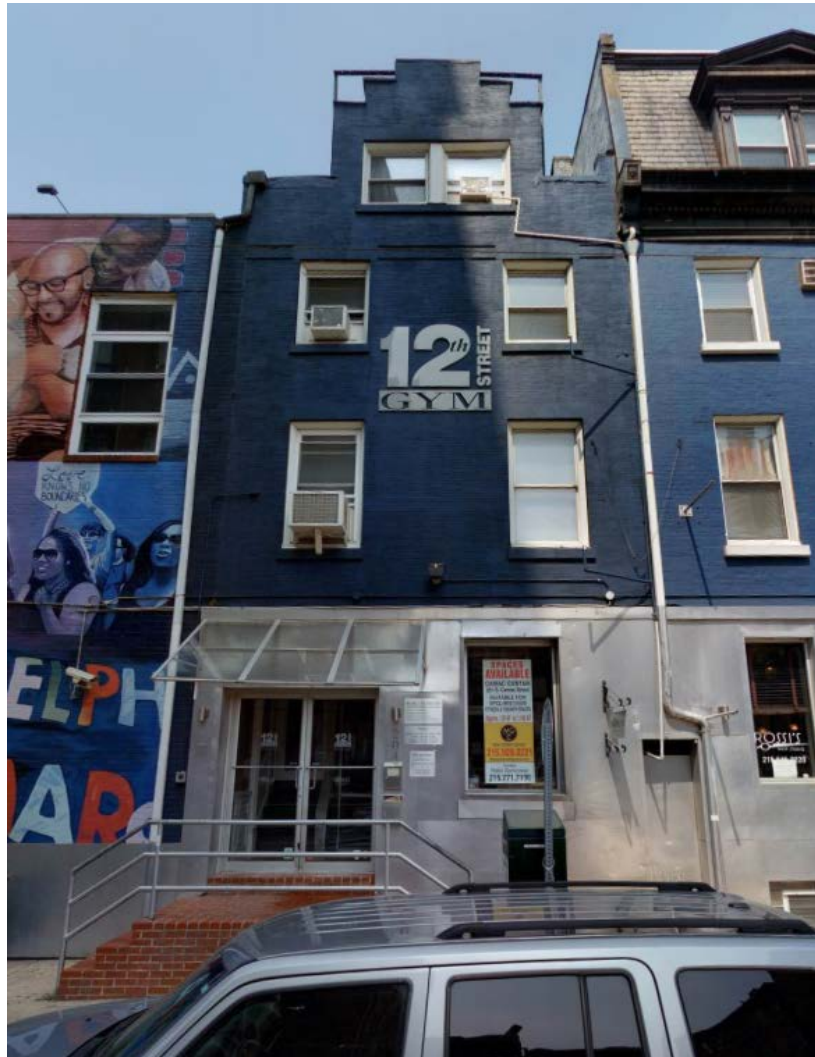
Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: _____

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____

Date of Final Action: _____

Designated Rejected

NOMINATION
FOR THE
PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Looking west at the subject building at 204 South Twelfth Street.
Source: Cyclomedia, July 14, 2018.

THE RESIDENCE & RESTAURANT OF HENRY MINTON
204 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



The official parcel boundary for this designation is delineated in red, while the specific boundary of the Residence & Restaurant of Henry Minton is delineated in a dashed red line. Source: Philadelphia Water.

6. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the designation of the subject property is as follows:

PREMISES "A"

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground. SITUATE on the West side of Twelfth Street between Walnut and Locust Streets at the distance of 37 feet South of Chancellor Street.

CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said Twelfth Street 18 feet and extending of that width in length or depth 100 feet. BOUNDED Eastward by Twelfth Street. TOGETHER With the free and common use, right liberty and privilege of an alley 2 feet 4 inches in width by 34 feet in depth one-half of which is taken from the above described lot and the other half from the adjoining lot on the North leading into and from the said Twelfth Street as the same is now laid out and used as a passageway and watercourse and for the purposes of introducing the Schuylkill water in common with the owners, tenants and occupiers of the said lot adjoining on the North. BEING No. 204 South Twelfth Street.



Left: Looking west at the subject building at 204 South Twelfth Street. Source: Michael Bixler, July 2018. Right: A photograph of the subject building at 204 South Twelfth Street, c. 1907. Source: Archives of the Philadelphia Contributionship.

5. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Residence and Restaurant of Henry Minton at 204 South Twelfth Street is an attached three-and-one-half story townhouse of loadbearing masonry construction that features a side-gabled roof. In original form the building is a ubiquitous Georgian- or Federal-inspired dwelling of Philadelphia with characteristic dormers at the front and rear elevations of the half-story. Two bays in width, the primary elevation features a Pompeiian brick façade with a prominent, stepped Flemish parapet trimmed in stone. The character of the parapet feature indicates a likely two-prong approach to the re-facing—first, modernity and fashion of the late nineteenth century and, two, a practicable and inexpensive improvement that retains the original roofline and the form of a projecting dormer. Like most commercial conversions in the neighborhood, the first floor features an altered fenestration; however, original details of the interior of the house appear to survive, as visible through the glass door. The second and third floors retain the original fenestrations. Somewhat deafened by unfortunate dark blue paint on brick, the primary brickwork does retain bands of raised brickwork that unites the third floor windows. Stone stills are also extant despite being lost in the sea of blue paint.

The side and rear elevations are not visible or accessible from the public right-of-way. Aside from a narrow court on the north side of the back building, a large rear ell appends the main block and appears to have been incorporated into the adjacent buildings. An original dormer window projects from the rear elevation within the half-story.



Top: Looking southwest at the subject property. Bottom: Looking east at the rear of the subject property. Note, the original rear dormer has been retained. Source: Philadelphia Atlas.



Looking southwest at the subject building at 204 South Twelfth Street.
Source: Free Library of Philadelphia.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry Minton House at 204 South Twelfth Street is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The subject building satisfies the following Criteria for Designation, as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (a) *Has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; and*
- (j) *Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.*

The period of significance for the subject designation is limited to the time of construction, which appears to be 1853-93.

CRITERIA A & J

The Residence and Restaurant of Henry Minton at 200 South Twelfth Street is worthy of designation under Criterion A, representing the eminence, progress, and success of an important African American abolitionist, businessman, caterer, and restaurateur of the past in Philadelphia—Henry Minton (1811–1883) and his family.¹ The subject building is also worthy of designation under Criterion J, exemplifying the cultural, economic, political, and social phenomenon of black caterers and restaurants as described by W. E. B. Du Bois in his chapter “The Negro in Philadelphia, 1820–1896”— “The guild of caterers, 1840–1870. Catering and restaurants being among the few industries open to African Americans in the nineteenth century, there were three major players in this “Guild”—Thomas J. Dorsey (1810–1875), Henry Jones (1810–1875) and Minton.² Of the three players, Du Bois stated that Minton “might have been said to rule the social world of Philadelphia through its stomach.”³ Even today, descendants of Henry Minton reflect on what is remembered as an old adage: “In Philadelphia...anybody who was anybody hired Minton to cater their parties.”⁴ Owned by the Mintons from 1853-93, the subject building is the last surviving house and business structure of Du Bois’ triumvirate of Philadelphia’s golden age of African American caterers, and, as such, is a representative vestige of that past world.

Through the accumulation of a net worth of roughly \$40,000 by the time of Henry Minton’s death in 1883, he and his family were able to serve as a political and social force as abolitionists, educators, and community leaders in the local African American community, further exemplifying historical significance of the Mintons under Criterion J.⁵ The subject building was central to the family and its peers as a meeting place for some of the great men of the day in Philadelphia, including “Thomas Dorsey, Augustus Dorsey, Henry Jones, Rev. Stephen Smith, Octavius V. Catto [1839-1871], James M. Butler, Levi Cromwell, Wm. G. Freeman, and others, where “it was their custom to frequently meet during the anxious days of slavery and the war, and discuss the questions touching upon the interests of their race.”⁶

In addition, the Minton family was involved in the administrative, financial, and leadership aspects of numerous charitable, community, and social organizations of the period, including the All Saints P.E. Church, Banneker Institute, the Catto Monument Association, the Colored Soldiers and Sailors’ Orphans Committee, the First Presbyterian Church, the Pioneer Building and Loan Association, the Pythian Baseball Club, etc.⁷ William H. Minton (1837–1885), son of

¹ Several records indicate that Henry Minton was named Henry S. Minton.

² Du Bois, *Philadelphia Negro*, 32. Du Bois’ use of the term “guild” is in the figurative not literal sense.

³ Du Bois, *Philadelphia Negro*, 32-36.

⁴ Russell Farbeaux Minton, Jr., personal communication (with Oscar Beisert via phone), 12 July 2018.

⁵ Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

⁶ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883.

⁷ References to the involvement of several members of the Minton family were found in Box 31G, containing various pamphlets, of the Leon Gardner Collection of the American Negro Historical Society Records, Collection No. 0008, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Accessed on 18 July 2018. Regarding the Banneker Institute, Temple University describes it as follows: The Banneker Literary Institute, named after black mathematician Benjamin Banneker, was one of several literary and debating societies in nineteenth-century Philadelphia. Organized in 1854 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by a group of prominent men, the Banneker Institute promoted literary and

Henry Minton—abolitionist, caterer, musician, and restaurateur—and, his daughter-in-law, Martha A. Farbeaux (1838–1923), Assistant to the Principal of the Banneker Institute of Philadelphia and a teacher at the Institute for Colored Youth; his son, Theophilus John Minton, (1847–1909), appearing to be the third African American to practice law in Philadelphia—and his daughter-in-law, Martha Virginia Allmond, later referenced as McKee, (1850–1891), an early female graduate of the Institute for Colored Youth; and his grandson, Henry McKee Minton (1870–1946), an African American doctor, and a founder of both Sigma Pi Phi and Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia.⁸

Historic Context: African Americans in the Philadelphia Restaurant and Catering Business

In a period where racial barriers and social boundaries limited entries to success and wealth for minorities, the catering and restaurant industry was one field that was open to African Americans and represents a significant aspect of the cultural, economic, political, and social history of Philadelphia. W.E.B. Du Bois provides the best description of the significance of the profession in his groundbreaking sociological study *The Philadelphia Negro*:

The question ... of obtaining a decent livelihood was a pressing one for the better class of Negroes. The masses of the race continued to depend upon domestic service, where they still had a practical monopoly, and upon common labor, where they had some competition from the Irish. To the more pushing and energetic Negroes only two courses were open: to enter into commercial life in some small way, or to develop certain lines of home service into a more independent and lucrative employment. In this latter way was the most striking advance made; the whole catering business, arising from an evolution shrewdly, persistently and tastefully directed, transformed the Negro cook and waiter into the public caterer and restaurateur, and raised a crowd of underpaid menials to become a set of self-reliant, original business men, who amassed fortunes for themselves and won general respect for their people.⁹

Philadelphia was the leader in the African American catering business in the United States for much of the nineteenth century. As Juliet E.K. Walker in her 2009 *History of Black Business in America* describes:

Philadelphia's black caterers succeeded because they stroked both the palates and the egos of their clients. Their culinary specialties were lobster salad, deviled crabs, chicken croquets, and their unsurpassed terrapin. While few of Philadelphia's first black caterers had any formal education, they were masterful politicians and diplomats, described as "gentlemanly," even "aristocratic," "possessing great wit and charm," "commanding great influence," "dictatorial,"

other intellectual endeavors. <http://stillfamily.library.temple.edu/stillfamily/exhibits/show/william-still/people-and-places/benjamin-banneker-institute> Accessed on 20 July 2018.

⁸ "Dr. Henry M. Minton, Retired Hospital Superintendent," *The New York Age*, 4 January 1947, p. 1.

⁹ W.E. Burghardt Du Bois, *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*, Publications of the University of Pennsylvania Series in Political Economy and Public Law, no. 14 (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1899), 33.

but always of “fine business attainments.” The services provided were delivered with impeccable manners, taste, and elegance...¹⁰

The ante-bellum period saw the rise of many African American caterers and restaurateurs throughout the city. Du Bois devotes an entire section in his chapter “The Negro in Philadelphia, 1820–1896” to what he calls the “The guild of caterers, 1840–1870.” He describes the “guild” as including “names which have been household words in the city for fifty years: Bogle, Augustin, Prosser, Dorsey, Jones, and Minton.”¹¹

Robert Bogle (1775–1837), perhaps the first of the great African American caterers and restaurateurs, lived at 46 (present-day 110) South Eight Street (*no longer extant*).¹² Bogle’s “importance went far beyond his craftsmanship as a cook: he introduced Philadelphians to the concept of the catering contract and personally trained many of the great black caterers of the 19th century.”¹³ Peter Augustin (1768–1843) was from the West Indies and ran both a restaurant and catering business which his wife, Mary Francis Augustin (1799–1890) took over his death. Mary went into business with her son James G. Augustin (1817–1878) in the 1850s. Starting out at 219 (present-day 421) South Fifth Street (*no longer extant*) in the 1820s, the family moved to 123 (present-day 277) South Third Street (*no longer extant*) in the 1840s and 1108 Sansom Street (*no longer extant*) by 1859 before purchasing their final location at 1105 Walnut Street in 1864.¹⁴ James Prosser, Sr. (1782–1861), born in southern New Jersey, started his business in the 1810s and by 1828 was running a well-known oyster house at 274 (present-day 808) Market Street (*no longer extant*).¹⁵ James Prosser, Jr. (1813–1866) joined his father in the business.

Du Bois considered Thomas J. Dorsey (1810–1875), Henry Jones (1810–1875) and Henry Minton (1811–1883) as the leaders of Philadelphia’s golden age of African American caterers “who ruled the fashionable world from 1845–1875.”¹⁶ The success of these businesses is noted by Walker:

Philadelphia’s black caterers sold their dinners or banquets by the plate, with prices as high as fifty dollars per plate. Consequently, these businesses were regarded highly as lucrative enterprises, as shown by an entry in the *Dun* [credit

¹⁰ Juliet E.K. Walker, *The History of Black Business in America: Capitalism, Race, Entrepreneurship*, 1 (UNC Press Books, 2009), 133.

¹¹ Du Bois, *Philadelphia Negro*, 32. Du Bois’ use of the term “guild” is in the figurative not literal sense.

¹² Bogle first appears in the city directories in 1810 as a shopkeeper at this address (James Robinson, *The Philadelphia Directory for 1810* [Philadelphia: James Robinson, 1810]). The directories from 1811 into the 1830s list his occupation as “waiter.” He moved to Pine Street above 11th around 1829.

¹³ Mary Anne Hines, Gordon Marshall, and William Woys Weaver, *The Larder Invaded: Reflections of Three Centuries of Philadelphia Food and Drink* (The Library Company of Philadelphia and The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1987), 65.

¹⁴ The locations noted here are all taken from the Philadelphia city directories for 1825, 1841, 1850–1866. Deed Tripartite: Elizabeth Hannah Freeman (late Powell, widow of J. Miller Freeman), and others, surviving executors of the will of John Powell, of the first part, Elizabeth Hannah and others, of the second part, to James G. Augustin, of the city of Philadelphia, French cook, for \$14,250, 30 April 1864, PDBk L.R.B., No. 22, p. 331, CAP.

¹⁵ City directories for 1828, 1841, 1843, 1847, 1850, 1859, 1860 and 1862; William C. Bolivar, “Oh, James Prosser, Jimmy Prosser,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 9 August 1913, p. 8.

¹⁶ Du Bois, *Philadelphia Negro*, 34.

and business] report regarding one of the sons of Henry Minton. The Dun entry emphasizes that the caterer had the financial capacity to back his son's business, which is described as "Gents furnishing": "Oct 2. [18]60 Colored—Aged abt 23. Single son of Henry Minton who keeps a restaurant at 204 South 12th St & who owns cons[iderable]'d city p[ro]p[er]ty, furnishes the capital..."¹⁷

Minton's success did not limit that of his competitors. Thomas J. Dorsey, a fugitive slave arriving at Philadelphia before 1840, was perhaps an equal if not superior to Minton. "Dorsey's fine art is said to have outshined that for the others of the time through sheer perfection and dominance of personality. In his later years, he served at his Locust Street establishment [*no longer extant*] such celebrated leaders as Charles Sumner, William Lloyd Garrison, John W. Forney, William D. Kelley, and Frederick Douglas."¹⁸ Dorsey first appears in the city directories in 1842 at 3 Osborn's Court (*no longer extant*) and by 1847 was at 57 Currant Street (present-day 257 South Warnock Street).¹⁹ His rise to success was swift for by 1849 he was able to purchase a property at 166 (present-day 1104) Locust Street (*no longer extant*), which became his first home on Locust Street.²⁰ Only four years later, Dorsey purchased another house, 217 (present-day 1231) Locust Street (*no longer extant*), which became the center of his operations for the remainder of his life.²¹

Henry Jones, Virginia-born, was "a man of great care and faithfulness" and "he catered to families in Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York."²² Jones first appears in the Philadelphia directories in 1839 as a waiter living at 39 (present-day 243) Quince Street.²³ Four years later he was 18 Currant Street (later 213 South Warnock Street; *no longer extant*) where he remained until he purchased a property on 76 (present-day 250) South Twelfth Street in 1856, which became the base of operation for his business.²⁴ A year before Jones' death in 1875, he purchased the house next door to Minton, 206 South Twelfth Street (*no longer extant*).²⁵

There were many others but these three men were among the most successful. Later, other African American caterers and restaurateurs would arrive on the scene and also wield great influence—John S. Trower (1849-1911), the handsome African American caterer and restaurateur of Germantown, took the Philadelphia region with his attractiveness and talents in

¹⁷ Walker, *History of Black Business in America*, 134.

¹⁸ John A. Saunders, *100 Years After Emancipation (History Of The Philadelphia Negro), 1787 to 1963* (Philadelphia, 1964), 137.

¹⁹ City directories for 1841, 1842, 1843, 1847–1850.

²⁰ Deed: Gideon Scull, of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, and Lydia, his wife, and Newcomb B. Thompson, of the same, merchant, and Harriett, his wife, to Thomas Dorsey, of the city, waiter, for \$1,400, 3 May 1849, PDBk G.W.C., No. 12, p. 354, CAP.

²¹ Deed: Thomas L. Ellis, trustee, to Thomas Dorsey, 2 November 1854, PDBk T.H., No. 169, p. 474, CAP.

²² Du Bois, *Philadelphia Negro*, 32-36.

²³ City directories for 1838–1843.

²⁴ City directories for 1847–1856; Deed: James A. Donath, of the city of Philadelphia, esquire, and Theresa, his wife, to Henry Jones, of the same, waiter, for \$4,800, 18 January 1856, PDBk R.D.W., No. 52, p. 557, CAP.

²⁵ Deed: Edward Hutchinson and Paul Jones Fry, executors of the will of James Hutchinson, to Henry Jones, 24 April 1874, PDBk F.T.W., No. 128, p. 11, CAP. Jones' death had the unfortunate distinction of causing a law suit when Mount Moriah Cemetery refused the funeral procession entrance to burying his body. In the end Jones was buried at burial ground at St. James the Less.

the last quarter of the nineteenth century.²⁶ All of the buildings that served as restaurant and/or residence for these early African American figures likely have historical significance and would be eligible for historic designation; however, few survive and those that exist are largely forgotten to time or unknown. The subject building is the last surviving house and business structure of Du Bois' triumvirate of Philadelphia's golden age of African American caterers.

The golden age of catering and restaurants being a path for great success for African Americans in Philadelphia ended by the late nineteenth century. A combination of changing culinary tastes – such as the trend to bring French chefs to America – and greater demands that larger public gatherings of organizations and corporations required made it difficult for most middling African American caterers to break into the same market position that Dorsey, Jones and Minton occupied.²⁷



Top and Middle: Signatures of Henry Minton from the PSFS Depositors' book from 1835 and 1843. Bottom: the signature of Henry Minton from his will prepared in 1876. The signatures show Minton's transition from 1835 to 1876. Source: Ancestry.com.

Historic Context: Biography of Henry Minton (1811–1883)

Said to be born into slavery about 1811, Henry Minton was from Nansemond County, Virginia. In one account of his life, it is asserted that after the Civil War, Minton visited the plantation from which he originated, indicating that he likely was born into captivity. Minton was just nineteen when he arrived at Philadelphia “without money and friends,” entering “there the struggle for an honorable existence.”²⁸ “This was in 1830, when Philadelphia, although it possessed, as it does to-day [1883], a large community of intelligent and refined colored people, was yet a city of bitter prejudice and proscription, ruled at occasional periods by Negro-hating mobs who would riot upon the colored quarters, firing the houses, and slaughtering the innocents.”²⁹ At first Minton worked as an apprentice to a shoemaker.³⁰ Finding the work of a

²⁶ Booker T. Washington, *The Negro In Business* (Boston: Hertel, Jenkins & Co., 1907), 47-52.

²⁷ Walker, *History of Black Business in America*, 133–34; John H. Ingham, ed., *African-American Business Leaders: A Biographical Dictionary* (Westport, CN: Greenwood Press, 1994), 226–27.

²⁸ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883.

²⁹ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883.

cobbler “unsuited to his constitution,” Minton was compelled to enter “hotel life” where he found a job as a waiter. In this line of work he “soon demonstrated the possession of unusual business capacity, a character for probity and reliability, and the faculty for acquiring money.”³¹ Like many working class people of the period, Henry Minton was an account holder at the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society in 1835. At this time he was recorded as living at or near the corner of Washington (now Rodman) and S. 11th Streets.³² Perhaps with the assistance of PSFS, Minton was able to purchase a house which became his family’s home at 25 Washington Street (present-day 1131 Rodman Street) for \$1,200.³³

“Having married a widow lady, Mrs. Catherine Carter from Petersburg, Va., with two children, he found it necessary to engage in a more lucrative business...”³⁴ Mrs. Minton was born Catharine Emily Gallee (1808–1890). Henry and Catherine were married between 1832 and 1835. She brought two children to the marriage: Amanda Carter (1831–1847); and Francis R. Carter (1828–1865), often misrepresented as a Minton, who married first, in February 1849, Mary Eliza Pollard (1830–1856) and second to Elizabeth Lauree (1830–1856) on December 13, 1857 at the African Baptist Church in San Francisco, California. Little is known about the Carter children except that Francis R. Carter (1829–1863) was living with the family in 1860, and died in Philadelphia in 1863. The union of Henry Minton and Catherine Carter produced the following children: Mary Louisa Minton (1836–1846); William H. Minton (1837–1885), also a caterer, a musician, and restaurateur, who in 1863 married Martha A. Farbeaux (1838–1923), who was Assistant to the Principal of the Banneker Institute of Philadelphia and taught at the Institute for Colored Youth in the 1860s; Emma Elizabeth Minton (1839–1843); Margaret Cornelia Minton (1842–1860); James Theodore Minton (1845–1847); Theophilus John Minton, (1847–1909), an attorney, who married first in 1870 Martha Virginia Allmond, later referenced as McKee, (1850–1891), the first woman to graduate from the Institute for Colored Youth, and second, in 1907, Frances I. Cromwell; Joseph O. Minton (1851–ca. 1912), a school teacher in Philadelphia; and Catherine Virginia Minton (1853–1883), who in 1878 married Howard L. Johnson at All Saints Church in Philadelphia.³⁵

³⁰ “Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803–1915.” Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2008, 2010. From originals housed at the Philadelphia City Archives. “Death Records.”

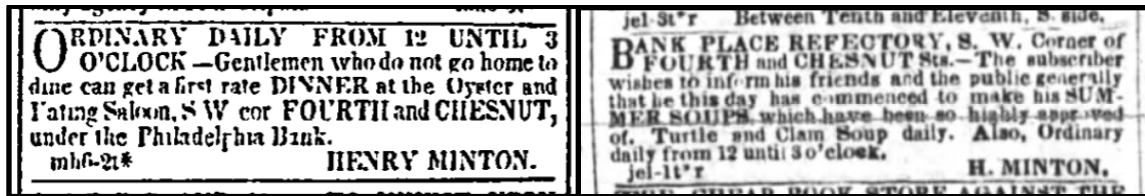
³¹ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883.

³² Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1669-2013* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

³³ Deed: Charles Short, of the city of Philadelphia, gentleman, and Rebecca, his wife, to Henry Minton, of the city of Philadelphia, waiter, for \$1,200, 15 May 1838, PDBk S.H.F., No. 24, p. 291, CAP; Ancestry.com. *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, African-American Census, 1847* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

³⁴ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883, p. 2.

³⁵ Using Ancestry.com, the names and life dates of Minton’s known children were compiled from the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 U.S. Federal Censuses. Also information from the 1893 sale of the subject property (Deed: Theophilus J. Minton, et. al. to Thomas C. Kelly, 24 April 1893, Philadelphia Deed Book T.G., No. 279, p. 514, CAP).



Left: Advertisement for Henry Minton’s “Oyster and Eating Saloon” published in the *Public Ledger* on March 8, 1847. Right: “Bank Place Refectory,” *Public Ledger*, 1 June 1849. Source: Newspapers.com.

Between 1843 and 1846, Minton went into business for himself. He had opened a restaurant around 1846 at the southwest corner of Fourth and Chestnut Streets in the basement of the Philadelphia Bank in the heart of Philadelphia’s financial and commercial district.³⁶

He opened a dining saloon at the above locality [4th and Chestnut], and was eminently successful, rising step by step to the position of one of the most successful caterers in that city of good food and good livers. He was universally accorded the reputation of being one of the best business men of his race.³⁷

Featured menu items included “Summer Soups” both “Turtle and Clam Soup,” oysters, and later terrapin, which was a substitute for sea turtles due to their high demand. These choice items were a testament to his success, as turtle soup had been a favorite of Philadelphians since the early eighteenth century. And as for oysters, “Philadelphians were more oyster crazed than most,” eating them “raw, fried, stewed, pickled, boiled, and even frozen (a hangover remedy).” Due to the mania for the green sea turtle in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, usually used in soup, there was a shortage of supply by the early to mid-nineteenth century and, as a result, the terrapin, a small black turtle, found in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, were a substitute.³⁸ Minton picked up on all of this and it was part of his genius and a key to his financial success.



The Philadelphia Bank at the Southwest Corner of Fourth and Chestnut Streets where Minton had his restaurant in the raised basement. Source: the Library Company of Philadelphia.

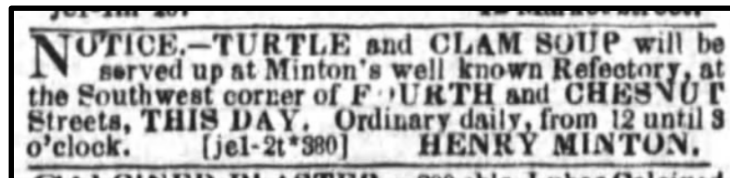
³⁶ The first separate business location entry in the city directory for Minton is in 1846.

³⁷ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883, p. 2.

³⁸ Hines, et al, *The Larder Invaded*, 55-56.

In addition, it was said that Minton’s personal characteristics attributed to his success, the best of which included “a strong individuality of character which marked him through life”—“such a character gained for him many friends in what was then the most busy portion of Philadelphia.”³⁹

Advertisements for Minton’s restaurant appear in Philadelphia papers as early as 1847, informing “Gentlemen” of the fare and the location—then “under the Philadelphia Bank” at the southwest corner of Fourth and Chestnut Streets.⁴⁰ An advertisement for “Minton’s Ordinary,” a luncheon between “12 and 3 o’clock,” was published in the *Public Ledger* on February 14, 1848.⁴¹ This advertisement mentioned the restaurant location at the southwest corner of Fourth and Bank Streets. In another *Public Ledger* advertisement on June 1, 1849, Minton’s restaurant was known as the “Bank Place Refectory” and his “Summer Soups” were showcased with “Turtle and Clam served daily.”⁴² By the U.S. Census of 1850, Henry Minton was listed as “Hotel Keeper” with a real estate valued at \$10,000. He was in residence with his wife Catherine and their children: Francis [Cooper], also listed as a “Hotel Keeper,” Eliza, William, Margaret, and Theophilus.⁴³



Advertisement: *Public Ledger*, 1 June 1852. Source: Newspapers.com.

By 1852, Minton was recognized as a successful businessman in the African American community as this account demonstrates:

Henry Minton ... is the proprietor of a fashionable restaurant and resort of business men and gentlemen of the city. The tables of Mr. Henry Minton are continually laden with the most choice offerings to epicures, and the saloon during certain hours of the day, presents the appearance of a bee hive, such is the stir, din, and buz, among the throng of Chestnut street gentlemen, who flock in there to pay tribute at the shire of bountifulness. Mr. Minton has acquired a notoriety, even in that proud city, which makes his house one of the most popular resorts.⁴⁴

The success of the Bank Place Refectory is clearly evident from the fact that after only seven years after opening the restaurant, Minton was in a position to look for a new location – one

³⁹ “The Late Henry Minton,” *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883, p. 2.

⁴⁰ Advertisement, *Public Ledger*, 8 March 1847, p. 3.

⁴¹ “Minton’s Ordinary,” *Public Ledger*, 14 February 1848, p. 3.

⁴² “Bank Place Refectory,” *Public Ledger*. (Philadelphia: 1 June 1849), p. 2.

⁴³ Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁴⁴ Martin R. Delany, *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States* (Philadelphia: M.R. Delany, 1852).

which he would win. In February 1853, Henry Minton purchased the subject property at 204 South Twelfth Street for \$7,800.⁴⁵ He immediately made alterations to the house to turn it into a restaurant.⁴⁶ The 1854 city directory lists Minton and his refectory at this location (old no. 56 South Twelfth Street).

The shift of Minton's restaurant to this location was a measure to take his business to a new level where he would have full control over both the product and the place. It also marked a shift towards to a higher end operation located on the first floor of a house rather than a basement and closer to the more fashionable residential section of Philadelphia. Minton clearly knew where the market trend was going. In 1860, there were 251 restaurants in Philadelphia, most of which were located in the old business and commercial districts in the eastern part of the city. At this time only 27 of the restaurants in the original city bounds were located west of Tenth Street.⁴⁷

Minton's move to this location clearly influenced the other members of Du Bois' triumvirate. Dorsey purchased a larger building around the corner in 1854 and Jones a large house down the street in 1856. Even other members of the African American catering field followed Minton's lead. Mary G. and James G. Augustin purchased their first property nearby in 1864.⁴⁸

By the 1860 U.S. Census, the Mintons were well installed at 204 South Twelfth Street, where Henry Minton was listed as a "Restaurateur" with \$8,000 in real estate and \$800 in personal estate. The household included: Catherine Emily, William, Margaret, Theophilus, and Joseph Minton and Francis R. Carter, listed as "Bar Tender." In addition, the following African American employees of Minton were listed: two servants, Catherine Purnell and Emma Adams.⁴⁹

Henry's son William H. joined him in the family business in 1864 and it became known as Henry Minton & Son. For a brief period from 1864 to 1865, Henry and William ventured into confections. That appears not to have been a successful turn.⁵⁰ In September 1865, Henry Minton announced the "REOPENING" of his "long and well known" restaurant business, which had previously been located at both Fourth and Chestnut Streets and the subject property at 204 South Twelfth Street. He announced a continued menu of "Reed Birds, Chicken Salad, Dressed

⁴⁵ Deed: Peter Wright, of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, and Mary A., his wife, to Henry Minton, of the city, refectory keeper, for \$4,800 and subject to a mortgage debt of \$3,000, 25 February 1853, PDBk T.H., No. 63, p. 510, CAP. It appears that Minton used a straw party, Wright, to purchase the house – perhaps to prevent racial prejudice interfering with the acquisition of the property. The subject house was originally built at some point between 1818 and 1836 (Deed: Samuel Weeks, guardian of the estate of Margaret Prunell, to James Hutchinson, of the city, house carpenter, 20 July 1818, PDBk M.R., No. 21, p. 39; Deed: James Hutchinson, city of Philadelphia, house carpenter, and Jane, his wife, to Andrew McMackin, of the Northern Liberties, printer, trustee, for \$5,050, 8 September 1836, PDBK S.H.F., No. 5, p. 535, CAP).

⁴⁶ Survey for Policy No. 7554 for Henry Minton was finalized by the Philadelphia Contributionship on 28 June 1854. The original policy was taken out in 1848 by Andrew McMakin and a survey was conducted at that time. On December 26, 1853, Minton signed the survey noting the alterations for the restaurant.

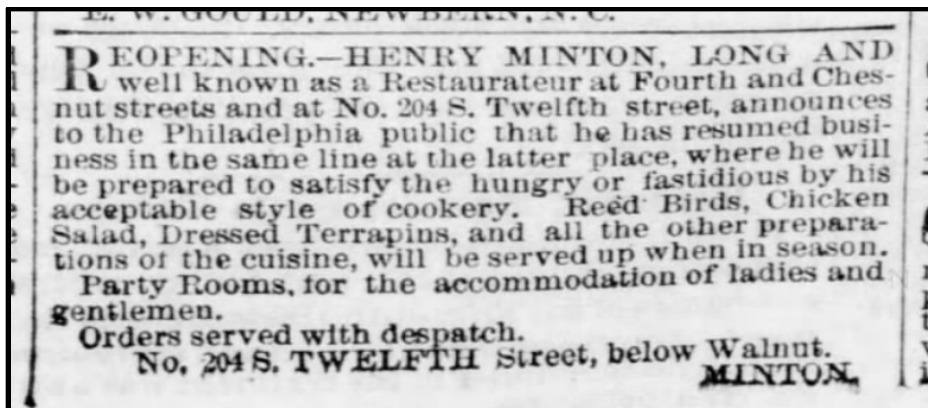
⁴⁷ *Boyd's Philadelphia City Business Directory, 1860–61* (Philadelphia: William H. Boyd, 1860).

⁴⁸ See previous section for citations.

⁴⁹ 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration.

⁵⁰ City directories for 1864 to 1866; Advertisement, *The Press*, 9 June 1863.

Terrapins...,” as well as “Party Rooms,” to be located in the ground floor of his residence at the subject property at “No. 204 S. TWELFTH Street, below Walnut.”⁵¹



“Reopening,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 14 September 1865, p. 3. Source: Newspapers.com.

At least a partial confirmation of Minton’s income occurred in 1865 when the U.S. IRS Tax Assessment occurred, recording “Minton, Henry” at “204 So. 12th” occupied in “Retail Liquor.”⁵²



Newspaper advertisement, *The Press*, 19 October 1865, p. 8. Source: Newspapers.com.

By 1870, Henry Minton was a recognized success in the African American community of Philadelphia. In fact, on January 7, 1870, the *National Republican*, a newspaper in Washington, D.C., had the following in short biographical note on Minton:

Mr. Minton has succeeded in building up a large business and amassing quite a competence, his wealth being estimated from \$30,000 to \$50,000.⁵³

Originally published as “Wealthy Negroes in Philadelphia” in *The Philadelphia Press*, this brief account of Minton was part of a larger article introducing “leading men of color,” who had “risen, in spite of the prejudice against their race, to competency and comparative fame.” In addition to Minton, the article provided brief sketches on Stephen Smith, an African American

⁵¹ “Reopening,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 14 September 1865, p. 3.

⁵² Ancestry.com. *U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

⁵³ “Wealthy Negroes in Philadelphia,” *National Republican*, 7 January 1870, p. 2.

businessman once the wealthiest black man in Philadelphia; William Whipper, an African American school teacher and later a lumber merchant “next to Mr. Smith the wealthiest man of color in Philadelphia” as of 1870; William Still, the important African American abolitionist, Secretary of the Vigilance Committee of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, and later both a stove and coal merchant; John W. Price, “the well-known restaurateur,” then “said to be worth \$50,000;” Thomas J. Dorsey, a successful African American caterer; and Philadelphia-born James Augustin, also a successful African American caterer.⁵⁴ By 1879, Minton is listed at the third wealthiest African American in Philadelphia as “an \$80,000 man.”⁵⁵

In residence at 204 South Twelfth Street at the time of the 1870 U.S. Census, Henry Minton was continuing to operate a restaurant with real estate valued at \$27,000 and personal estate valued at \$1,650. The Minton family included Catherine Emily, then listed as “Keeping House,” Joseph A., and Virginia Minton. Minton’s eleven-year-old granddaughter, Catherine “Katie” Carter (1860–1945), from California, was also living in the house and a servant named Mary Gardner.⁵⁶

At the time Henry Minton prepared his will in 1876, he owned several properties aside from the subject building at 204 South Twelfth Street. His real estate included two houses on Rodman Street occupied by his grandchildren, the children of William Minton—1129 Rodman Street was occupied by Mary Minton and 1131 Rodman was occupied by William Minton, Jr.⁵⁷

By the 1880 U.S. Census Henry Minton is enumerated at 204 South Twelfth Street and recorded as restaurant owner. His wife Catherine and granddaughter Katie Carter were also in residence.⁵⁸ In 1880, Minton was 70 years old and, despite his successes, he was assaulted by a man named Patrick Donohue, who was later charged with “assault and battery” but only fined \$1 and court costs by Judge Peirce.⁵⁹

After many years in the catering and restaurant business, Henry Minton was a well-known citizen, despite being a transplant, in Philadelphia at-large and, especially, within the African American community. Financial independence and established success, especially for a person of color in nineteenth century America, was often required to establish the foothold needed to be an outspoken voice for controversial causes, and this certainly seems true for Henry Minton. According to several accounts, the “caterer and restaurateur of long standing,” Minton, “whom everybody knows as a blunt, outspoken man,” was “staunch on the negro question.”⁶⁰ He was a well-known abolitionist, which did not always serve him well financially. Not only was he known to be outspoken, but Minton would remove pro-slavery clients from his establishment.

⁵⁴ “Wealthy Negroes in Philadelphia,” *National Republican*, 7 January 1870, p. 2.

⁵⁵ “Colored Citizens: Thirty Thousand Philadelphians of African Descent, Representatives of their Race,” *The Times* (Philadelphia), 20 July 1879. 8. This article provides a valuable account of which professions African Americans had and did not have access to in Philadelphia at that time.

⁵⁶ 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

⁵⁷ Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015.

⁵⁸ Tenth Census of the United States, 1880. (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls). Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

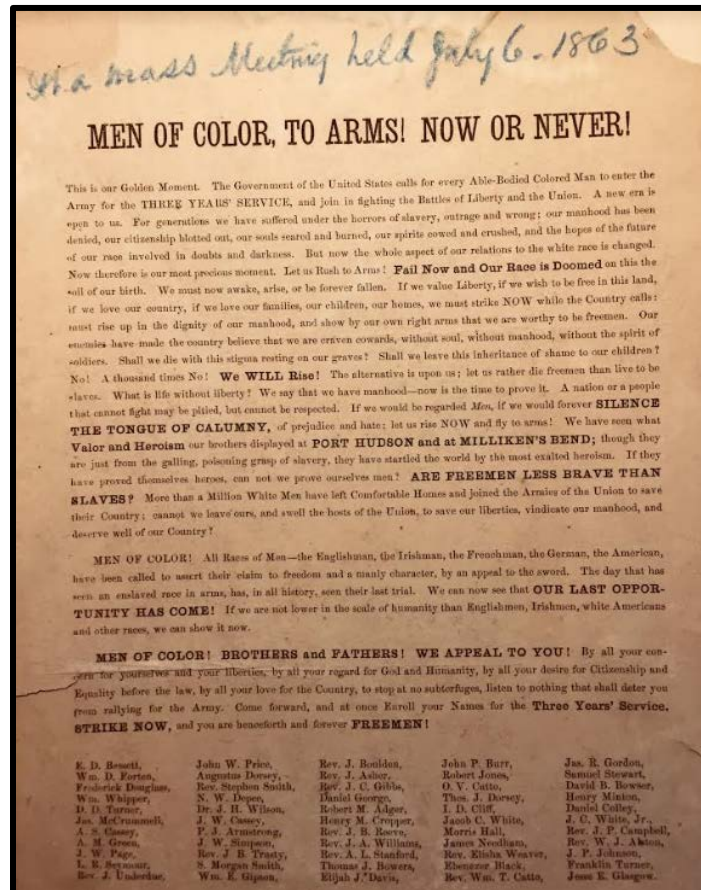
⁵⁹ “Punishing a Lot of Criminals.” *The Times* (Philadelphia), 6 January 1880, p. 3.

⁶⁰ “Lights and Shadows: Colored Gentlemen of Philadelphia,” *Christian Recorder*, November 4, 1865.

Minton participated in various events in Philadelphia's African American community. At the time of his death, one eulogist stated the following:

His home was the resort of the leading men of the day, such as Thomas Dorsey, Augustus Dorsey, Henry Jones, Rev. Stephen Smith, Octavius V. Catto, James M. Butler, Levi Cromwell, Wm. G. Freeman, and others, where "it was their custom to frequently meet during the anxious days of slavery and the war, and discuss the questions touching upon the interests of their race."⁶¹

In fact, one account of Minton's contributions to the cause of abolition includes an evening in which he entertained John Brown, the American abolitionist, at 204 South Twelfth Street "with bed and board" in 1859, when Brown was passing through Philadelphia shortly before his raid upon Harper's Ferry.⁶²



Flier calling "Men of Color, To Arms!" Dated July 1863.
Source: Gardiner Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁶¹ "The Late Henry Minton," *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883.

⁶² "The Late Henry Minton," *New York Globe*, 2 June 1883.

In 1860, Minton served on a committee expressing support of William Still.⁶³ That same year he was one of several black leaders to establish the “Civil, Social, Cultural and Statistical Association of the Colored People of Philadelphia,” an organization designed to “embrace the public interests of the colored citizens of Philadelphia.”⁶⁴ In 1863, Minton was among the established African Americans listed on the flier calling “MEN OF COLOR, TO ARMS! NOW OR NEVER!” The flier was handed out “at a mass meeting held on July 6, 1863.” The message was “STRIKE NOW and you are henceforth and forever FREEMEN.”⁶⁵ He was one of the vice-presidents of a committee of Philadelphia African American leaders to assist with recruiting African Americans to join the Union Army.⁶⁶

Minton had a brief venture with horticulture and farming. He owned a farm near Salem, New Jersey by the 1860s, where he experimented with growing cotton, which was described in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in 1861:

Mr. Henry Minton, a very well-known colored resident of this city, grew thirty plants upon his farm, last year, near Salem, New Jersey. They matured, but he obtained from them only five pounds of cotton, cleared of seed. This, at the ordinary average of ten cents per pound, would give less than two cents a plant, which, considering the cost of culture and picking, would not be a very brilliant yield. Many Northern vegetables would be far more remunerative.

Mr. Minton is attempting another experiment, this year, in cotton, both at Salem and Camden.⁶⁷

The experiment was sufficiently unusual to also be reported in *The Scientific American*.⁶⁸

In April 1870, Minton served on a committee that organized the closing ceremonies in Philadelphia for the African American communities’ celebration over the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.⁶⁹

Henry Minton died of pneumonia on a Tuesday, March 20, 1883 at 1:45 p.m., in the subject house at 204 South Twelfth Street and his burial took place three days later at Olive Cemetery.⁷⁰

⁶³ “Public Meeting of Sympathy with Wm. Still,” *Public Ledger*, 2 May 1860, p 1.

⁶⁴ Emma Jones Lapsansky. “Discipline to the Mind”: Philadelphia’s Banneker Institute, 1854-1872,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 117, No. ½ (January-April 1993), 83-102.

⁶⁵ “MEN OF COLOR, TO ARMS! NOW OR NEVER!” (1863), Gardiner Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

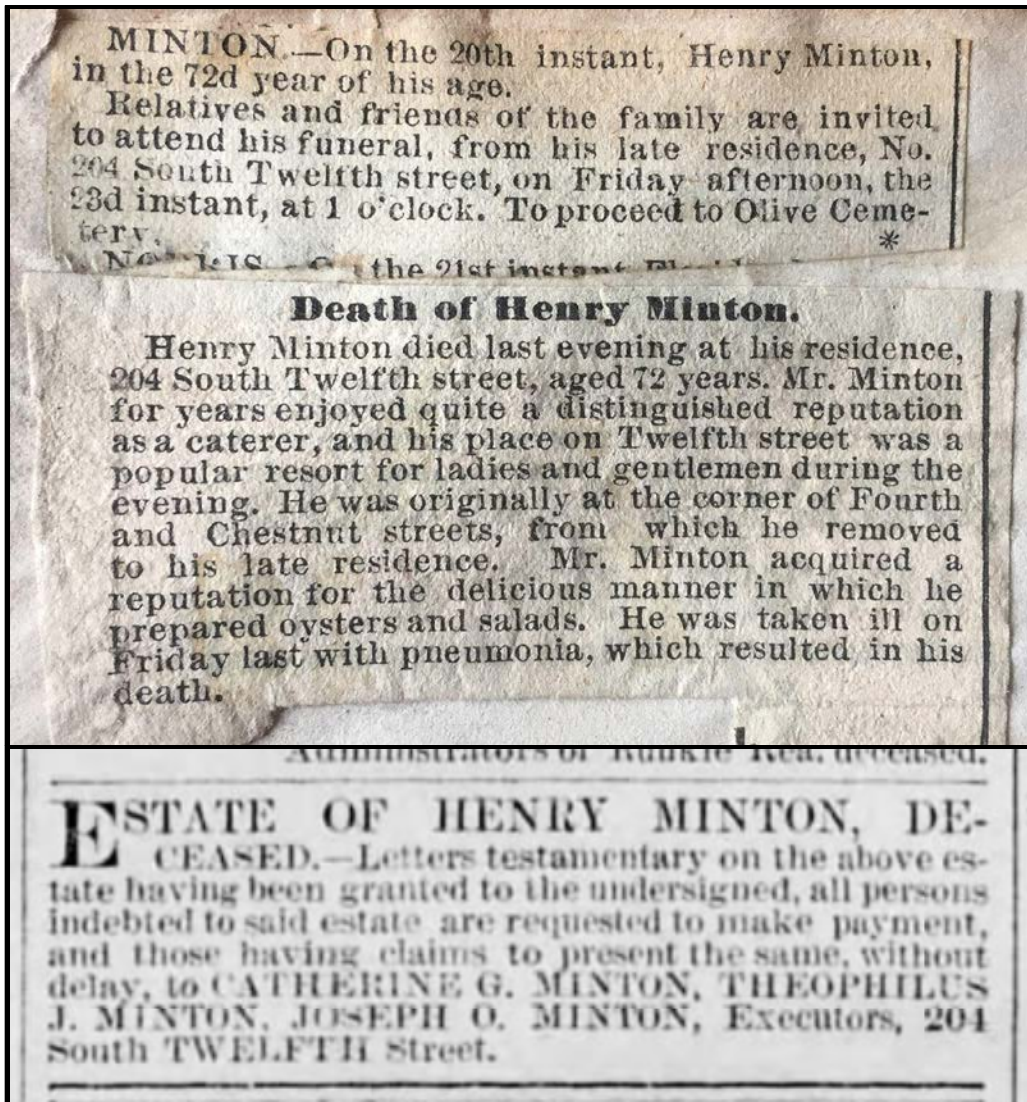
⁶⁶ *Addresses of the Hon. W.D. Kelley, Miss Anna E. Dickinson, and Mr. Frederick Douglass, At a Mass Meeting, Held at National Hall, Philadelphia, July 6, 1863, For the Promotion of Colored Enlistment* ([s.p.]: 1863?), 1.

⁶⁷ “Cotton Culture Near Philadelphia,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 6 September 1861, p. 8.

⁶⁸ “Cotton Grown in New Jersey,” *The Scientific American* 4 (1861): 151.

⁶⁹ “Jubilant! The Fifteenth Amendment, ‘John Brown’s Soul’ on Its Last Forced March,” *Daily Evening Telegraph*, 26 April 1870, 8.

⁷⁰ “Pennsylvania, Philadelphia City Death Certificates, 1803–1915.” Index. FamilySearch, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2008, 2010. From originals housed at the Philadelphia City Archives. “Death Records.” and *Find A Grave*. Find A Grave. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>; and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 22 March 1883, p. 3.



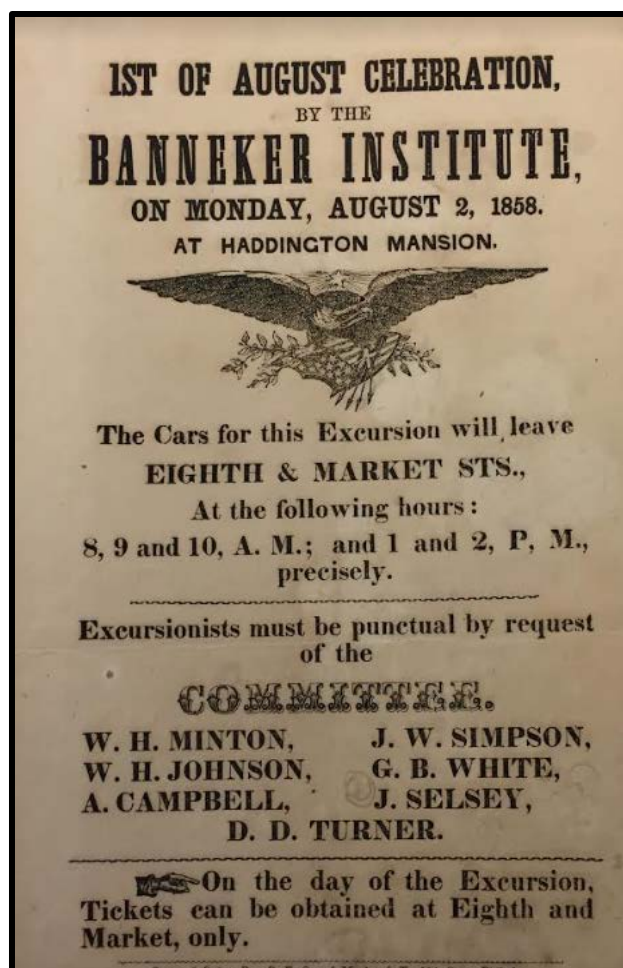
Top: *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*, 21 March 1883, Source: Dr. Russell F. Minton Papers, Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum of Philadelphia. Bottom: *The Times* (Philadelphia), 21 May 1883, p. 3. Source: Newspapers.com.

Catherine G. Minton would remain in residence at the subject property until the time of her death of “disease, debility of old age, and bronchial pneumonia” on Thursday, September 5, 1890 at 5:55 a.m.⁷¹ Her funeral took place the following Saturday at the subject property and the internment was in Olive Cemetery.⁷² Afterwards T.J. Minton would maintain his residence at that location until April 1893, when “No. 204 South Twelfth street, 18x100 feet” was sold to Thomas C. Kelly for \$13,000.⁷³

⁷¹ Information inscribed on the blank pages of the family bible, labeled, “Henry Minton Book,” From the Betty A. and Russell F. Minton Collection at the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum of Philadelphia.

⁷² “Minton.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 6 September 1890, p. 6.

⁷³ “Large Conveyances Noted,” *The Times* (Philadelphia), 27 April 1893, p. 3.



Billet announcing the “1st Day of August Celebration” by the Banneker Institute with a listing of committee members including William H. Minton, dated 1858. Source: Leon Gardner Collection, American Negro Historical Society Records, Collection No. 0008, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The Minton Family.

According to Historian Williard Gatewood, “families like the Fortens, Bustills, Mintons...secure in their lofty status, engaged in numerous efforts to ‘uplift’ the masses and advance the cause of civil rights for blacks.”⁷⁴

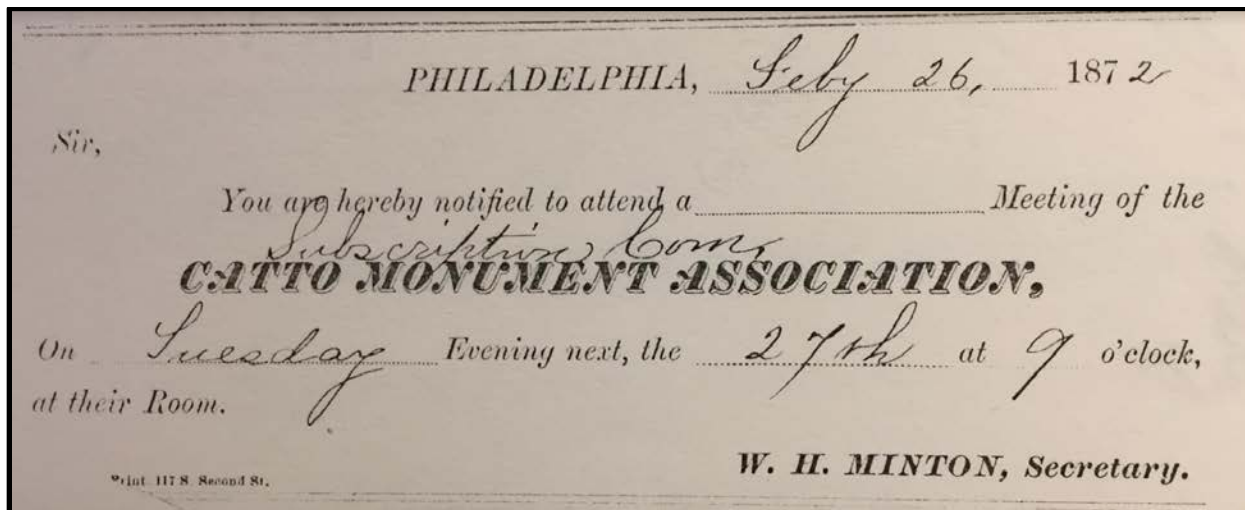
William H. Minton was, like his father, a man of many talents. Not only did he excel in the catering and restaurant business; he was also a flutist. By 1861, William H. Minton was involved with the Banneker Institute of Philadelphia, then serving on a committee with Octavius Catto.⁷⁵ In 1863 he served as Treasurer of the Banneker Institute alongside Catto, then Corresponding Secretary.⁷⁶ The close association with Catto can be seen by William’s presence at the post-mortem examination conducted after Catto’s murder. William requested the bullet that caused

⁷⁴ John Davies. Saint-Dominguan Refugees of African Descent and the Forging of Ethnic Identity in Early National Philadelphia, *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 134, No. 1 (April 2010), 109-126.

⁷⁵ *Christian Recorder*, 26 January 1861.

⁷⁶ *Christian Recorder*, 24 January 1863.

the fatal wound, which was still in his possession by the time of the trial in 1872.⁷⁷ After the murder, William H. Minton served as the Secretary of the Catto Monument Association in Philadelphia.⁷⁸



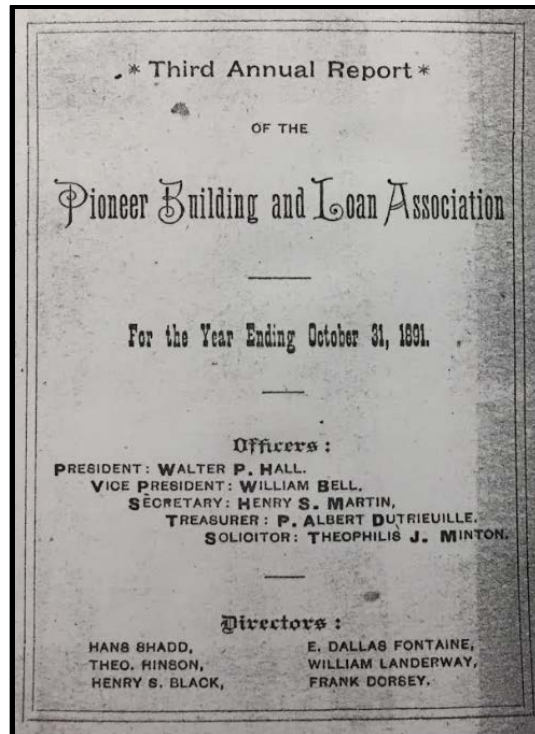
An announcement for the February 1872 meeting of the Catto Monument Association, signed by W.H. Minton, Secretary. Source: Leon Gardner Collection, American Negro Historical Society Records, Collection No. 0008, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Martha A. Farbeaux, wife of William H. Minton, was a native of South Carolina, and the daughter of Jacob Farbeaux, an artist from New York, and Catherine Perot, from South Carolina. Upon moving to Philadelphia, she began attending the Institute for Colored Youth in 1853, from which she was one of the early female graduates. After graduation she served as a teacher at her Alma Mater and, eventually, was Assistant to the Principal of the Bancker Institute.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ Henry H. Griffin, *The Trial of Frank Kelly, for the Assassination and Murder of Octavius V. Catto, on October 10, 1871* (Philadelphia, PA.: Daily Tribune Publishing Company, No. 1018 Lombard Street, ca. 1872), 5–9.

⁷⁸ References to the involvement of several members of the Minton family were found in Box 31G, containing various pamphlets, of the Leon Gardner Collection of the American Negro Historical Society Records, Collection No. 0008, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Accessed on 18 July 2018.

⁷⁹ “Martha A. Minton (née Farbeaux) (1838-1923).” <https://exhibits.library.villanova.edu/institute-colored-youth/graduates/martha-farbeaux/> Accessed 20 July 2018.



The Third Annual Report of the Pioneer Building and Loan Association, October 31, 1891, listing “Theophilus J. Minton” as the solicitor. Source: Leon Gardner Collection, American Negro Historical Society Records, Collection No. 0008, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Theophilus J. Minton was not only the first African American to graduate from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1872, but was likely the third African American to practice law in Philadelphia, being for many years the only attorney representing his race.⁸⁰ In addition, Theophilus J. Minton was a founding member and the first Vice President of the American Negro Historical Society of Philadelphia; served on the Finance Committee for the Industrial High School of Columbus, Georgia in the 1890s; was the official Solicitor for the African Colonial Enterprise in the late nineteenth century; and also was considered as a candidate for Philadelphia City Council in the 1890s.⁸¹ Theophilus J. Minton was locally active, being an early member of the Philadelphia Pythians, an early “Negro league” baseball club, founded in 1865.⁸²

Martha Virginia McKee (also referenced as *Allmond*) was an early female graduate of the Institute for Colored Youth.⁸³ She was the wife of Theophilus J. Minton.

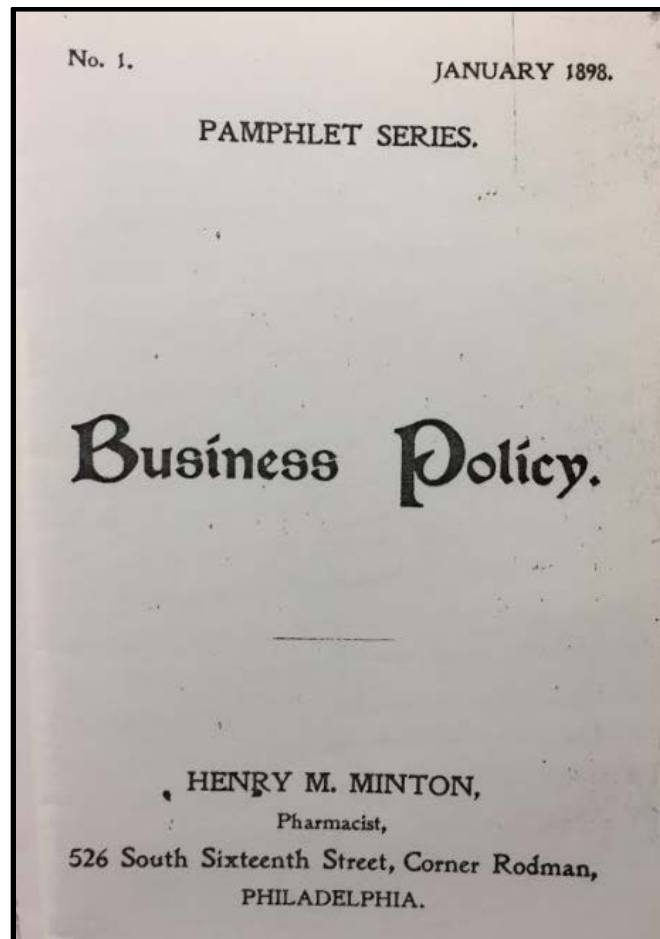
⁸⁰ Roger Lane, *Roots of Violence in Black Philadelphia, 1860-1900* (Harvard University Press, 1986), 33.

⁸¹ Records of the American Negro Historical Society of Philadelphia (1897-1904). “Mrs. A.C. Jackson,” published by the Finance Committee of the Industrial High School of Columbus, Georgia, 1897, “An Appeal Addressed to the Friends of the African Race,” Published by The African Colonial Enterprise. (Philadelphia: 20 February 1899), Gardiner Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania; “The Colored Voters,” *The Times* (Philadelphia), 10 September 1890, 1.

⁸² Philadelphia Pythians 1868 Roster. <https://exhibits.library.villanova.edu/institute-colored-youth/their-own-words/philadelphia-pythians-1868-roster/> Accessed on 10 July 2018.

⁸³ “Martha Virginia (Jennie) Minton.” <https://www.geni.com/people/Martha-Minton/6000000033185648215> Accessed on 20 July 2018.

Henry McKee Minton, “physician, founder and superintendent of a hospital,” was the grandson of Henry Minton and the son of Theophilus J. Minton and Martha Virginia McKee (referenced as Allmond). He attended the Academy at Howard University, and went on to earn a degree from Phillips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire in 1891.” After briefly attending the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he attended the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, earning his Ph.G. in 1895. “In 1897 Minton opened what may have been the first pharmacy owned by Negroes in Pennsylvania.” In 1902 he entered the Jefferson Medical College, from which he graduated with an M.D. in 1906, “becoming, as far as records reveal, the first Negro graduate of that institution.” In 1907, Minton, along with Eugene T. Hinson and Algernon B. Jackson, established Mercy Hospital. He became superintendent of Mercy Hospital in 1910 and remained in this position for twenty-four years.⁸⁴



The “Business Policy” of Henry M. Minton, Pharmacist. Source: Leon Gardner Collection, American Negro Historical Society Records, Collection No. 0008, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁸⁴ Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston. *Dictionary of American Negro Biography*. (W.W. Norton & Company, 1982), 440-41.

I have Resurveyed the Annexed described House & find the following alterations & additions made viz, the wooden Building mentioned in the survey has been removed, & a back building put up 14 feet by 28 feet 3 stories high, 9 inch walls, Privy 4 feet by 7 feet 2 stories high.

The Lower story in one room, the floor of sap pine moulded wash boards & plain double Architraves Kneeds, three 12 light windows the Glass 10 x 16, outside shutters, a marble slab, & basin & hydrant water,

The second story in two rooms & short passage, the floor of sap pine, moulded wash boards & Grecian mouldings, two 12 light windows the Glass 9 x 14, & one 16 light do in the ^{end} down to the floor all with Venetian shutters, the one in the end opens on to a Balcony 4 feet wide with a fancy Iron railing around the same & supported by 2 Iron brackets, this Balcony communicates with second story of the Privy,

The third story in two rooms, the floor of sap pine, moulded wash boards & Grecian mouldings, one large China Closet, in the partition of which is a 6 light window Glass 8 x 10 hung with hinges, a Bath Tub which is lined with lead in one of the rooms with hot & Cold water, three 12 light windows the Glass 10 x 12, Venetian shutters,

Kitchen in the Cellar in two rooms, the floor of sap pine, plain wash boards & Grecian mouldings, a dresser with doors & drawers, Kitchen Range & Boiler, Iron sink with hot & Cold water, & Stew holes, one Closet with folding doors, three 9 light windows the Glass 10 x 12. all the windows double hung & the Gas Pipes plastered in in the first & second stories, the first & second stories papered,

Policy No. 7554.

June 28th 1854 LOR Knight
Agreed to be correct.
H. Minton

Survey Policy No. 7554 for Henry Minton was finalized by the Philadelphia Contributionship on 28 June 1854.
Source: the Philadelphia Contributionship.



Looking south at the 200 block of South Twelfth Street below Walnut. The subject building at 200 South Twelfth Street is on the right. This photograph was taken in 1959. Source: DOR Archives.

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- Deed: Charles Short, of the city of Philadelphia, gentleman, and Rebecca, his wife, to Henry Minton, of the city of Philadelphia, waiter, for \$1,200, 15 May 1838, Philadelphia Deed Book (hereafter PDBk) S.H.F., No. 24, p. 291, City Archives of Philadelphia (hereafter CAP)
- Deed: Peter Wright, of the city of Philadelphia, merchant, and Mary A., his wife, to Henry Minton, of the city, refectory keeper, for \$4,800 and subject to a mortgage debt of \$3,000, 25 February 1853, PDBk T.H., No. 63, p. 510, CAP.
- Deed: Theophilus J. Minton, of the city of Philadelphia, attorney at law, Joseph O. Minton, of the same, school teacher, and Jennie A., his wife, and Martha F. Minton, guardian of the estate of Camilla C. Johnson and Howard L. Johnson, Jr., minor children of C. Virginia Johnson, deceased, to Thomas C. Kelly, of the same, restaurateur, for \$13,000, 24 April 1893, PDBk T.G., No. 279, p. 514, CAP.
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The following institutions and sites were used to create the nomination:

African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Ancestry.com

Free Library of Philadelphia

Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network

Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Newspapers.com

Proquest Historical Newspapers