

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 ON CD (MS WORD FORMAT)

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

Street address: **4908 Germantown Avenue** 4908-14 Germantown Avenue

Postal code: **19144**

Councilmanic District: **8**

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **The Wachsmuth-Henry House**

Common Name: **The Henry House**

3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Building

Structure

Site

Object

4. PROPERTY INFORMATION

Condition: excellent good fair poor ruins

Occupancy: occupied vacant under construction unknown

Current use: **Apartment House**

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a plot plan and written description of the boundary. **SEE ATTACHED SHEET.**

6. DESCRIPTION

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

Please attach a description of the historic resource and supplement with current photographs.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach the Statement of Significance. [See Attached Sheet]

Period of Significance (from year to year): from **1760 to 1899**

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: **1760 and 1819**

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

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

Original owner: **Miller**

Other significant persons: **John G. Wachsmuth; John S. Henry; and Alexander Henry**

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

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

- X (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
- X (c) Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or,
- X (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,
- X (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
- X (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

SEE ATTACHED SHEET.

9. NOMINATOR

Name with Title: **Oscar Beisert**

Organization: **Keeping Society of Philadelphia**

Email: Keeper@KeepingPhiladelphia.org

Date: **13 July 2016.**

Street Address: **1315 Walnut Street**

Telephone: **(717) 602-5002**

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

Nominators are not the property owners.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 15 July 2016

X Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete

Date: 22 July 2016

Date of Notice Issuance: 25 July 2016

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: Kinsman Corporation

Address: 2270 Locust Drive

City: Lansdale

State: PA

Postal Code: 19446

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

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: _____

Date of Final Action: _____

Designated

Rejected

4/11/13

Proposed for Historic Designation in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places



Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.



Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

**The Wachsmuth-Henry House
4908-4914 Germantown Avenue
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 1*

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The parcel and building portion subject to this nomination for the Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, is limited to the following boundaries:

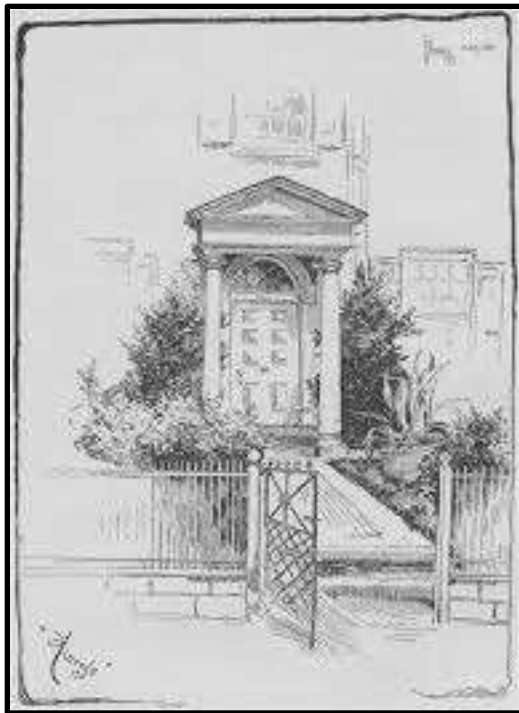
ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the large double two story stone house with Attic and stone stable building thereon erected,:BEGINNING at a corner formed by the Southwest side of Germantown Avenue and the Northwest side of West Logan Street; thence Northward along the said side of said Germantown Avenue, the 2 following courses and distances to wit; North 45 degrees 38 minutes West 29 feet 1/2 of an inch to a point and North 19 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds West, 98 feet, 3 3/4 inches to a point: thence South 10 degrees 19 minutes 30 seconds West, 200 feet to a point; thence South 19 degrees 10 minutes 30 seconds East 112 feet 8 5/8 inches to a point in the Northwest side of said West Logan Street; thence along the said side of said West Logan Street, North 15 degrees 1 minutes 13 seconds East, 198 feet 8 7/8 inches to a point in the Southwest side of said Germantown Avenue, being the place of beginning.

The property is known as Office of Property Assessment Account No.881059200.

Deed Registry No. 048N04-0155.



The boundary for the subject designation is outlined in red. Courtesy Philadelphia Water.



Doorway of the Henry House.
Courtesy the Free Library of Philadelphia



Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Wachsmuth-Henry House occupies a large lot opposite E. Logan Street. The property is fenced by a low stone wall.

One of the most venerable houses in Germantown Avenue, the Wachsmuth-Henry House stands two-and-one-half-stories with side-gables at 4908 Germantown Avenue. The building is a large Federal style mansion, as adapted from its more humble, but likely Georgian antecedents. Built in phases, the house appears too constructed entirely of Wissahickon schist and maintains a rough cast finish. For the purpose of this description the front portion of the house will be described as the Main Block, while the rear el will be described as such Rear El.

Facing north, the Main Block is six bays wide, standing upon a stone foundation. The first and second levels of the façade feature six apertures per floor that are symmetrical. The apertures on each floor pierce the façade in the following manner: (first floor) two windows, the primary entrance, and three windows; and (second floor) six windows. The windows on the first and second floor consist of replacement, faux six-over-six vinyl sash windows that appear to be set within the original architraves, also retaining the original sills. The primary entrance is within the southerly section of the façade, and the placement of this door makes it clear that the house was enlarged over time, existing prior to the Federal period. The

original Federal-period door is gone, despite its nominal fame, and an insensitive replacement is in its place. However, this door is within the arched, Federal period architrave, which consists of interior paneling, exterior moulding, key blocking and a central keystone at the nexus of the arch. Above the aforementioned door is the original, multi-pane Federal-period wooden fanlight, which likely opens on pivot at its base. An original wooden moulding separates transom and door. The doorway at the first floor is accessed by the base of the former Greek Revival style entrance porch. This feature consists of several slabs of marble that form three steps from ground to door. Iron hand rails have been added at each side of the entrance porch. On the northerly side of the base of the entrance porch is an early iron boot scraper.

Delineating the roofline is a heavy moulded cornice, which is partly obscured by gutters. The third, half-story within the pitch of the roof features four dormers. Based on six tiers of apertures, the first dormer is above the first tier; the second is above the third tier; and the third and fourth are center between the windows of the fourth, fifth, and six tiers. The dormers are decidedly Federal, given their arched openings; however, they are also gable front with returns that rest upon fluted pilasters that flank each aperture in the form of an architrave. It is highly unfortunate, but one must describe that the original arched windows within the dormers have downsized and infilled with plywood and smaller, inexpensive vinyl windows that fit the previous description. Large brick chimney stacks pierce the roof and rise above the ridgepole at each end of the building.

The northwest, side elevation of the building is the gable end. Because the gable end features two large chimney stacks within the roofline—one on each side of the apex of the roof, the northwest elevation has very few windows. This entire elevation is irregular as the house is essentially two-and-one-half-stories at the primary elevation and three-stories at the rear, which renders the length and pitch of the roof at the primary and rear elevations to be irregular. The gable-end is delineated by wooden moulding with returns. The first floor retains no apertures. The second floor retains two apertures one on each side of the chimney stacks near the front and rear corners, featuring original or period-appearing wooden sash windows of a six-over-over configuration set within wooden architraves with original sills. Between the chimney stacks is a small opening, featuring its original or period-appearing wooden sash window with a six-over-six configuration set within the original wooden architrave with an original sill. The same window is repeated near the rear corner. Just below the apex of the gable-end is a fanlight that may or may not contain its original or period-appearing Federal-style window. The wooden architrave has been retained, featuring a keystone and original sill.

The southwest elevation at the rear of the Main Block is three full floors. The symmetrical fenestration features three windows per floor. Almost all of the window fabric is original or period-appearing wooden sash with a six-over-six configuration, featuring original wooden architraves with original sills. At the

southerly bay, third from the corner the top two windows are used as exit points and a metal fire escape extends from those windows to the ground floor. This elevation also features a heavy moulded cornice delineating the roof. A large rectangular brick chimney pierces the roofline at the northerly end of the gable end within this elevation of the roof. At the southerly end of the third bay, but within this elevation, is an original or period-appearing, but small chimney. The Rear El also begins at this point, forming a ninety degree angle.

Above the Rear El, but within the rear elevation of the Main Block, is a single dormer. The dormer is a large, gable-front projection. Beyond the Rear El, the rear elevation of the Main Block is a slight, single bay in width, featuring one aperture per floor. Both of these have been reconfigured, but feature early twentieth century fabric. The southwest, rear elevation is only two-and-one-half-stories in this section of the Main Block. Within the roofline of the Main Block is another irregular dormer that forms a door. The dormer is gable-front and located quite close to the roofline indicating an early use as a door. A large, rectangular brick chimney pierces the roofline much like the northerly gable-end.

The southeast, side elevation of the building is the gable end. Because the gable-end features two large chimney stacks within the roofline—one on each side of the apex of the roof, the northwest elevation has very few windows. All of the windows in this elevation are between the two chimneys, indicating that the house is double pile. Aligned with the windows along the primary elevation, there are two windows per floor, which are seemingly aligned, aside from an alteration at the second floor to make a door. The third floor features two smaller windows. All of the existing windows feature original or period-appearing wooden sash windows of a six-over-over configuration set within wooden architraves with original sills. The gable-end is delineated by wooden moulding with returns. Between the chimney stacks and just below the apex of the gable-end is a fanlight that may or may not contain its original or period-appearing Federal-style window. The wooden architrave has been retained, featuring a keystone and original sill.

The southeast, primary elevation of the Rear El is two-and-one-half-stories, featuring roughly six bays in width. The Rear El is a sumptuous addition. Its six bay width features a full length porch at the ground floor that was clearly amplified by the Henrys in later years or by the Ambler family upon purchase. It is a deep porch held up by pairs of Doric columns and fluted pilasters that are mirrored along the primary elevation. Within the covered porch are wooden sash two windows with six-over-eight light configurations. These windows are set within their original or period-appearing architraves with sills. These are the only two windows that retain the original paneled shutters. Beyond this pair is a three-part mullion window that is likely from the Ambler period of ownership. This is a curved aperture featuring a large arched transom with a large wooden sash window flanked by smaller, like-windows all of which have a one-over-over configuration. Beyond the large window

is a large double door opening with a multi-panel screen door and a paneled set of wooden doors beyond.

Carriage House

The Carriage House is an important and contributing element of the proposed designation because it is one of a small collection of extant carriage houses and/or stables associated with houses on Germantown Avenue.

Recessed from the Wachsmuth-Henry House at the west corner of the lot, the Carriage House is a multi-part, irregular building of load bearing, stone masonry construction with a rough cast finish. The building appears to have been built in phases, which is based on a central, two-story rectangular section, running northwest to southeast. This central section features a relatively low-slung, hipped roof with an overhang of one or two feet. The roof is clad in brown asphalt shingles. The stump of a cupola appears at the center of the roof. The primary, northeast elevation of the two-story section features limited apertures, as much of its façade is dedicated to a one-story section that extends to the northeast. The one-story section is off-center, occupying roughly two-thirds of the façade to the northwest. This configuration leaves a section of the façade at the southeast, which features a single pedestrian entrance. This is a reconfiguration of the former arched carriageway that once occupied this portion of the façade. A six-over-eight wooden sash window set within its original architrave is directly above the door. The one-story section is roughly three bays deep with a hipped roof that extends from the northeast façade of the two-story section. The hipped roof is clad in slate with copper flashing along the joints. At the west corner of the one-story section is a small, square chimney that pierces the eave rising above by four or five feet. A single pedestrian entrance is near the east corner within the northeast elevation of the one-story section. The entrance features a wooden door with paneling at the lower half and a six-light configuration above. Northwest of that within the northeast elevation is an unsympathetic one-story addition with a flat roof with no apertures. Additional one-story sections append the east and south elevations of the two-story section.

Physical Integrity

Using standards of the National Register of Historic Places as a system of measurement, the Wachsmuth-Henry House retains integrity of association, design, location, materials, setting, and workmanship sufficient to convey its historical significance.



Looking west. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 8*



Looking southeast. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking at the base of the marble entrance porch and the famous columns. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking at a detail of the iron boot scraper set upon the marble base of the entrance porch. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking north with the stone wall at the Germantown Avenue property line. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 11*



Looking northwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northeast, note that the rear elevation of the building is a full three stories with many original and/or older wooden sash windows. A single dormer pierces the rear roof. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 12*



Looking east. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northeast at the rear of the massive rear el. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 13*



Looking north at the rear el of the house with the larger house beyond. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 14*



Looking north at the rear el and its porch. Note that the main house is only two full stories at this elevation. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 15*



Looking northwest at the massive rear elevation and its porch. Note many of the features at this elevation have been replaced. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest within the porch of the rear elevation. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 16*



Looking northwest within the porch of the rear el. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking north within the window well at the southeast facing elevation of the main house. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northwest at the upper floor and gable of the southeast facing elevation.
Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking west at the rear el. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest at the stable. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northwest at the stable. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northwest at a multi-light industrial metal window within the stable. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Standing in the front hall of the main house, the lobby retains much of its original features. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Standing on the landing between the second and third floors, many original details exist. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking west, the stable is visible beyond the original details of the interior. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Federal period staircase details. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



An early mantle is present in one of the rooms. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking north at the corner of Germantown Avenue and W. Logan Street. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1890 by Marriot C. Morris. Courtesy the Library Company of Philadelphia.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The building is eligible for listing under the following Criteria for Designation, as per 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;*
- (c) *Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style;*
- (d) *Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style;*
- (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;*
- (j) *Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.*

The Period of Significance is 1760 to 1899.¹

¹ The period of significance may extend beyond 1899 into the ownership of the Ambler family; however, it was not within the scope of this work to explore that part of the historical significance.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House by John Richards, ca. 1875. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

CRITERION A

The Wachsmuth-Henry House at 4908 Germantown Avenue has significant character, interest and value representing the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of Germantown and Philadelphia, being a house that was originally constructed about 1760 and evolved to the present form as it was when it passed from the Henry to the Ambler family in 1899. The house was first enlarged by the widow Sophia Wood; then by John Gottfried Wachsmuth; then by John Snowden Henry; and finally by the Ambler family. The extant house and its evolution over time represents the cultural, political, economic, social and historical heritage of Germantown Avenue, Germantown, and Philadelphia, as an important eighteenth-century house that was dramatically enlarged in the nineteenth century as dictated the wealth of its owners and the aesthetic fashions of the various periods of its growth.



Unknown house on Germantown Avenue that represents how the Wachsmuth-Henry House may have evolved over time to its present form. By John Richard, mid-nineteenth century. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Historic Context: Construction History of the Wachsmuth-Henry House

The property that the Wachsmuth-Henry House sits on today is part of a one-acre tract of land that was created out of the original Germantown side lots in 1734. Bernhard Reser sold off one acre on the southwest side of the Germantown Main Street to Johannes Legerum/Legram in May 1734 for £15.² The property was likely unimproved.³ Legerum is variously described as currier, tanner or white tanner.⁴ He came to Pennsylvania in 1728 and likely settled in Germantown soon after his arrival.⁵ With Logan's Run coursing through the rear of the property, the one-acre lot was the ideal location for him to build a house and set up his tanning business which required ready access to water for its vats. His enjoyment of the property was short lived. He died around March 1738 leaving a wife, Anna Margaretha, and four children. He named his neighbors, Bernhard Reser and Johannes Bechtel, as the executors of his estate and gave them power to sell his house.⁶ Likely in order to raise money to help support the widow and children, the executors of the sold the house and lot in July 1738 to their neighbor to the southwest, John Ulrick Hageman

² Deeds of Lease and Release: Bernhard Reser, of Germantown, baker, & Elizabeth, his wife, to John Legram, of Gemantown, currier, 16 & 17 May 1734, Philadelphia Deed Book I.W., No. 3, p. 286, City Archives of Philadelphia (CAP).

³ The deed has no reference buildings on the lot.

⁴ Frederick S. Weiser and Debra D. Smith, *St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church Germantown (now part of Philadelphia) Pennsylvania, 1745 – 1841* (Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, 2000), 2:5.

⁵ Ralph Beaver Strassburger and John Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers* (Norristown: Pennsylvania German Society, 1934), 1:18–19.

⁶ Will of Johannes Legerum. Will Book F., p. 64, Philadelphia Register of Wills.

for £135.⁷ In March 1739 Hageman sold the property along with rights to a six-foot road on the southwest side to Johann Peter Müller/Miller.

Johann Peter Müller, Sr., was a shoemaker who came with his family to America in 1738 or earlier from either Mannheim, present-day Germany, or Neu-Saarwerden in the Grafschaft of Nassau-Saarwerden, present-day Neuf-Sarrewerden, France.⁸ Though originally German Reformed, Müller fell under the influence of the Moravians and was active in their church in the 1740s. He was one of eight Germantown residents who went to Bethlehem in 1746 to request the Moravian elders to establish a boarding school for boys and girls in Germantown.⁹ Four years earlier, his daughter Magdalena, who later married Johann Wilhelm Zander, was one of the teachers in the first Moravian school in Pennsylvania that was established in Germantown.¹⁰ The one-acre house and lot on Germantown Avenue was the home for him and his family of three boys and two girls. He died in 1754 and left his Germantown property under the control of his executors, wife Mary and son Peter, Jr., until his son John reaches the age of twenty-one, at which time all his real estate was to be sold.¹¹

The house of Johann Peter Müller, Sr. came into the possession of his son Peter Müller, Jr., in June 1760. Following the provisions of his father's will, Peter and his mother sold the property to John William Hoffman on June 6 and four days later Hoffman sold property directly to Peter for £240.¹² It is quite possible that a portion the subject building was built around or shortly after this transfer. The oral tradition that survived to the 1880s stated that the house was built around 1760.¹³

⁷ Deed: Bernhard Reser, of Germantown, baker, and Johannes Bechtel, of Germantown, turner, executors of Johannes, alias John, Legram, late of of Germantown, tanner, to John Ulrick Hageman, of Germantown, yeoman, Philadelphia Deed Book I.W., No. 3, p. 283, CAP; Release of the widow Anna Margareta Legram, dated 18 July 1738, Philadelphia Deed Book I.W., No. 2, 385.

⁸ Strassburger and Hinke, *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, 1:198–202. The conflicting information on the family origins stem from the biographical accounts of his son Peter (see below).

⁹ Mabel Haller, "Early Moravian Education in Pennsylvania," *Transactions of the Moravian Historical Society* 15 (1953): 171.

¹⁰ Haller, "Early Moravian Education in Pennsylvania," 171. Magdalena died on her way to present-day Berbice, Guiana where she and her husband were sent as missionaries. She was the first woman to be married in Bethlehem at a ceremony officiated by Count Zinzendorf (Clarence E. Beckel, editor, "Marriage Records of the Bethlehem Moravian Congregation with Supplementary Biographical Material, 1742–1892," 2003, Register No. 1, 1742).

¹¹ Will of Peter Miller, of Germantown, cordwainer, dated 6 November 1753, proved 4 May 1754, Will Book K, p. 151, Philadelphia Register of Wills.

¹² Deed: Mary Miller, of Germantown, widow of John Peter Miller, late of Germantown, cordwainer, and Peter Miller, city, gentleman, executors of John Peter Miller, to John William Hoffman, city, merchant, 6 June 1760, Philadelphia Deed Book I.W., No. 2, p. 592, CAP; Deed: John William Hoffman, of the city, merchant, to Peter Miller, of the city, gentleman, 9 June 1760,

¹³ Townsend Ward, "The Germantown Road and Its Associations," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 5 (1881): 252.

Peter Miller, Jr., was a scrivener and conveyancer as well as a printer and justice of the peace active in Philadelphia from the 1760s to the 1790s. He was born around 1727 in either Mannheim or Neu-Saarwerden.¹⁴ The following account from 1812, provides some information regarding his early years in Germantown:

Peter Miller (says Jacob Rittenhouse, the blind [McCulloch's informant]) was probably from Germany, for when at school, at 16 or 18 years of age, he could scarcely speak a word of English. He used to bring Dutch cheese to school for dinner. The pedagogue avowed a mortal antipathy to the smell of that species of food, and would send Peter out of school to eat his dinner, which, he said, stank enough to knock a horse down. The boys had many a laugh about his Dutch cheese. He was called, from a deformity of eye, Squinting Peter.¹⁵

Perhaps because of his physical disability, Peter chose a profession that did not require manual labor. After his schooling, Peter clerked for Charles Brockden, a fellow Moravian who was the Philadelphia County Recorder of Deeds and the Master of Rolls for the Province of Pennsylvania from 1715 to 1767. He also worked briefly as a bookseller in Germantown.¹⁶ A year before his father's death in 1754, Peter moved from Germantown to the City of Philadelphia with his wife Elizabeth Richardson, whom he married in 1752, and started his own business as scrivener and conveyancer.¹⁷ He had a partnership in the business for many years with Ludwig Weiss. Miller and Weiss also had a brief period as German language printers in Philadelphia starting in 1759.¹⁸ In one of his publications he placed an advertisement that read: "Peter Miller, in Second Street, at the sign of the hand and pen, where he writes deeds, &c agreeably to the best forms."¹⁹ Miller received his first commission as a Justice of the Peace in 1772 and would hold this position for many years.²⁰ He had some difficulty during the American Revolution because of his

¹⁴ William McCullough and Clarence S. Brigham, "William McCulloch's Additions to Thomas's History of Printing," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, n.s., 31 (1921): 197; Oswald Seidensticker, *Erster Teil der Geschichte der Deutschen Gesellschaft von Pennsylvanien: Von der Gründung im Jahre 1764 bis zur Jubelfeier der Republik 1876* (Philadelphia: I. Kohler, Schäfer & Konradi, 1876), 291.

¹⁵ McCullough and Brigham, "William McCulloch's Additions," 197.

¹⁶ *Pennsylvanische Geschichts-Schreiber*, November 1, 1751, p. 1.

¹⁷ *Pennsylvanische Geschichts-Schreiber*, April 1, 1753, p. 1. The newspaper advertisement states: Peter Müller der Jüngere, Herrnn Carl Brockdons gewesener Schreiber, macht bekant, daß er von Germanton nach Philadelphia gezogen, und neben Herrn Clem dem Orgelmacher, in der Second-Straße, wohnet, allwo er allerhand Englische und Deutsche Schrifften übersezt, auch Deeds, Mortgages, Bonds, Last Wills oder Testamenten, &c. schreibt. [*Peter Müller, Jr., Mr. Charles Brockdon's former clerk, makes known that he has moved from Germantown to Philadelphia and lives next to Mr. Clem the organ maker in the Second Street, where he translates all types of English and German letters, also writes deeds, mortgages, bonds, last will or testaments, etc.*]. Elizabeth may have been from a local Quaker family but they were married at St. Michael's and Zion Lutheran Church.

¹⁸ Oswald Seidensticker, *The First Century of German Printing in America, 1728-1830* (Philadelphia: Schaefer & Koradi, 1893), 52.

¹⁹ McCullough and Brigham, "William McCulloch's Additions," 197.

²⁰ John Hill Martin, *Martin's Bench and Bar of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: R. Welsh & Co., 1883), 34.

well-known loyalty to the Penn family (one of his daughters was named Juliana Penn Miller) and the fact that he remained in the City during the British occupation. He was, however, exonerated of a treason charge in 1779.²¹ He continued to work in Philadelphia for the remainder of this life. The Philadelphia deed books from this period are replete with deeds that bear his signature either as a witness or justice of the peace. Sometime in the 1790s he suffered from a stroke and was indefinitely bedridden. He died in February 1794 and was buried in the Friends Burying Ground at 4th and Arch Streets.²²

One of the most important accomplishments of Peter Miller was his participation the founding of the German Society of Pennsylvania in 1764. He served as the vice president of the Society from 1764 to 1772 and as counsellor from 1787 to 1789.²³ There is no clear documentation on how Peter Miller used his family house in Germantown prior to 1766, but after that date the Provincial tax lists offer some information. In 1767 he rented the house for £12 a year to John Miller, probably his brother.²⁴ Two years later he was probably using the house for himself because he was only taxed for “a House in Germantown” but in subsequent years the house is rented out.²⁵ Miller and his wife finally sell the house in 1781 to a Germantown resident, John Lamb.²⁶ According to the county tax records for the 1780s, Lamb lived in his house until around 1792, when he purchased a house on the east side of Germantown Avenue a short distance above the subject property.²⁷ For the remaining six years the house was a rental property. In April 1799, Lamb signed over the deed for the property to George Duy, a Germantown shoemaker.²⁸ Duy was renting the property from Lamb as early as 1796 probably took possession of the property at time prior to the sale because the property appears under his name in the 1798 Direct Tax.

²¹ McCullough and Brigham, “William McCulloch’s Additions,” 199; *Pennsylvania Journal*, December 22, 1779, p. 2.

²² *Philadelphia Gazette and Universal Daily Advertiser*, February 19, 1794, p. 3.

²³ Seidensticker, *The First Century of German*, 291.

²⁴ Tenth Eighteen Penny Provincial Tax On the Inhabitants of the City and County of Philadelphia, Pa., 1767, 189 verso (Mulberry Ward), University of Pennsylvania Library.

²⁵ 1769: Pennsylvania Tax and Exoneration Records, Philadelphia 1769, 210 verso (Mulberry Ward), Pennsylvania State Archives (hereafter PSA); 1772: “A Transcript of the Fifteenth Eighteen Penny Provincial Tax Assessed the 13th Day of March 1772 for the City and County of Philadelphia,” 131 verso (Mulberry Ward), Historical Society of Pennsylvania; 1774: rented to Philip Verner, Pennsylvania Tax and Exoneration Records, Philadelphia 1774, 159 recto (Mulberry Ward), PSA; 1779: rented to Peter Verner, Pennsylvania Tax and Exoneration Records, Philadelphia 1779, p. 62 (Germantown Township), PSA; 1780: rented to Adam Verner, Pennsylvania Tax and Exoneration Records, Philadelphia 1779, p. 74 (Germantown Township), PSA

²⁶ Deed: Peter Miller, of the city, esquire, and Elizabeth, his wife to John Lamb, of Germantown, hosier, 1 October 1781, Philadelphia Deed Book D., No. 3, p. 362, CAP.

²⁷ Deed: George Happel, of the city, victualler, and Catharine, his wife, to John Lamb, of Germantown, hosier, 29 March 1792, Philadelphia Deed Book D., No. 35, p. 164, CAP.

²⁸ Deed: John Lamb, of Germantown, stocking weaver, and Mary, his wife, to Georg Duy, 10 April 1799, Philadelphia Deed Book D., No. 75, p. 81, CAP.



Plan of property owners in 1798 and dates of purchase. Courtesy of J.M. Duffin

The 1798 Direct Tax describes the buildings on the property as follows:

- 2 story stone house, 27 by 21 feet with 3 windows and 45 lights²⁹
- 1 frame stable, 21 by 14 feet³⁰

It is not clear if the house was one or two stories. One schedule lists it as one another two. The 1796 Philadelphia County tax list for Germantown Township describes the house as “1 One Story Dwell’g.”³¹

George Duy and his wife sell the house in 1805 to Sophia Wood of the City of Philadelphia.³² Sophia Wood was the widow of Andrew Wood, Jr., a currier, who lived in the city. Andrew was a member of the Wood (originally Holtz) family of Roxborough. He married Sophia sometime in the 1770s and they had four children, three of whom were baptized at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church in Germantown.³³ Andrew died in the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793.³⁴ He left a modest estate with personal property valued at £1,975 and £112 in bank stock and ground rent income.³⁵ Sophia remained in the city after Andrew’s death and is listed in the city

²⁹ Schedule No. 1, entry 247; Schedule A, entry 103.

³⁰ Schedule B, entry 80.

³¹ Philadelphia County Tax Assessment, 1796, Germantown Township, p. 31, Philadelphia City Archives.

³² Deed: George Duy, of Germantown, cordwainer, and Elizabeth, his wife, to Sophia Wood, of the City, widow, 8 June 1805, Philadelphia Deed Book I.C., No. 23, p. 581, CAP.

³³ Frederick S. Weiser and Debra D. Smith, *St. Michael’s Evangelical Lutheran Church Germantown (now part of Philadelphia) Pennsylvania, 1745–1841* (Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, 2000), 1: 128, 134, 156.

³⁴ Matthew Carey, *A Short Account of the Malignant Fever, Lately Prevalent in Philadelphia*, 4 ed. (Philadelphia: M. Carey, 1794), 159.

³⁵ Estate of Andrew Wood, Jr. Administration File No. 156 of 1793, Philadelphia Register of Wills.

directories of the period as shopkeeper and keeper of a boarding house.³⁶ By 1810, the federal census shows that Sophia moved to Germantown and was living in the house she purchased from George Duy. In 1811 she expanded the original house. The 1811 county tax assessment described the property as:

Widow Wood's Est.	
1 1/8 Acres land	[\$]210
1-1 St[ory]. St[one]. House	400
1-2 St[ory]. St[one]. House & Kitchen Unfinished	1800
1 horse	30
1 cow	10
1 dog ³⁷	

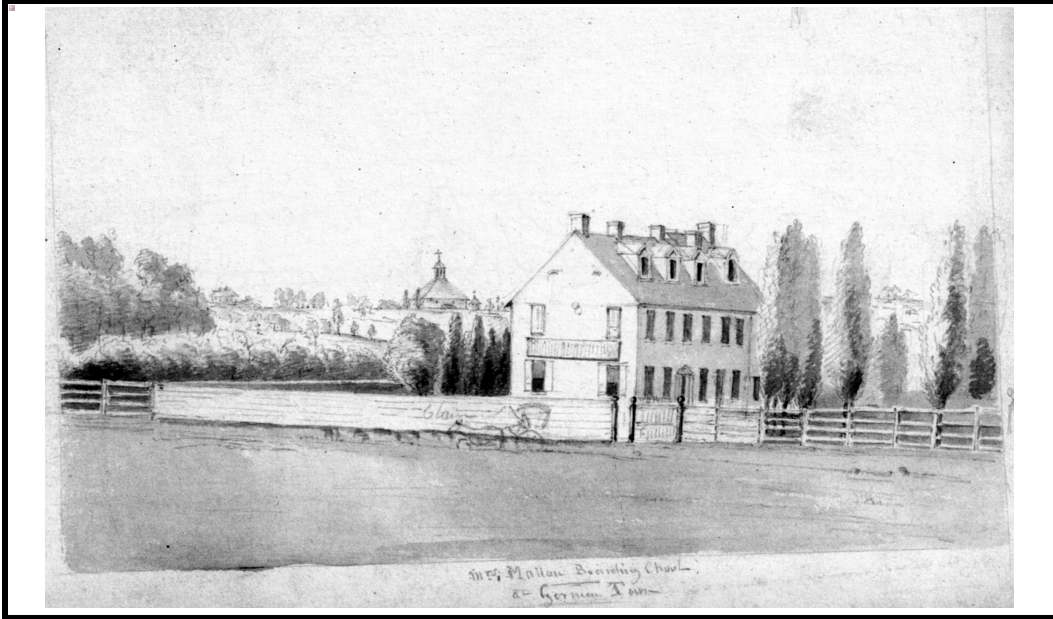
The next surviving tax list from 1818, records the following:

Widow Wood's Est.	
1 Acr[e] & 1/8 land	[\$]200
2 St[ory] House	2200
Kitchen	500
Barn	150
Smoke house	10
1 horse	30
1 dog ³⁸	

³⁶ The 1798 city directory lists her at 92 Race Street as a shopkeeper and in 1803 at the same address.

³⁷ Philadelphia County Tax Assessment, 1811, Germantown Township, p. 32, Philadelphia City Archives.

³⁸ Philadelphia County Tax Assessment, 1818, Germantown Township, p. 32, Philadelphia City Archives.



“Mrs. Mallon Boarding S[c]hool at German Town.” Likely the Wachsmuth-Henry House taken about 1825 by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. In the background is the massive barn of the Clapier Estate, which survived through the McKean ownership of that property and provides context for the subject building.

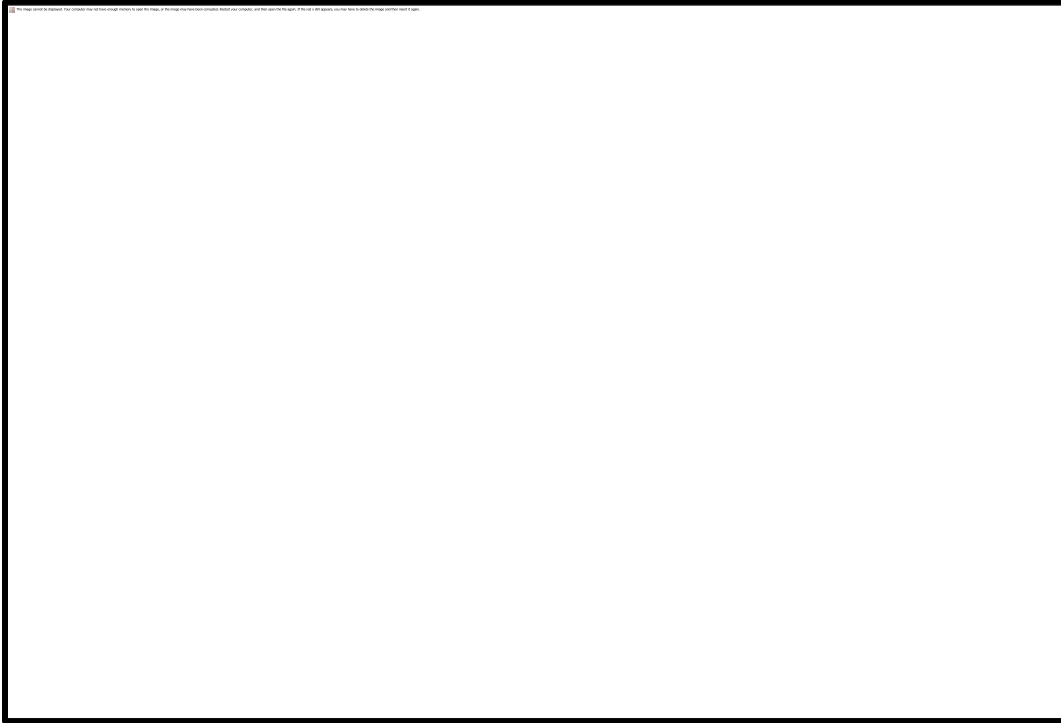
On November 15, 1819, John G. Wachsmuth, the eminent merchant, and his wife Mrs. Catharine M. Dutilh, the widow of Étienne Dutilh, purchased the subject house at 4908 Germantown Avenue from Sophia Wood. Mr. Wachsmuth paid \$9,000 for the house and its associated grounds, “one acre and one perch and one quarter...,” which he likely improved shortly after his purchase.³⁹ According to local oral tradition, which is first recorded in the 1880s, Wachsmuth and Dutilh renovated the house to its present state. The Wachsmuths and the Dutilhs appear to have occupied the house between 1819 and 1824. A drawing taken about 1825 by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur confirms that the house stood almost exactly as it does today during the ownership of John G. Wachsmuth.⁴⁰ However, it is clear from the caption of the drawing, “Mrs. Mallon Boarding [S]chool at German Town,” that Mr. Wachsmuth leased the house to Mrs. Mallon after his wife's death in 1824. The drawing by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur in 1825 shows the six-bay façade with the characteristic off-center entrance, as well as the disproportionate number and placement of dormers, the same configuration as today. The entrance porch does not appear to be present in the drawing. A second drawing from showing the rear of the building was taken about 1825 by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. This drawing shows the phased construction of the building, as well as the location of the carriage

³⁹ Deed: Sophia Wood, of Germantown Township, widow, to John Godfried Wachsmuth, of the City of Philadelphia, merchant, 15 November 1819, Philadelphia Deed Book I.W., No. 4, p. 52, CAP.

⁴⁰ Jacqueline Bonnemain, *Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, En Amérique du Nord (1816–1837)*, Annales du Muséum du Havre 55 (Havre: Muséum du Havre, Nov. 1997), dossier 40, planches, no. 46.

house or stable immediately adjacent to the north of the house. This building is no longer extant.⁴¹

John G. Wachsmuth died in 1828. Soon after, the Wachsmuth-Henry House was sold by the executors of the Estate of John G. Wachsmuth to John S. Henry on December 2, 1828.⁴²



"Mallon Board School à Germantown." The Wachsmuth-Henry House taken about 1825 by Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. Note, this drawing, when compared to the current house, provides insight about the staged construction of the house, showing at least three possible phases. The stable was then located closer to the house with a shed roof as is shown in the Richard sketch. The Wachsmuth-Henry House was then a rural scene.

⁴¹ Bonnemain, *Charles-Alexandre Lesueur, En Amérique du Nord*, no. 49.

⁴² Deed: John Bohlen, Charles Graff, and Jacob Segler, Junior, executors of the Will John Godfried Wachsmuth, late of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant, to John S. Henry, of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant, 2 December 1828, Philadelphia Deed Book G.W.R., No. 24, p. 650, CAP.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1900. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.

John S. Henry and his family appear to have first occupied the Wachsmuth-Henry House as early as soon as their purchase. However, it is probable that their residence did not begin until the New Year. While the former owner appears to have enlarged the house to its present size, it is likely the Henry family improved the house with various Greek Revival flourishes, which only exist in part today. A marble-step and entrance porch appears to have been added to the doorway, which served the primary entrance of the house after 1828, but only the base of this feature survives. The Lesueur drawing does not appear to show the entrance porch as being present and the application of this feature is most likely after 1828. The stable was added and greatly enlarged by the Henry family between 1828 and 1889.⁴³ The Henrys remained in the house for over seventy years and it was in this house that Alexander Henry, the eminent Mayor of Philadelphia, and T. Charlton Henry, among the other Henry children were raised in the latter part of their formative years.⁴⁴

⁴³ G.W. Bromley and Company, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Volume 7, 22nd Ward* (Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley and Company, 1889).

⁴⁴ A significance statement and biography is attached regarding Alexander Henry. While T. Charlton Henry is also likely significant as being associated with the Wachsmuth-Henry House, an exploration into this topic was not within the scope of this work.



Illustration from the newspaper article, "An Interesting House," in which the change of ownership is described by an unknown source, likely about 1899. Courtesy the Jane Campbell Scrapbook at the Germantown Historical Society.

In 1899, the Wachsmuth-Henry House was sold by Theodosia Bayard Henry, the spinster daughter of John S. Henry, to Elizabeth B. Ambler, the wife of William S. Ambler.⁴⁵ Apparently, historic-minded Germantowners were concerned that the Amblers would alter the appearance of the house, but the following newspaper article indicates that this concern was soon relived:

Indeed as the alterations show the old house is still very well preserved. It stands back some distance from the street front by a beautiful lawn.

Dr. Ambler says that he does not, if possible, mean to alter the appearance of the house in any way.

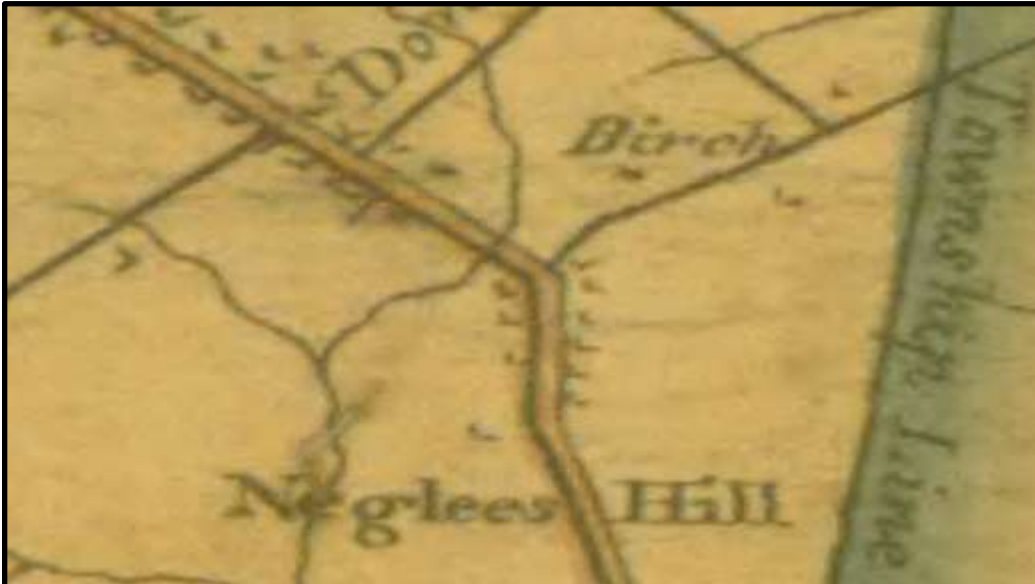
The "Henry House" is known to nearly every one in Germantown on account of its water supply, for the old pump, recently taken away, was patronized by a great many.⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Deed: Theodosia Bayard Henry, single woman, to Elizabeth B. Ambler, wife of William S. Ambler, 14 November 1899, Philadelphia Deed Book J.V., No. 119, p. 57, CAP.

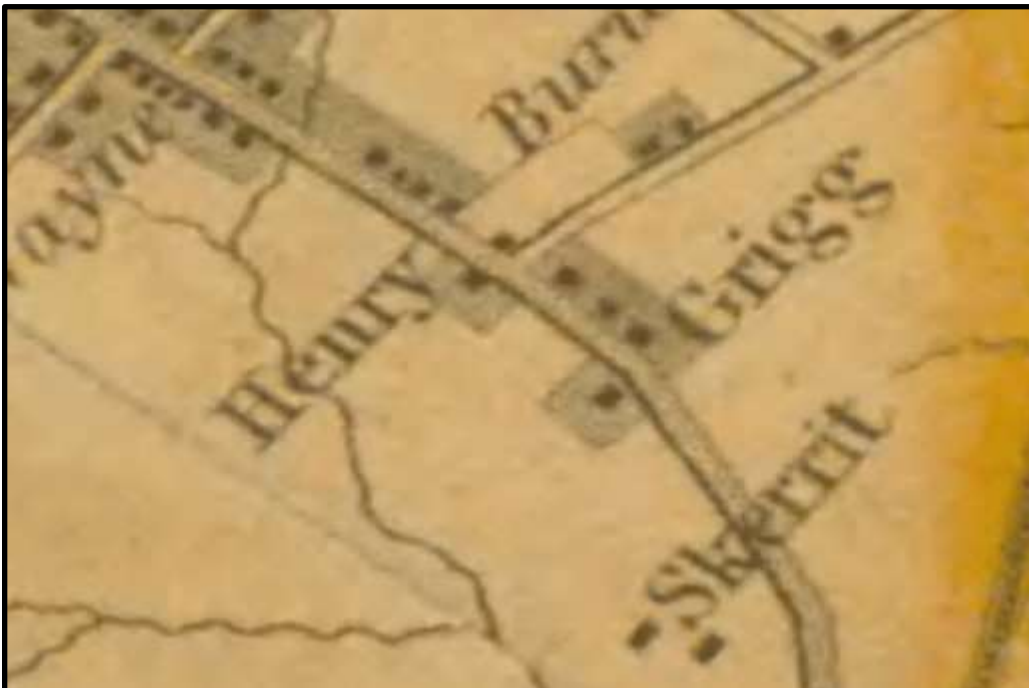
⁴⁶ "An Interesting House, One of Germantown's Historic Dwellings Undergoing Repairs, Once Famous for Its Pump," Publication unknown. (Philadelphia: ca. 1899), Germantown Historical Society.

The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 37

The house passed to the children of the Amblers and the family retained the place until 1980. William S. Ambler, Sr. sold the house to Henry House, LLC. in 1980.⁴⁷



The Wachsmuth-Henry House in 1808. Map of Philadelphia and Vicinity in 1808. By Charles Ellet, Jr. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



⁴⁷ Deed: William S. Ambler, Jr., executor of the Will of John D. Ambler, and William S. Ambler, Jr., widower, to Henry House, Inc., A Pennsylvania Corporation, 18 June 1980, Philadelphia Deed Book E.W.R., No. 107, p. 296, CAP.

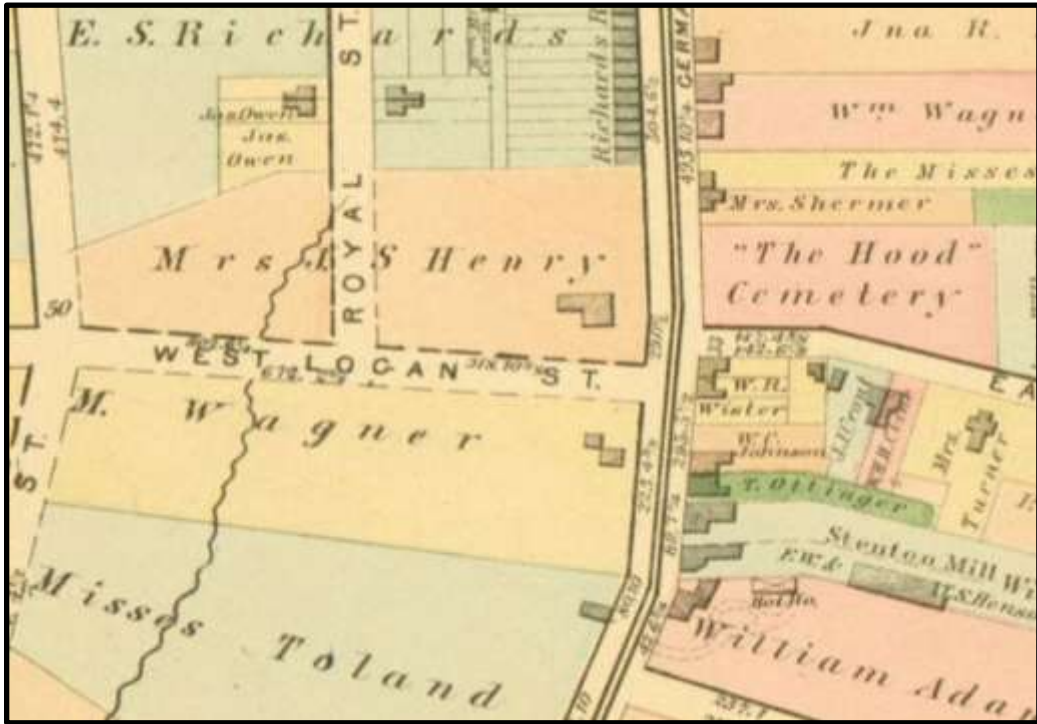
The Wachsmuth-Henry House in 1843. Map of Philadelphia County in 1843. By Charles Ellet, Jr. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



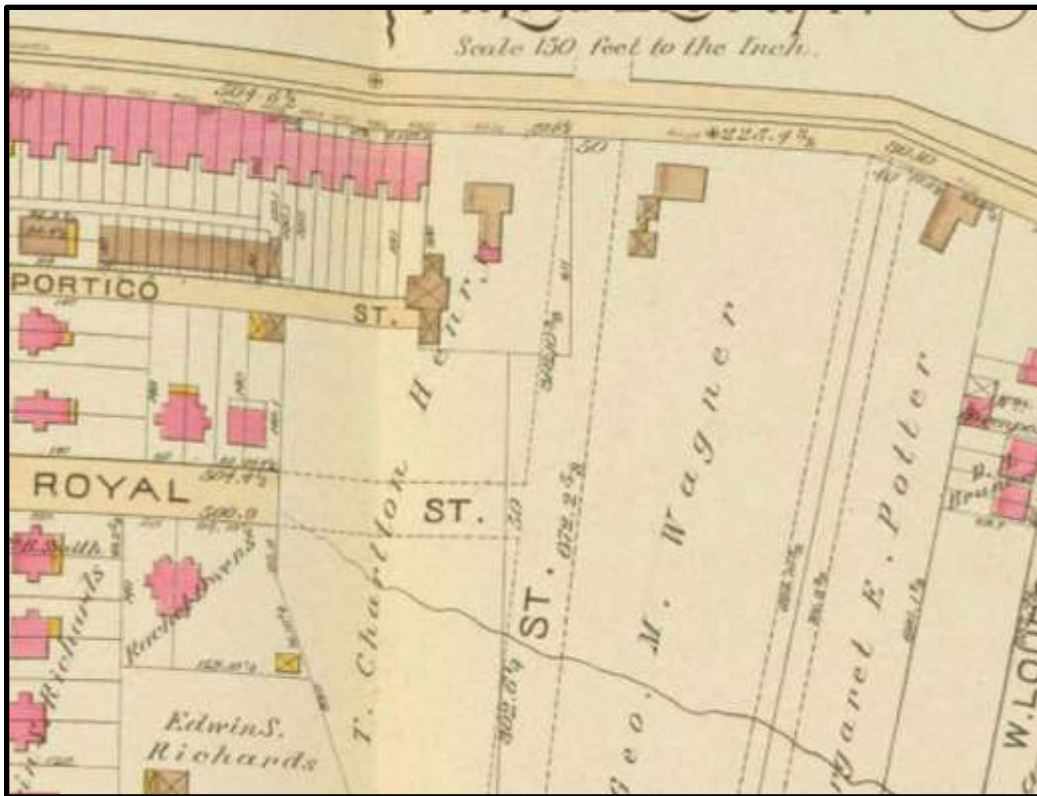
The Wachsmuth-Henry House in 1851. Map of the Township of Germantown, Philadelphia County, Penna., 1851. By John Flynn. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House in 1855. Philadelphia City in 1855 by R.L. Barnes. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

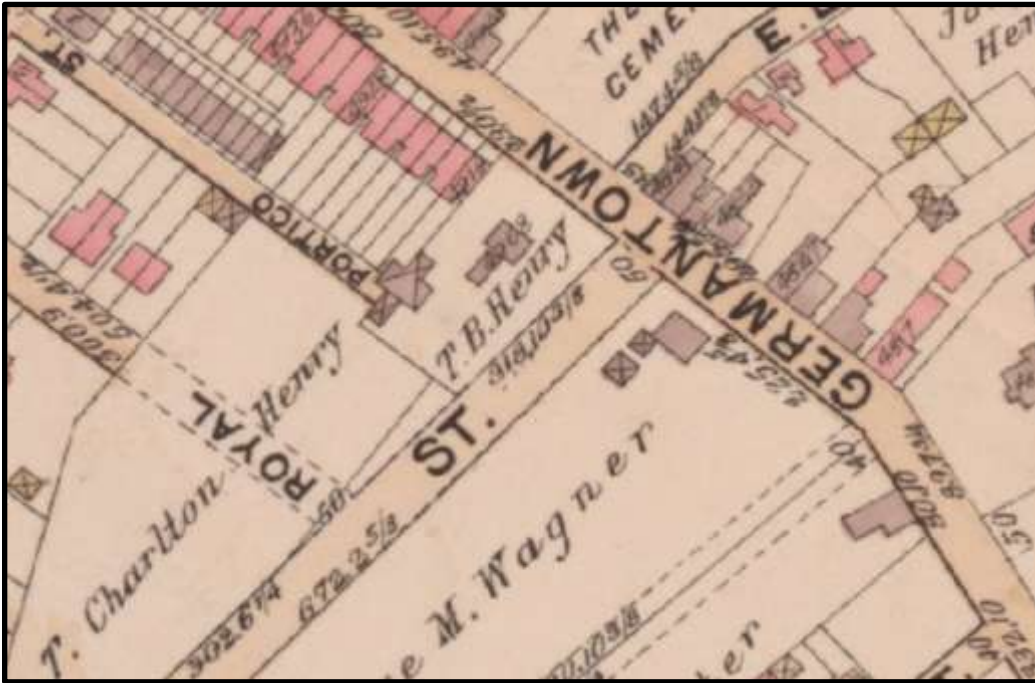


The Wachsmuth-Henry House in 1871. *Atlas of the Late Borough of Germantown* by G.M. Hopkins. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.

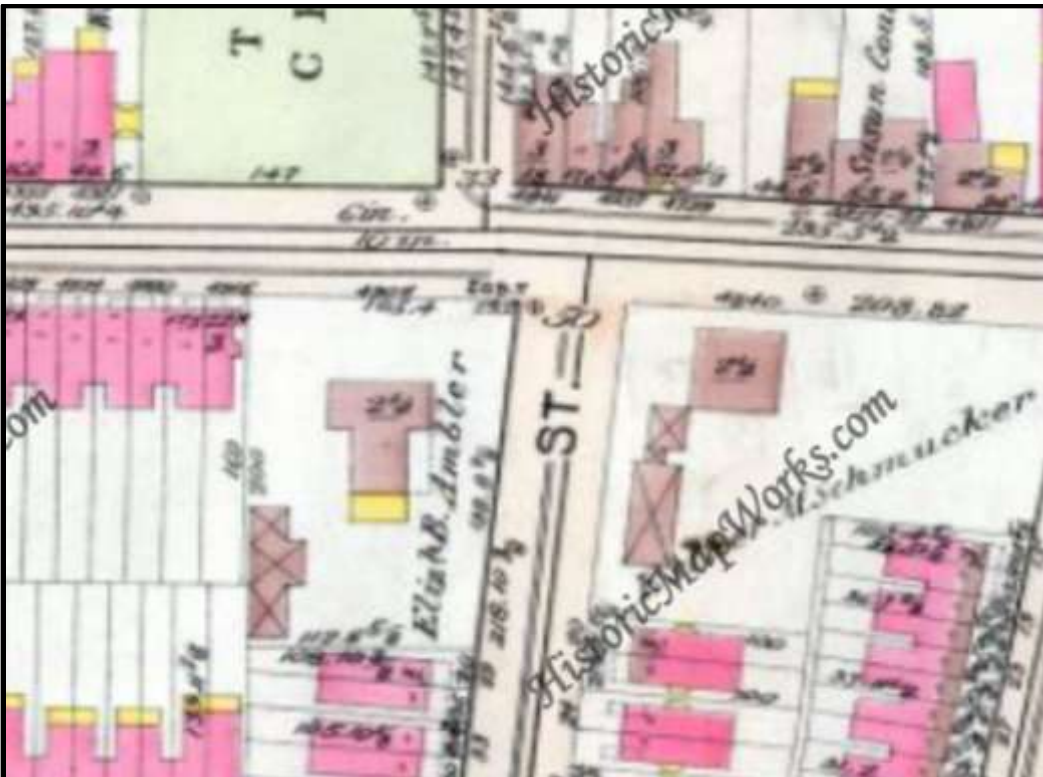


The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 40

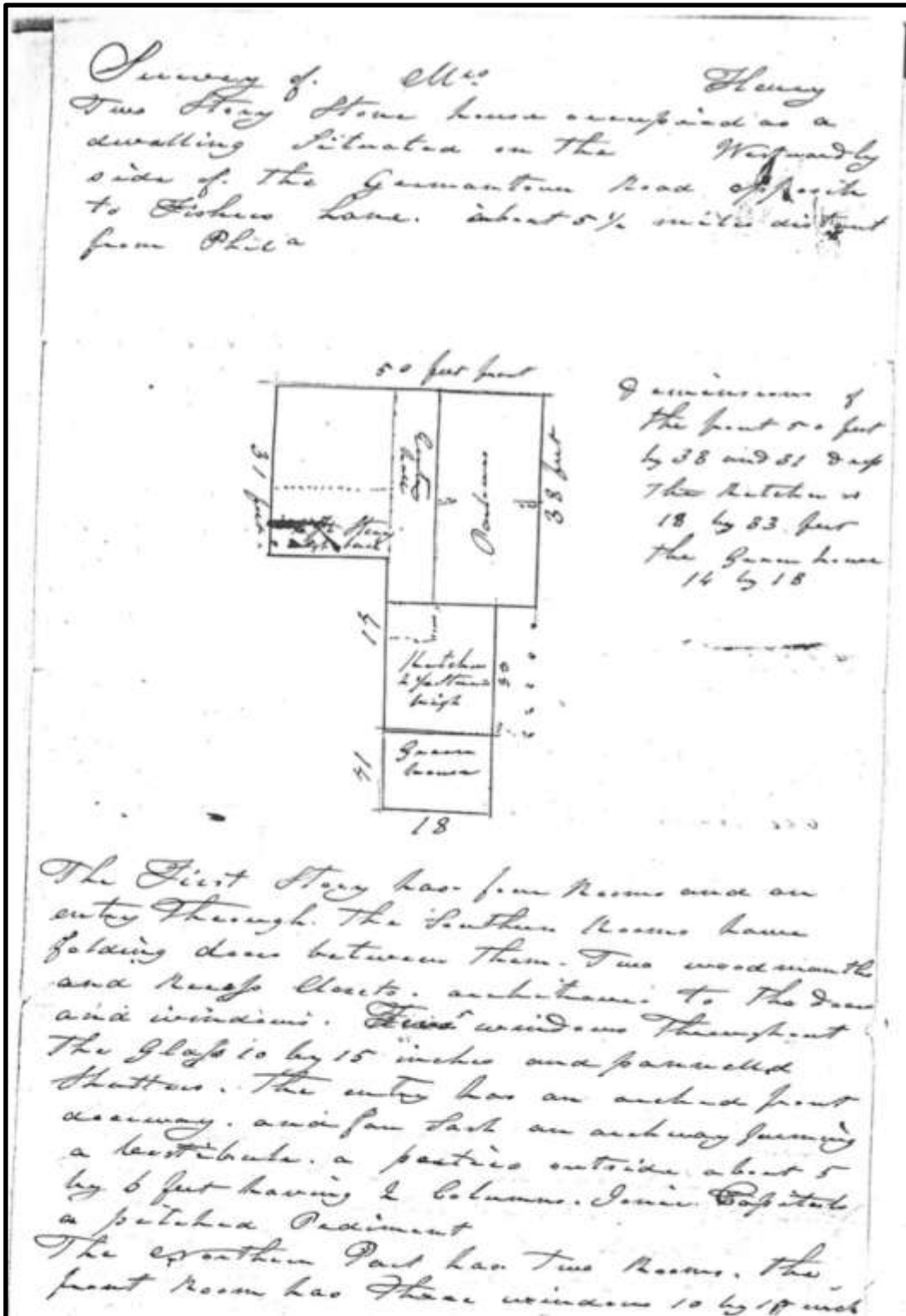
The Wachsmuth-Henry House in 1889. *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Volume 7, 22nd Ward, 1889.* by G.W. Bromley and Co. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House in the 1895 Philadelphia Atlas by G. W. Bromley. Courtesy Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 41



Glaz pannelled shutters. a wood mantle and plainly finished throughout The back Room has three windows. and is every plain finished. has pannelled shutters. Double hung sash. The doors throughout are of cherry plank pannelled The floors are all of heart yellow pine.

The Stairway is in the back part of the hall an entry is open & railed and has cherry hand railing and balusters, and a half space and lighted by a window north ward. and lead to the garret.

The Second Story has ~~three~~ ^{four} Rooms White pine floor. a mantle and closed to each, and is plainly finished. ~~14~~ ¹⁵ windows throughout The glaz is by 15 inches The front shutters are all pannelled. The southern end ^{of the} shutters have venetian blinds Roman. Plastered throughout The house, and pannelled doors One passage at the East of the Stairway lobby

The Garret. has four Rooms partitioned off, and has White pine floors. The doors all ledged. four circular head casement windows front. Two gable end windows southward and two southward. and five westward glaz all 9 by 18 inches. plastered throughout The house is a double pitched. Roof cedar shingles Tin gutters Wood cornice

The Back building... 18 by 33 1/2

First Story, has a Kitchen and a Hall, or passageway diagonally off. The room has in it four windows single heavy oak paneled shutters, is plainly finished and has a common private winding stair way, leading to the upper stories heart pine floor.

The Second Story has Two Rooms White pine floor Three windows South with paneled shutters 2 windows with paneled shutters a closet and closet to one room and is plain throughout

The Garret has White pine floors 2 Rooms Two common square windows South having paneled blind shutters and two windows Northward and a closet to each room. a Broken pitched roof cedar shingles Tin gutters wood cornice

The Cellar Back is floored and is used as a Kitchen has a Drip and closet and 2 small windows.

The front cellar under the South west room is also floored and used as a Kitchen

\$1,000

Approved July 27, 1837
for Mrs. E. S. Henry

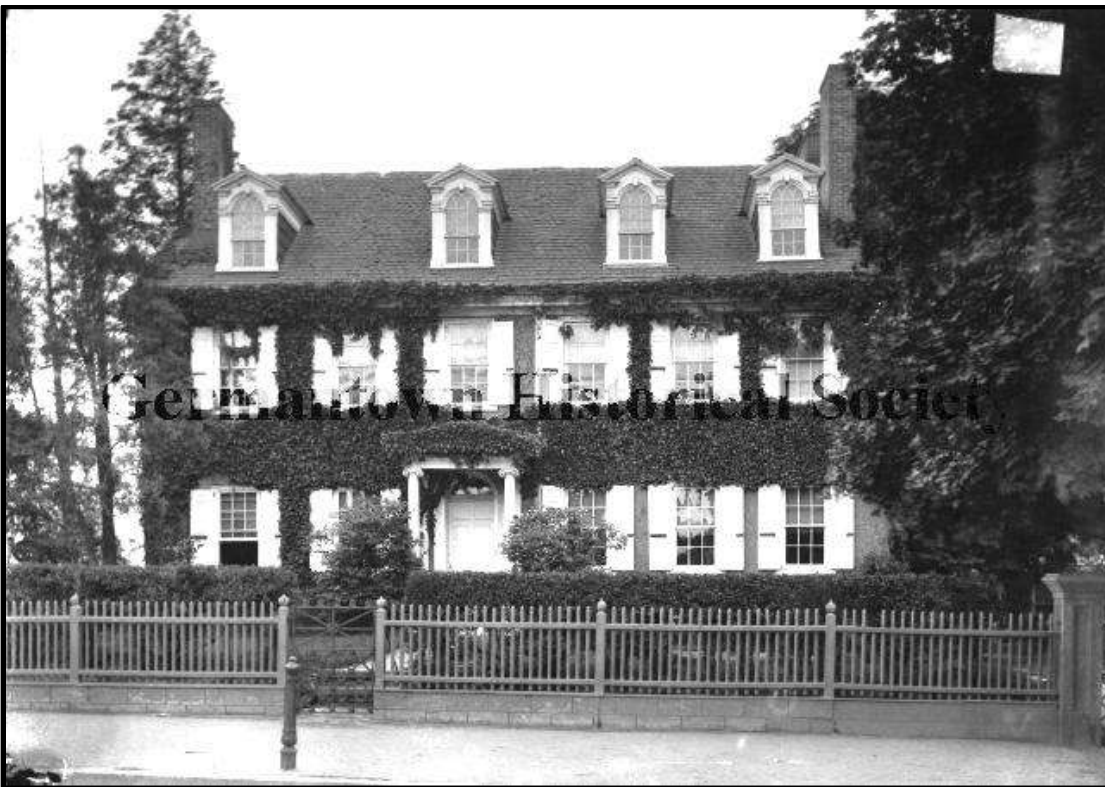
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August 6th 1837

John Bayard



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1890. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1890. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.



Post card of the Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1905. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.

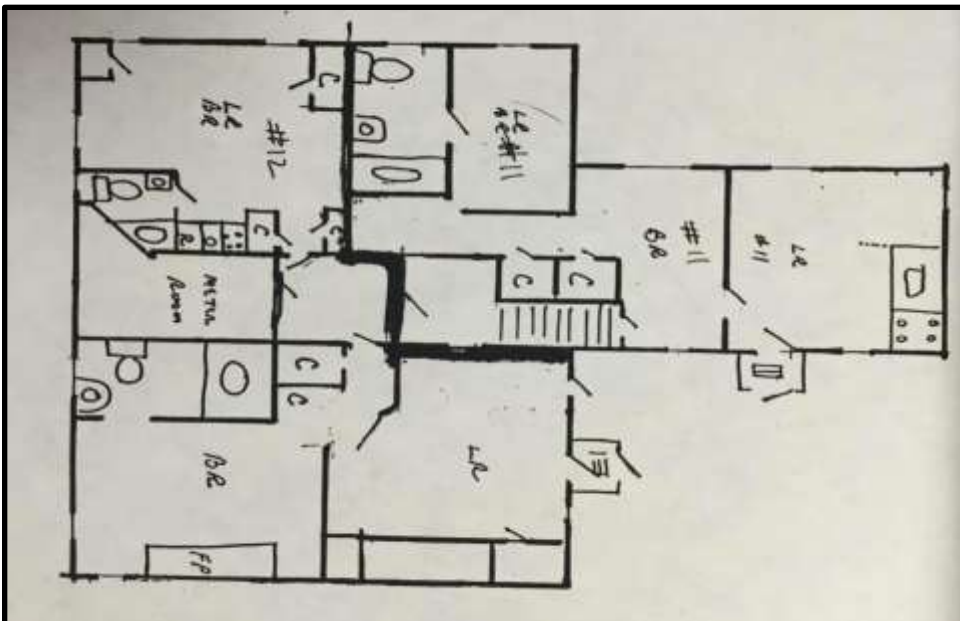


The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 1910-1920s. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 47*



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1988. Courtesy the Philadelphia Historical Commission.



Interior of the Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1988. Courtesy the Philadelphia Historical Commission.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1988. Courtesy the Philadelphia Historical Commission.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House, ca. 1988. Courtesy the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 50*

CRITERION A

John Godfrey Wachsmuth (1748-1828)

John Godfrey Wachsmuth (John G. Wachsmuth), his wife Catherine Madeleine Dutilh, and her children from her marriage to Étienne Dutilh were significant individuals of the past and their residence at the subject house represents the history of Germantown as it became a suburban resort in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Many years after his death, John G. Wachsmuth's enlargement of the subject house was remembered by local historians:

The next house, on the west side of the avenue, is directly opposite the head of Fisher's Lane. It was erected about the year 1760, but considerable additions were made by a later owner, John Gottfried Wachsmuth, who died about 1826.⁴⁸

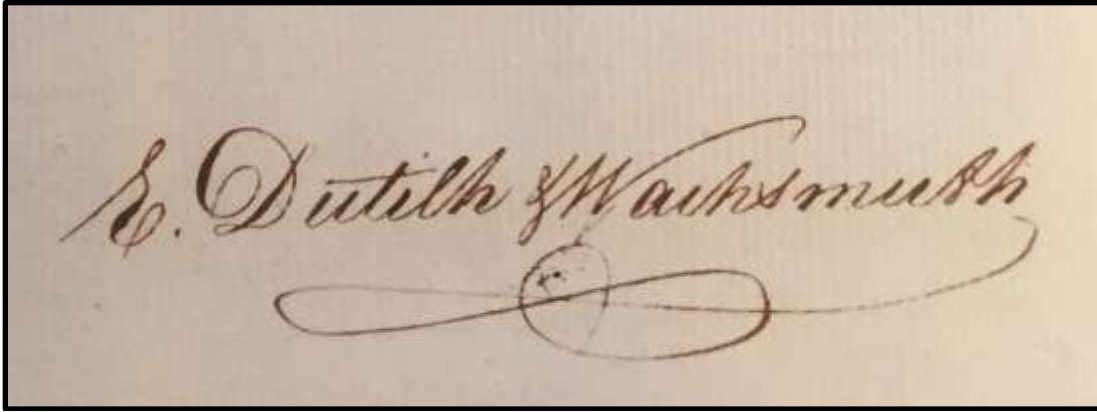
After the death of her husband Étienne (Stephen) Dutilh, Catherine Madeleine Dutilh married John Godfrey Wachsmuth—the former business partner of her husband in É. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. The marriage took place in August, 1818 in Philadelphia. As unorthodox as it sounds today, this type of arrangement was all too familiar, yet Mrs. Dutilh waited eight years to remarry. Born Catherine Madelaine Dutilh (Catherine M. Dutilh) to Abel Pierre Dutilh and Catherine Martin on November 1, 1770 in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, it likely seemed natural for her to marry someone of the same cultural background.⁴⁹ John Gottfried Wachsmuth and his newly acquired family—the Dutilhs—likely arrived at the subject property in 1819, after he purchased the building from the widow Sophia Wood.



Étienne Dutilh (left) and Catherine Dutilh Wachsmuth. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁴⁸Townsend Ward. "The Germantown Road and Its Associations," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 5 (1881): 252.

⁴⁹*Netherlands, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1910*. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013.



Signature line from correspondence of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. Ca. 1790s. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Étienne Dutilh. On November 17, 1751, Étienne Dutilh was born to Pierre and Marie Dutilh in Clairac (present day Marsac) in France. Étienne Dutilh removed to the Netherlands in August, 1768 to work for his cousins, Abel and Étienne Dutilh. Between 1768 and 1777, Étienne Dutilh worked in the family business. In 1777, he moved to London where he was employed in the house of Sir Joshua Vanneck, a Dutch-born British merchant and Member of Parliament.⁵⁰

After several years learning the mercantile and shipping trades, Étienne Dutilh decided to emigrate from England to the American colonies. He departed London on April 26, 1783, passing through France to visit his parents. He remained in France for a few months before returning to Rotterdam to visit his cousins, and then sailing with his brother Jean (John) Dutilh to America. They came aboard the *Dispatch* and arrived in Philadelphia in October, 1783, just months after the American Revolution ended.⁵¹

Étienne Dutilh established É. Dutilh & Company upon his arrival in Philadelphia. He originally was in the business of shipping to and from St. Dominique and the West Indies. In 1790, he forged a partnership with John G. Wachsmuth, establishing the short-lived, but eminent mercantile and shipping house, É. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. During their partnership, Étienne Dutilh traveled frequently, leaving the management of the business to Wachsmuth. É. Dutilh & Wachsmuth owned up to seven vessels, which shipped goods between North America and places around the globe including continental Europe, England, St. Dominique, and the West Indies. *Theodosia*, *Lydia*, *Commerce*, and *Isabella* were just some the names of the vessels owned and/or operated by the firm. É. Dutilh & Wachsmuth traded and imported sugar, cigars, coffee, indigo, flour, gunpowder, cotton, wine, etc.⁵²

⁵⁰ *Dutilhiteiten* 46, no. 2 (26 July 2014).

⁵¹ *Dutilhiteiten* 46, no. 2 (26 July 2014).

⁵² Samuel D. Negus, “‘Further Concessions Cannot Be Attained:’ The Jay-Grenville Treaty and The Politics of Anglo-American Relations, 1789-1807,” (PhD diss., Texas Christian University, 2013), 48-54.

Prior to his marriage and during his long periods of extensive business-related travel, Étienne Dutilh took a mistress—a “quadroon” by the name of Rachel Burke Biegel.⁵³ The relationship produced two children: Henry Stevens, born in 1790 at Philadelphia, who died at nineteen years old and Helen Maria Stevens, born in 1793 at Philadelphia, who died many years later in the Francisville section of Philadelphia.⁵⁴

In July, 1793, Étienne Dutilh travelled to Amsterdam to oversee the sale of two cargos, a decision that would have bittersweet consequences.⁵⁵ He wrote of his journey:

Scarcity of credit made conducting business through the firm’s usual local correspondents` difficult, forcing him to remain longer than planned. Company property involved in French and Spanish prize court cases also demanded his attention. In appealing for release of his goods shipped onboard the Hannibal Dutilh denied that he had established domicile, claiming to have conducted company business only through local correspondents where regulations required Dutch citizenship.⁵⁶

Étienne Dutilh’s business required him to stay in Amsterdam for roughly fifteen months, during which time he appears to have abandoned his relationship with Biegel for a permanent consort. Étienne Dutilh married his cousin Catherine M. Dutilh on June 21, 1795. They had the following children together:

3. Son, b. Philadelphia 14 August 1796, d. 30 August 1833.
4. Edouard Dutilh, b. Philadelphia, 22 July 1797, d. 22 August 1833.
5. Edmund Godfrey Dutilh, b. Philadelphia 12 December 1798, merchant Philadelphia, d. Philadelphia 7 February 1886, m. New Hope 30 January 1823 Anne Russell Cooch.
6. Marie Elisabeth Dedier Dutilh, b. Philadelphia 19 January 1801, d. Philadelphia 21 September 1804.
7. Charles Dutilh, b. Philadelphia 1 May 1803, president and co-director Pennsylvania Company for Insurance in Lives and Granting Annuities Philadelphia, d. Kaaterskill (NY) 26 July 1882, m. 1st Philadelphia 27 December 1827 Cora Monges...
8. Étienne Dutilh, b. Philadelphia 16 May 1805, d. Philadelphia 21 August 1805.

⁵³ According to dictionary.com a quadroon is a person who is one-quarter black by descent.

⁵⁴ *Dutilhiteiten* 46, no. 2 (26 July 2014), 26.

⁵⁵ Negus, “Further Concessions Cannot Be Attained,” 48-54.

⁵⁶ Negus, “Further Concessions Cannot Be Attained,” 48-54.

9. Étienne Dutilh, b. Philadelphia 26 September 1806, d. Holmesburg, Philadelphia (PA) 7 August 1830.⁵⁷

The partnership of É. Dutilh & Wachsmuth dissolved in 1797 and are described in a later section of this nomination. However, matters languishing and out of their control forced some aspects of their business to linger for several years. Meanwhile, Étienne Dutilh and John G. Wachsmuth started their new, respective businesses and/or partnerships in importation and shipping. The U.S. Direct Tax List appraises their Comptroller's Alley offices at \$1,900 in 1798.⁵⁸ Dutilh also owned a townhouse nearby at 164 S. 2nd Street and a house in Germantown Township that same year.⁵⁹

Like many other Philadelphians, Dutilh looked for a summer residence in Germantown. In the Spring of 1796, he found a "country seat" to rent on School House Lane near present-day Wayne Avenue.⁶⁰ A year later he purchased this house which the former country home of Israel Pemberton (and later John Coulter).⁶¹ His estate in 1798 totaled 46 acres and was valued at \$1,955.⁶² These papers, along with an estate book are now at the Hagley Museum and Library.

⁵⁷ *Dutilhiteiten* No. 46-2; 26 July 2014. Pp. 26-27.

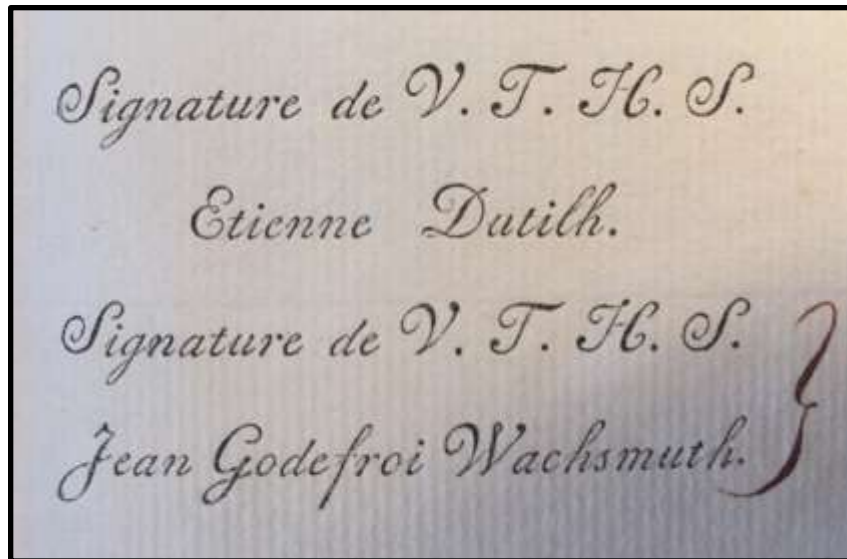
⁵⁸ *United States Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania*. M372, microfilm, 24 rolls. Records of the Internal Revenue Service, 1791-2006, Record Group 58. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁵⁹ *United States Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania*. M372, microfilm, 24 rolls. Records of the Internal Revenue Service, 1791-2006, Record Group 58. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁶⁰ Letter William Crammond to Stephen Dutilh, 7 March 1796, Naaman H. Keyser Papers, Germantown Historical Society.

⁶¹ Deed: William Crammond, of the City, merchant, and Sarah, his wife, to Stephen Dutilh, 31 March 1797, for \$10,500, Philadelphia Deed Book E.F., No. 28, p. 722, CAP.

⁶² *United States Direct Tax of 1798: Tax Lists for the State of Pennsylvania*. M372, microfilm, 24 rolls. Records of the Internal Revenue Service, 1791-2006, Record Group 58. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.



Printed signature line from correspondence of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. 1790s.
Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Étienne Dutilh died on January 26, 1810 in Philadelphia. His obituary was published in the Philadelphia newspaper *The Democratic Press*:

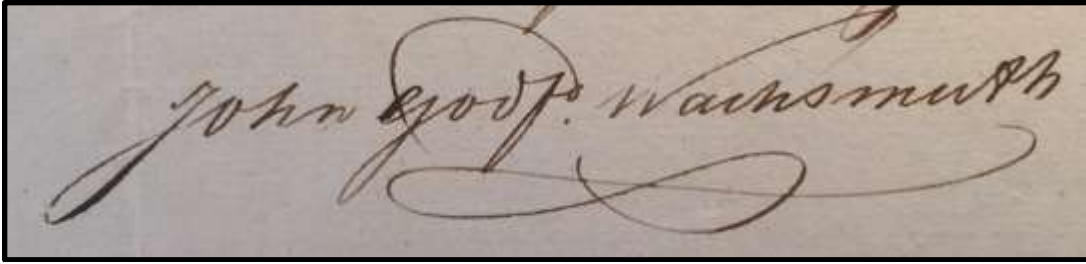
Dutilh – Yesterday at noon departed this life, Mr. Stephen Dutilh, merchant of this city, a man of the most distinguished worth and excellence, and who in character of husband parent and friend, can be fully estimated only by those connections who now lament his loss as a merchant his profit has eminently distinguished him, and a member of society, his memory will long be revered and respected.⁶³

He was buried at half past three in the afternoon on Sunday, January 28, 1810. The will was probated on January 29, 1810 and includes the following provisions:

Provides for wife Catharine Magdalen Dutilh and children. Legacies to Mary Stevens and Rachel Biegel, born Rachel Burke. Marriage articles attached to will mentions Catharine Magdalen Dutilh as daughter of Catherine Martin widow of Abel Peter Dutilh. Execs: said wife Catharine Magdalen, Leopold Nottengel, Lewis Clapier, Augustin Bousquet and Charles Graff, all of Philadelphia, merchants.⁶⁴

⁶³ “Dutilh,” *Democratic Press*, Philadelphia, 27 January 1810, p. 2.

⁶⁴ Philadelphia County Wills, 1682-1819, Ancestry.com.



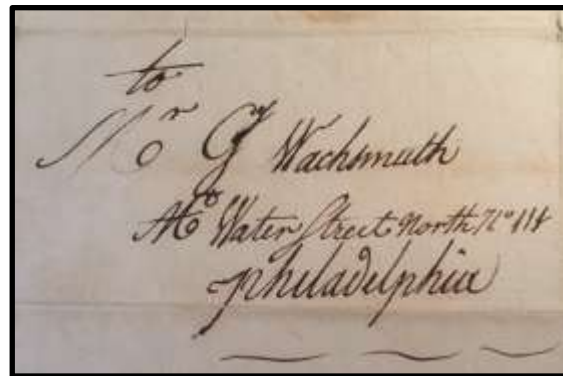
John G. Wachsmuth, 1780s. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Johann Gottfried Wachsmuth (1748-1728)

Originally Johann Gottfried Wachsmuth, John Godfrey Wachsmuth was born in Germany about 1748.⁶⁵ He may have been from Hamburg; however, little information is known about his early years, including when he emigrated to America.⁶⁶

The first reference to John G. Wachsmuth that the author could find was in 1788, when he was operating a store “in Water Street, the Second door above Chestnut street...” Here he sold “Ticklenburgs,” “coarse and fine hats,” “Bourdeaux claret,” “Sweet oil,” “Peach Brandy, six years old,” among other products.⁶⁷

FOR SALE BY
John G. Wachsmuth,
 At his Store in Water street, the second
 door above Chestnut street,
TICKLENBURGS
 Coarse and fine hats
 Hefans
 German looking-glasses in boxes
 Bourdeaux claret, of the first quality, in cafes of
 8 dozen each
 Sweet oil, in baskets containing 12 bottles each
 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 inch spikes in casks 80lb. weight.
A L S O,
 One cask (containing 35 gallons) of excellent
 Peach Brand, six years old. m



Left: “Advertisement,” *The Federal Gazette*, published on October 20, 1788. Courtesy America’s Historical Newspapers. Right: Envelope showing John G. Wachsmuth’s name and address. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁶⁵ “Herr John Gottfried Wachsmuth,” *Staats- und gelehrte Zeitung des hamburgischen unpartheyischen Correspondenten*, Hamburg (Germany), March 1828, p. ii.

⁶⁶ John G. Wachsmuth was known as J.G. Wachsmuth, John G. Wachsmuth, Johann Gottfried Wachsmuth, John Gotlieb Wauxmuth among other versions of the name.

⁶⁷ “Advertisement,” *The Federal Gazette*, Philadelphia, October 20, 1788, p 1.



Correspondence addressed to John G. Wachsmuth, 1780s. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The Dutilh family lore records the partnership of Dutilh & Wachsmuth as being in effect by 1788. Though this cannot be confirmed, historical primary sources indicate the partnership was formed as “E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth” by 1790. An early endeavor was “For Charter” of the “ship ST. PEDRO...” “...to any Port in Spain or France...” in 1788.⁶⁸

As previously mentioned, the firm handled the transportation and/or import of goods to many places abroad. Throughout the early 1790s, the firm advertised various expeditions to places in the Caribbean, including Cap-François, Haiti (now Cap-Haïtien), Port-Au-Prince, Port-De-Paix and St. Marc, all also in Haiti. In July 1792 the firm advertised the voyage of a French brig named to Cap-François on August 1, 1792 under the hand of Captain Pouget. The articles to be shipped included “Perfumery, Window-Glass, Velvets, and fine Laces; Coffee, Sugar, Molasses, and a few Barrels Ginfeng.”⁶⁹ Other excursions include that of the *Captain Martial*, in October 1792, the French brig *Mary Sophie*, which was transporting both freight and passengers to Cap-François, as well as Port-au-Prince, the brig *Jason* to Cap-François, Port-De-Paix, and St. Marc, New Schooner BETSEY” in March 1793, and brig *Theodosia*, which to set sail to Cap-François on May 20, 1793.⁷⁰

A myriad of advertisements and a mountain of business papers indicate the incredible activity and success of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth, as well as John G. Wachsmuth, individually, and the firm likely had a steady shipping schedule throughout the 1790s.

As previously mentioned, Étienne Dutilh traveled to Amsterdam in July 1793 to oversee the sale of two cargos. A number of problems culminated in France, The Netherlands, and Spain which called him to remain “in Amsterdam” for fifteen

⁶⁸ “Advertisement,” *The Federal Gazette*, Philadelphia, October 20, 1788, p xxx.

⁶⁹ “For Cape-Francois,” *Claypoole’s Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia: 24 August 1792, p. 1.

⁷⁰ “For Cape-Francois,” *The Federal Gazette*, Philadelphia: 18 May 1793, p. 1; “Captain Martial,” *Claypoole’s Daily Advertiser*, Philadelphia: 31 August 1792, p. 1; “For Cape-Francois, Port-De-Paix and St. Marc,” *Claypoole’s Daily Advertiser*, 1 November 1792, p. 1; “For Cape-Francois,” *The Federal Gazette*, 18 May 1793, p. 1.

months. Interestingly, this temporary residence would be used to rule against him in a property claim in ongoing property disputes through 1797 in various neighboring countries in continental Europe.⁷¹

E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth were victims of “British captors” on several occasions between 1793 and 1794. Prior to the Jay-Grenville Treaty, merchants and importers like E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth “faced hardship” due to temporary property loss. The firm submitted appeals for at least five incidents wherein their products were lost and their surviving papers at the Hagley Museum and Library, Historical Society of Pennsylvania and other repositories confirm their constant struggles to recover their losses. In one case Amant Morin, a French-born agent of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth, was carrying over twelve hundred British pounds, as well as Spanish gold valued at seventy dollars. The money was confiscated and the firm entered a claim to recover this loss. Another loss occurred in April 1794, when Jamaica’s vice-admiralty condemned the *Sampson* and her cargo, including E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth’s specie shipment. The appeal regarding this loss not resolved until May 1799; however, they lost and had to appeal yet again and four years later, an award of twenty-five thousand pounds was granted.

The extensive transnational nature [of] Wachsmuth and Dutilh’s business and ethnic diversity of personal networks they utilized continued to create legal problems for them. Even still, the Philadelphia merchants clearly fared better in British courts after ratification of the Jay-Grenville Treaty. In late June 1795 the British privateer *Manchester* intercepted Wachsmuth and Dutilh’s 500-ton snow *Hannibal* twenty-one leagues from the coast of Ireland making for Amsterdam with a cargo of sugar, coffee, cocoa, and cotton from Surinam.⁷²

As referenced in the biography of Étienne Dutilh, John G. Wachsmuth handled the day-to-day affairs of the firm. This was likely due to his legal experience, which enabled him to continue practicing law while overseeing the daily operations of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. In October 1793 he announced himself as administrator of the Estate of “Mr. STOCKAR.”⁷³ He continued to administer this estate in 1794, the same year he announced his association with the settlement of the Estate of Alexander Foule.⁷⁴ Nevertheless, E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth continued their business. In 1794, one voyage that was advertised in the *Philadelphia Gazette*:

For AMSTERDAM—the Hannibal, LYING at Callowhill Street wharf, to sail with all convenient Speed, the greatest part of her cargo being

⁷¹ Negus, “Further Concessions Cannot Be Attained,” 48-54

⁷² Negus, “Further Concessions Cannot Be Attained,” 48.

⁷³ “All persons indebted to . . .” *The Federal Gazette*, 25 October 1793, p. 1.

⁷⁴ “ALL persons who have any de-,” *Dunlap and Claypoole’s Daily Advertiser*, 26 August 1794, p. 4.

The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 58

ready to go on board. For freight only, apply to E. DUTILH & WACHSMUTH, No. 111, North Water Street.⁷⁵

In April 1795, E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth—then of “No. 111 north Water Street”—improved and sold the following items acquired from their many voyages: Holland Sail Duck, Russia Sail Duck, Ravens Duck, Russia Sheeting, Osnaburgs, White and Brown Platillas, Brittanias, Haerlem Stripes and Checks, Rouens, Dowlass, Stopillas, Cotton Stockings, Muslins, Coach and Looking Glasses, Madder, Dutch Sheering, Gin in Pipes, Empty Gin Cases, and Fustick.⁷⁶ By July the company had imported two hundred heads of tobacco.⁷⁷

John G. Wachsmuth was elected as one of the Directors of the Bank of the United States in January, 1796.⁷⁸ That same year, the firm, E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth, continued to import various shipments of coffee, cotton, and sugar from places like England, Havanna, Cuba, and St. Dominique.⁷⁹

The partnership of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth was dissolved on July 1, 1797 and a debt settlement was required via public notice.⁸⁰ After the dissolution of his partnership with Étienne Dutilh, John G. Wachsmuth appears to have conducted his own business endeavors both related and unrelated to shipping. In May 1798, he was conducting business at 215 South Second Street. That same year he commissioned the schooner, the *Flying Squirrel*, to import goods from Havana, Cuba into Philadelphia.⁸¹ The next day he was advertised as selling boxes.⁸² About this time John G. Wachsmuth was living in a house owned by the Estate of Thomas Harper, Deceased, at 213 S. 2nd Street. He partnered with John Souiller, a business associate, to form Wachsmuth & Souiller, a similar business to E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth, Co.

⁷⁵ “For AMSTERDAM,” *The Philadelphia Gazette*, 28 June 1794, p. 2.

⁷⁶ “Imported,” *The Philadelphia Gazette*, 24 April 1795, p. 1.

⁷⁷ “Advertisement,” *The Philadelphia Gazette*, 2 July 1795, p. 1.

⁷⁸ “Philadelphia,” *Aurora General Advertiser*, 6 January 1796, p. 3.

⁷⁹ “Advertisement,” *The Philadelphia Gazette*, 28 October 1796, p. 3; “Advertisement,” *The Philadelphia Gazette*, 25 November 1796, p. 2; “Advertisement,” *Claypoole’s American Daily Advertiser*, 12 1796, p. 2.; and “Advertiser,” *The Philadelphia Gazette*, 12 December 1796, p. 2.

⁸⁰ “Notice,” *Aurora General Advertisement*, 1 July 1797, p. 2.

⁸¹ “Advertisement,” *Aurora General Advertiser*, 16 May 1798, p. 4.

⁸² “Advertisement,” *Porcupine’s Gazette*. (Philadelphia: 17 May 1798), pp. 4.

The partnership of E. Dutilh,
and Wachsmuth being this day dissolved by mutual
consent; all those having any demands against the
said firm are requested to bring in their accounts
for settlement; and those indebted to make pay-
ment to either of the subscribers.

E. DUTILH,
JOHN O. WACHSMUTH.

Philadelphia, June 30, 1797. dimawam

Advertisement of the Dissolution of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. Published in *Claypoole's American Daily Advertiser* on July 1, 1797. Courtesy America's Historical Newspapers.

Philadelphia 31 January 1798.

E. Dutilh
for the late House of
E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth

Below: Printed signature line from correspondence of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth. Ca. 1790s. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Imported,
PER the ship Zulema, from Bordeaux,
AND FOR SALE,
200 casks Mon ferrand Claret, calculated for the
East and West-India markets.

Wachsmuth & Soullier,
April 4-9 No. 67, S. Fourth-street.

Advertisement of Wachsmuth & Soullier published in *Relfs Philadelphia Gazette* on April 4, 1805. Courtesy America's Historical Newspapers.

Dutilh and Wachsmuth were still keeping “accounts” or record of their various interests.⁸³ Wachsmuth & Souliers were still in business as of January 1803. In January 1805, the fourteen officers of the Schuylkill Permanent Bridge Company were announced, including John G. Wachsmuth.⁸⁴ In 1806, John G. Wachsmuth served on the on the Chamber of Commerce. The Papers of E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth from early 1814 indicate that John G. Wachsmuth was handling various legal matters. Serving as executor of the estate by February 1814, Wachsmuth administered the public sale of goods belonging to Leopold Nottmager of Bloomsdale farm, deceased. Wachsmuth was the executor of several other estates during this time including that of Dr. W. Mau Prayer, the Nottmager Estate, specifically work for Mrs. Henrietta Nallmager, which he started in 1810 and the Nottmager estate.⁸⁵

In 1818, John G. Wachsmuth married the widow of his former partner Étienne Dutilh—Catherine M. Dutilh.⁸⁶ While she had given birth to at least seven children from her previous marriage, only four had survived and Wachsmuth may have served as a father figure to the Dutilh children. The Wachsmuths and the Dutilhs no doubt began occupying the subject house after its purchase in 1819.

After a short illness, Catherine Dutilh Wachsmuth died in the morning on July 12, 1824 at the subject house in Germantown. Her funeral was held the following Wednesday at ten in the morning in the house.⁸⁷ It appears that after his wife’s death, Wachsmuth rented out to Mrs. Catharine Mallon and used for a time as a boarding school. He continued overseeing through May 1827, when John G. Wachsmuth, then operating at “No. 150 Chestnut Street,” was selling a “spacious House, No. 204 South Front-street,” which was likely the settlement of real property for probate.

Wachsmuth’s business interests remained diverse after his wife’s death. In fact, he no doubt threw himself back into his work. In November 1825, he was one of twelve elected managers of the Frankford and Bristol Turnpike Road. These office holders served the company for one year with James C. Fisher as President and Joseph L. Inglis as Treasurer.⁸⁸

⁸³“Messrs. E. Dutilh & Wachsmuth of Philadelphia—Their Account Current,” January 1803 to December 1803, Claude W. Unger Collection (1860A), Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

⁸⁴ “Advertisement,” *Relfs Philadelphia Gazette*, 9 January 1805, p. 3.

⁸⁵ “Accounts of Estate Work of John G. Wachsmuth,” Philadelphia, February to April 1814), Dutilh and Wachsmuth Papers (No. 184), Historical Society of Pennsylvania; “Notice,” *Relfs Philadelphia Gazette*, 21 February 1814., p. 1.

⁸⁶ “Marriages,” *Columbian Centinel*, Massachusetts: 5 August 1818.

⁸⁷ “Died,” *Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 13 July 1824, p. 3.

⁸⁸ “Frankford and Bristol Turnpike Road,” *Poulson’s American Daily Advertiser*, 15 November 1825, p. 3.
The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 61

FOR SALE,

A two story Stone Dwelling House and
 Frame Store adjoining; a good Stone Stable
 and excellent Spring House, and two and a quarter
 acres of good Land, situate in Germantown, about
 five miles and a half from Philadelphia, on the main
 street, adjoining lands of Wachsmuth and Shoema-
 ker. The buildings are in complete order, and
 the place an excellent stand for a Store or Factory,
 or a desirable country residence; a good title will
 be given. Apply to **MARY WOOD**, on the premi-
 ses, or to **J. FOWLE, jr.**
No. 275 North Second-street.

July 30 smiths41*

Valuable Farm For Sale

Advertisement for Real Estate in Germantown, including Mary Wood, Shoemaker, and Wachsmuth. Published by *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* on August 6, 1825. Courtesy America's Historical Newspapers.

John G. Wachsmuth died in January 1828 and was buried on January 13 in the graveyard of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Germantown.⁸⁹ In the months after his death, the personal estate of John G. Wachsmuth was catalogued and sold. His real estate included "1 pair of steady family Horses," "a well built coach, but little used," and "a Dearborn."⁹⁰ His book collection, "Mr. Wachsmuth's Library," was sold by Freeman, Son & Potter at the Auction Mart, 8 South Third Street on a Wednesday evening at seven in February 1828.⁹¹

⁸⁹ Ancestry.com. *Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

⁹⁰ "By T. B. Freeman & Son," *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 22 February 1828, p. 2.

⁹¹ "PRIVATE LIBRARY." *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 22 February 1828) pp. 2; "By Freeman, Son & Potter," *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 26 February 1828, p. 2.

In memory, his sibling's children published the following notice in Hamburg:

Strauch, Pastor zu St. Nicolai.
Am 11ten Januar d. J. starb zu Philadelphia
in seinem achtzigsten Jahre unser geliebter Onkel,

Herr Johann Gottfried Wachsmuth, innigst be-
trauert von seinen Brüdern und Schwäger-Kindern,
welches für sich und im Namen derselben seinen die-
rigen und auswärtigen Freunden ergebend anzeigt
W. W. C. Borger, geb. Lagedorn.
Hamburg, den 14ten März 1828.

On the 11th of January this J. died in Philadelphia in his eightieth year our beloved uncle, Mr. John Gottfried Wachsmuth, dearly mourned by his brother and sister's children...

Notice of John Gottfried Wachsmuth's death, which was published by his nieces and nephews in the *Staats- und gelehrte Zeitung des hamburgischen unpartheyischen Correspondenten* in March 1828. Courtesy Hathi Trust.

BY FREEMAN, SON & POTTER,
Auction Mart, No. 8 South Third-street.
Mr. WACHSMUTH'S LIBRARY.
The sale of Mr. Wachsmuth's library is un-
avoidably postponed until Wednesday evening next,
when it will positively take place.
PRIVATE LIBRARY.
On Wednesday Evening,
At 7 o'clock, at the auction store,
By Catalogue, the private library of the late Mr.
Wachsmuth, containing a number of scarce and va-
luable books.
The books will be removed from the late resi-
dence of Mr. Wachsmuth, to the auction store, No.
8 South Third-street, where they may be examined
on the day of sale.

Auction Notice of John G. Wachsmuth's "Private Library," from *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, February 26, 1828. Courtesy America's Historical Newspapers.

Because to me of the sacred association connected with the Henry House, opposite Hood's cemetery, or the Lower Burying Ground, as the home in the early days of Hon. Alexander Henry, a revered Mayor of Philadelphia, his brother, my old Sunday-school teacher, T. Charlton Henry, others of that noble and notable family, I am still attracted to the antiqueness of the place, even as others outside of the kindred and immediate friends may not be.⁹²

CRITERION A

John Snowden Henry (1795-1835)

John Snowden Henry is a significant person of the past, being a prominent merchant and citizen in Philadelphia and later in Germantown. Mr. Henry purchased the subject property in 1828, making some improvements. He was the patriarch of the family that would live in the house until 1899.

Born on September 9, 1795 in Philadelphia, John Snowden Henry was the fourth of eight children of Alexander Henry (1763-1847) and Sarah Snowden (1760-1821). Emigrating from Loughbricklan, County Down, North of Ireland to Philadelphia in 1783, Alexander Henry was a prominent merchant of the Quaker City and served as Director of the Bank of the United States and the Insurance Company of North America.⁹³ While Alexander Henry was a newcomer to Philadelphia, his wife's lineage was deeply rooted in early Philadelphia. The Snowdens antedate most of the "Old Philadelphia Families," being present in Philadelphia to "...welcome the 'Welcome'" when William Penn arrived in 1682.⁹⁴

John S. Henry followed in his father's footsteps and became a merchant and a director. He, like many Philadelphians of his social standing, John S. Henry attended Princeton University and graduated in 1813 and later served as a trustee of the college. After graduation, John S. Henry went into partnership with his brother Alexander Henry, Jr. as a merchant with offices at 192 Market Street and sold a wide variety of dry goods.⁹⁵ William Chaloner eventually joined the firm as a partner. The firm was known as Alexander Henry, Junior, & Co with offices in both Philadelphia and Manchester, England.⁹⁶ In his day, most men in business were also committed to some kind of philanthropy, which accounts for his involvement as a manager and later a secretary of the House of Refuge in the 1810s.⁹⁷

⁹² David Spencer et al. *Historic Germantown* (Philadelphia: H.F. McCann, 1908), 126-127.

⁹³ William Eldridge and A.B. Henry. *Henry Genealogy: The Descendants of Samuel Henry of Hadley and Amherst, Massachusetts, 1734-1790 and Lurana (Cady) Henry, his wife: With an Appendix Containing Brief Accounts of other Henry Families* (Boston: T.R. Marvin & Son, 1915), 173.

⁹⁴ Frank Willing Leach, "Old Philadelphia Families," *The North American*, 14 July 1912, p. 1.

⁹⁵ "Advertisement," *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 1 May 1817, p. 1.

⁹⁶ "Notice," *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 3 November 1823, p. 3.

⁹⁷ William Eldridge et al, *Henry Genealogy*, 173-174.

april 30--d3t 26, south wharves

Alexander Henry jr. & John S. Henry.
 Under the firm of
Alex. Henry, jr. & Co.

HAVE just received by the Telegraph and Electra, a handsome assortment of seasonable DRY GOODS, consisting of

Super Prints,	9-8 Shirtings,
Fine do.	7 8 Gingham,
Plates,	Furniture Dimity,
6-4 Cambric Muslins,	Black and assr'd. Sew-
9-8 do. do.	ings
Cotton Cassimeres,	11-8 Cotton Checks,
Black Bombazettes,	Blue Hair Plush,
Fancy do.	Pins, etc. etc.

For sale at
No 192, Market-street.
 april 28 --mwftf

Advertisement in the *Philadelphia Gazette*, published May 2, 1817.
 Courtesy America's Historical Newspapers.

John S. Henry's involvement with both dry goods and shipping was reflected in various advertisements and notices of the local papers in the mid-to-late-1810s. He even appears to have traveled to England aboard the *Lancaster* with Jonathan Waln in October 1819 and likely visited Manchester offices.⁹⁸ Notice of John S. Henry's arrival from Liverpool, England was in the *Franklin Gazette* in July 1820, arriving aboard either the *Courner* or the *Eldridge* "...with dry goods, hardware, and crates."⁹⁹

John S. Henry married Elizabeth Ingersoll Bayard, daughter of Andrew Bayard and Sarah Pettit on Friday, June 21, 1822.¹⁰⁰ Elizabeth I. Bayard was the granddaughter of Col. John Bayard of "Revolutionary Fame."¹⁰¹ The following children were born to their union

"Letitia, who married Mr. Fitz Randolph Smith, of New Jersey; Martha, who married Silas E. Weir, and after his death the Rev. John Chambers; Thomas Charlton; John Snowden; Sarah Matilda, who married Dr. John K. Mitchell; Ann; George W.; and Mary, who married S. Austin Allibone."¹⁰²

For several years after their marriage, the Henry family lived primarily in Philadelphia. In November 1823, the partnership that comprised Alexander Henry,

⁹⁸ "Shipping News," *Franklin Gazette* (Philadelphia: 25 October 1819, p. 2.

⁹⁹ "Shipping News," *Franklin Gazette* (Philadelphia: 24 July 1820, p. 3.

¹⁰⁰ "Marriages," *The New York Evening Post*, 21 June 1822.

¹⁰¹ William Eldridge et al., *Henry Genealogy*, 174.

¹⁰² T. Charlton Henry: 1828-1890 (Philadelphia?: Privately published, ca. 1890), 6-10.

The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 - Page 65

Junior, & Co. was dissolved, effective November 1, 1823.¹⁰³ Advertisements in *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser* indicate that by 1824 John S. Henry was involved in the management of the House of Industry, an almshouse sponsored by the Provident Society for Employing the Poor.¹⁰⁴ His proclivities were not just charitable, as he was also involved in local politics, being on a ward-specific committee to elect John Q. Adams as President. However, Henry's commitment to philanthropy and public service seems to have intensified in the 1820s, as he was elected Manager "For one year" of the American Sunday School Union while his father served as president for the organization.¹⁰⁵ In March 1826 when he was elected President of the General Board of Guardians of the Poor and in May he was also elected Treasurer of the House of Refuge.¹⁰⁶ Raising money or the management of such activities through "subscription books" appears to have been a primary duty of the Treasurer.¹⁰⁷

In 1828, John S. Henry bought the subject house at 4908 Germantown Avenue, eventually "removing to Germantown."¹⁰⁸ Here he a founding member of the First Presbyterian Church of Germantown and involved in several local philanthropies. In addition, Henry was Secretary of the Citizens Friendly to Infant Schools, also known as Infant Day Schools, which was an establishment designed to promote and provide education among working people in remote areas of Philadelphia.¹⁰⁹

One of the most important establishments in Germantown's long history was the introduction of the railroad. In the November and December, 1830, meetings "of inhabitants of Philadelphia, Germantown, Mount Airy, Chestnut Hill, Whitemarsh, Plymouth, and Norristown, favourable to a Rail Road [sic] from Philadelphia to Norristown" were held at the home of Jacob Mason in Mount Airy. A committee of twenty men, including John S. Henry, was created to address issues related to its establishment.¹¹⁰ This ultimately led to the opening of the railroad and the modern suburbanization of Germantown.

When in 1832, a substantial faction of Presbyterians broke away from the Second Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, a separation caused by "grievances" to which the parishioners of this faction were subjected. Both Alexander and John S. Henry were involved in the formation of a new church. John S. Henry specifically was

¹⁰³ "Notice," *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 3 November 1823, p. 3.

¹⁰⁴ "Applications in writing..." *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 5 February 1824, p. 3.

¹⁰⁵ "Ode, Sung at the First Anniversary of the American Sunday School Union," *The American Sunday School Magazine*, June 1825, pp. 176.

¹⁰⁶ "John S. Henry, Esq.,..." *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 13 March 1826, p. 2; "Election Returns," *National Gazette and Literary Register*, 4 May 1826, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ "House of Refuge," *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, 22 July 1826, p. 4.

¹⁰⁸ Deed: John Bohlen, Charles Graff, and Jacob Segler, Junior, executors of the Will John Godfried Wachsmuth, late of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant, to John S. Henry, of the City of Philadelphia, Merchant, 2 December 1828, Philadelphia Deed Book G.W.R., No. 24, p. 650, CAP.

¹⁰⁹ "Infant Schools," *Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania* 6 (11 December 1830): 381.

¹¹⁰ "Rail Road Meeting," *Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania* 7 (12 February 1831): 102.

involved in selecting a new site and he was one of fifty parishioners responsible for raising money for a “church edifice.”¹¹¹

That same year, Henry was elected as one of “twenty Stockholders, to serve as Directors” of the Bank of the United States.¹¹² He was reelected as Director in 1833 and 1834.¹¹³ Between 1834 and 1835, the Directors of the Bank underwent a series of congressional investigations and, eventually, its charter was not renewed.

The death of John S. Henry came suddenly in December, 10, 1835, when he was just forty years old. Ambrose White and James C. Donnell were the administrators of his estate, for which a notice to the public was published in May 1837.¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ “New Presbyterian Church,” *Hazard’s Register of Pennsylvania* 9 (2 June 1832): 345.

¹¹² “Bank of the United States,” *Workingman’s Advocate*, 14 January 1832, p. 1.

¹¹³ “Bank of the United States,” *National Gazette*, 15 January 1833, p. 1; “Bank of the United States,” *National Gazette*, 11 January 1834, p. 4.

¹¹⁴ “To All Creditors, Legatees, and Other Persons Interested,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 29 March 1837, p. 1; “Notice,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 4 May 1837, p. 3.



Alexander Henry in 1859, by John Sartain.
Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

CRITERION A

Alexander Henry (1823-1883)

Alexander Henry is a significant person of the past, serving three important terms as Mayor of Philadelphia during the Civil War. He was a highly revered public servant. Mayor Henry spent his formative years at the subject house and likely later spent free time there after he was married.

The son of John S. Henry and Elizabeth I. Bayard, Alexander Henry was born on April 14, 1823 in Philadelphia. As stated above, his father and paternal grandfather were important merchants and, as a result, Alexander Henry had a privileged upbringing, so much so that in his youth, John S. Henry removed the family permanently to Germantown, where they occupied the subject house at 4908 Germantown

Avenue.¹¹⁵ He was approximately twelve years old when his father died, leaving his mother a widow with five children.

Alexander Henry received his education at the Germantown Academy and later attended Princeton University. He graduated from Princeton with high honors in 1840. He then studied law and passed the Bar in 1844 and established his own law firm. In the summer of 1845 he was appointed “inspector” in the Custom House.¹¹⁶ He served in this post until George W. Williams succeeded him in October 1846.¹¹⁷ During this time Alexander Henry was also serving as Secretary to the Board of Directors at Girard College, a post that he soon resigned.¹¹⁸

In 1847, Alexander Henry the elder died and in November of that year the younger Alexander Henry married Elizabeth Stadleman Paul.¹¹⁹ Elizabeth S. Paul was the daughter of Comegys Paul (1785-1851) and Sarah Rodman (ca. 1790-1867). Alexander Henry and Elizabeth S. Paul had one child—John Snowden Henry (d. 1880). Around the time of his marriage, Alexander Henry gave his first public oration at the opening of the House of Refuge’s new building about 1847.¹²⁰

It appears that in the first years of marriage the Henrys lived with the Paul family. In 1850, Comegys Paul, the eminent Philadelphia merchant, was worth no less than \$50,000. He, his wife Sarah Rodman, and their five children were living together in Northern Liberties. Alexander Henry, “Attorney at Law,” as well as Elizabeth I. Paul, and their son, “John,” then about one year old, were also in residence. Four servants were also living in the house.¹²¹

In April 1856, Henry was nominated by the Whig Party of the Seventh Ward of Philadelphia to be re-elected to the Common Council.¹²² That same year, he was one of the nominees chosen to represent the First Congressional District by the Republican Convention of the First District; however, another candidate was selected.¹²³ At the American Convention, Alexander Henry was nominated for an office and he asked to be withdrawn.¹²⁴ However, despite all of these political machinations, he would continue to serve the Seventh Ward on the Common

¹¹⁵ *T. Charlton Henry: 1828-1890* (Philadelphia?: Privately published, ca. 1890), p. 6-10

¹¹⁶ “Custom House,” *Public Ledger*, 7 June 1845, p. 4.

¹¹⁷ “Custom House,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 29 October 1846, p. 2.

¹¹⁸ “Girard College,” *North American*, 30 December 1847, p. 3.

¹¹⁹ “Marriages,” *North American*, 13 November 1847, p. 2.

¹²⁰ “Death of Alexander Henry: The Life and Public Services of Philadelphia’s War Mayor,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7 December 1883, p. 2.

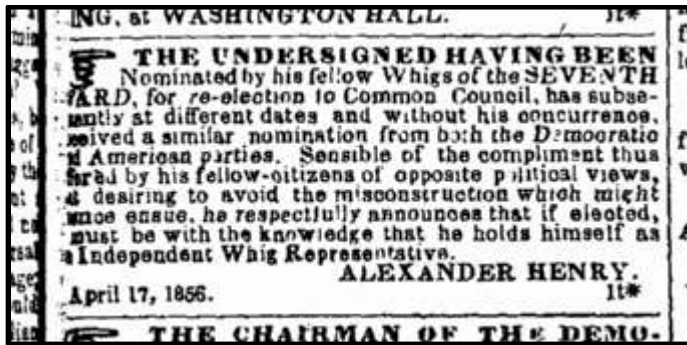
¹²¹ Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹²² “The Undersigned Having Been...,” *Daily Pennsylvania*, 18 April 1856, p. 5.

¹²³ “Republican Convention of the First District,” *North American*, 29 April 1856, p. 2.

¹²⁴ “American Convention,” *Dollar Newspaper*, 19 August 1857, p. 2.

Council. Like his father and grandfather, he was also involved in several charities. During this time he served as “Secretary” to the House of Refuge.¹²⁵



Political Advertisement for Alexander Henry, during his bid for re-election to the Common Council of the Seventh Ward of Philadelphia. Published in the *Daily Pennsylvanian* on April 18, 1856. Courtesy America's Historical Newspapers.

The words of Lewis C. Cassidy, Esq. were spoken on May 3, 1858 and this excerpt from his speech provides insight into the sentiments the times:

Mr. Henry has been a member of the Common Council from the Seventh Ward. He was elected by anti-Know-Nothing votes, to go for reform. Now, he was not more than warm in his seat before he voted for the Know Nothing caucus candidate, John P. Verree, for President; and he did not stop there, but voted for John M. Riley for Clerk, and all the other officers. Shortly after, he presented a resolution voting \$750,000, to do what?—to give it to the Pennsylvania Railroad or the Reading Railroad! No, sir! But to the Northwestern Railroad Company, a concern that tis a perfect myth—that never had any existence except in the brains of speculators and leeches who wished to swindle the City Treasurer.¹²⁶

Earlier in 1858, the call for “Honest, Economical Government and Reform” was loudly proclaimed by the progressive “People’s Party” in Philadelphia. This new party was a “fusion” of parties opposing the “extension of slavery,” being in part comprised by members of the budding Republican Party.¹²⁷ This “American-Republican coalition” was made up of Republicans who were willing to stand up for popular sovereignty, which veiled anti-slavery. Another component of the political movement was the protection of American labor.¹²⁸ Democrat Richard Vaux was finishing his term as Mayor, having been in office during the consolidation of the

¹²⁵ “At The Annual Meeting,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 15 January 1857, p. 5.

¹²⁶ “The Democracy in Council at National Hall,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 3 May 1858, p. 2.

¹²⁷ Anthony Joseph, Waskie, *Philadelphia and the Civil War: Arsenal of the Union* (Charleston: The History Press, 2011), 167.

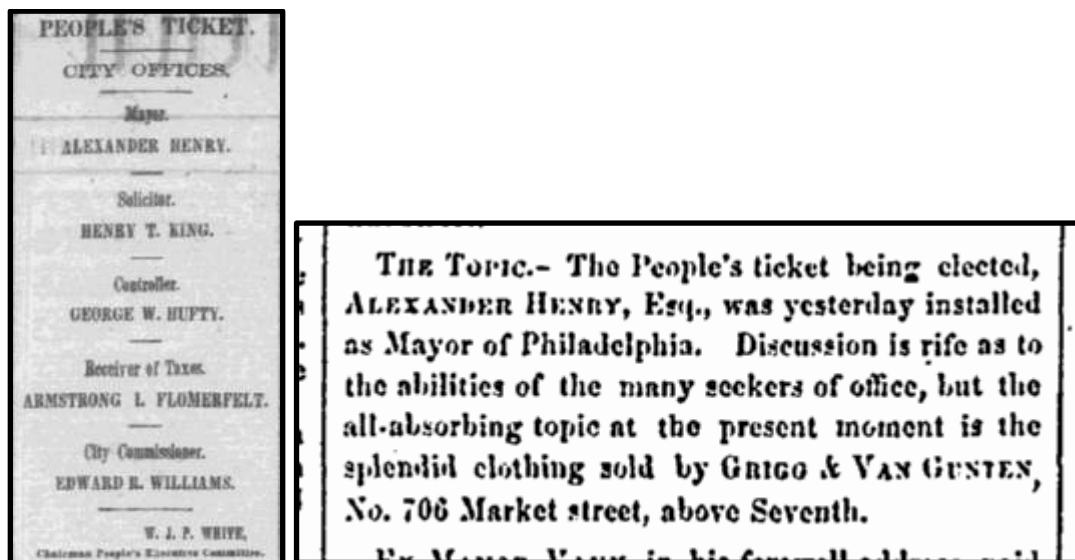
¹²⁸ Russell Frank Weigley, ed., *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History* (Philadelphia: Barra Foundation), 372, 389.

County of Philadelphia and all of its municipal governments under one authority—the municipal government of Philadelphia.

In March 1858, the “People’s Convention” nominated Alexander Henry to be their candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia.¹²⁹ The election was held during the first week of May 1858. Henry, the “People’s Candidate” won with a total of 33,771 votes. The incumbent, Alexander Henry had 29,065 votes.¹³⁰

As soon as the result was known, the successful party formed a procession, and with a band of music proceeded to the residence of Mr. Henry, the Mayor elect, who was called out, and after thanking them for the honor conferred on him, proceeded to speak of the result as an Anti-Lecompton victory. This view of the result is also taken by the *Press*, Col. Forney’s paper. That journal says:

“This significant result will convince the country that Philadelphia, the exponent of Pennsylvania’s sentiments on great national questions, is able to make her sentiments authoritatively known.”¹³¹



Left: Notice of Candidates of the “People’s Ticket” of the People’s Party in the *North America*, April 9, 1858. Courtesy America’s Historical Newspapers. Right: Advertisement for Grigo & Van Gunten, No. 706 Market Street, above Seventh, announcing the new mayor—Alexander Henry. Published in the *Daily Pennsylvanian* on May 12, 1858.

Incidentally, one of Alexander Henry’s first acts as Mayor of Philadelphia was “An Ordinance To Make An Appropriation to pay for the expenses of the Inauguration of

¹²⁹ “Movements of the Opposition,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 19 March 1858, p. 2.

¹³⁰ “Municipal Election in Philadelphia,” *Christian Observer*, Philadelphia: 6 May 1858, p. 71.

¹³¹ “Philadelphia Municipal Election,” *National Era*, Philadelphia: 13 May 1858, p. 75.

the Mayor” on May 14, 1858.¹³² The event soon followed. As mayor, Henry also officiated at marriage ceremonies, his first being that of Alexander Miller to Mary W. Estlack on June 23, 1858.¹³³ Though Mayor Henry was responsible for many of the city’s issues, the Police of Philadelphia turned out to be his first and a continual primary concern throughout his time in office.

His [Alexander Henry] first month of office was not a happy one. No sooner had he taken his place than his supporters made clamorous demands for appointments on his police force. It is related that during the first four weeks of his administration there were days when his office was so crowded with importunate applicants for the star that it was almost impossible to force an entrance to his presence.¹³⁴

By the fall of 1858, the Reserve Corps had been founded, commanding a presence with their distinctive dress and military appearance.¹³⁵ He also administered proposals for \$450,000 in loans for the City of Philadelphia; issues concerning city water; and much more. However, by the start of the following year, one of his lasting works was the “Ordinance, to provide for the erection of new public buildings in Philadelphia...”¹³⁶ By the close of his first year, Alexander Henry urged a “change in the mode of organization of the police force.” This led to testing appointees. He also recognized the need for more policemen and setting limitations on “beats” in terms of mileage. Alexander Henry also placed a great emphasis on the importance of a newly organized detective system, which led to the establishment of this particular department.¹³⁷

Alexander Henry was re-elected in 1860 by a majority of 882 votes, victory with far less of a margin than in 1858.¹³⁸ The Civil War began and ended during the tenure of Mayor Henry. While the war caused problems in the city, it also led to the type of prosperity stimulated by war time.

It was with thrilling effect that Mayor Henry alluded to the great Union meeting called by the city government in that very spot last winter. “This place, this throng, this scene” said he, “cannot fail to recall the last occasion upon which you met here by appointment of your municipal councils. But eight months since, my fellow-citizens, in all earnestness and affection, you held forth the hand of

¹³² “Ordinances,” *Daily Pennsylvanian*, 18 May 1858, p. 1.

¹³³ “Married,” *Dollar Newspaper*, 23 June 1858, p. 3.

¹³⁴ Howard O. Sprogle, *The Philadelphia Police, Past and Present* (Philadelphia: Howard O. Sprogle, 1887), 114.

¹³⁵ Sprogle, *The Philadelphia Police, Past and Present*, 115.

¹³⁶ “New Public Buildings,” *Public Ledger*, 10 February 1859, p. 1.

¹³⁷ Sprogle, *The Philadelphia Police, Past and Present*, 115.

¹³⁸ “Philadelphia Election,” *Saturday Evening Post*, 12 May 1860), p. 7.

brotherhood to the disaffected people of another section of our common country. The offer of hand has been spurned and rejected. History will reserve its darkest page for the perfidy, the ingratitude and infatuation, which find no parallel in its records.¹³⁹

According to the 1860 United States Federal Census, the Henrys continued to live with the Paul family. Comeygs Paul died in 1851. However, his wife was listed as the head of household, then sixty years old. Three unmarried children remained; several servants; and the Henrys.¹⁴⁰

To ensure local peace during wartime, Alexander Henry employed the local resources of militia, which was led Democratic militia general and Mexican War hero George Cadwalader. This allowed immediate suppression of minor disturbances.¹⁴¹

In 1862, Alexander Henry was nominated for a third term under the National Union ticket—the Republicans.¹⁴² His opponent was Daniel M. Fox—the Democratic “stand-bearer” who lost by roughly “5088 votes.” The inauguration was held on a Thursday in January 1863 in the chamber of the Common Council. He spoke on the subject of the consolidation of the city nine years prior.¹⁴³ Soon after his inauguration, Alexander Henry published an Appeal...to the People of Philadelphia, in which he requested that brave citizens enlist to fight against the invasion of the city by the Confederate soldiers.¹⁴⁴

Despite his popularity, Alexander Henry chose not to run for reelection in 1865, understanding that more than three terms would be abusing the public faith.¹⁴⁵

MAYOR HENRY

A few days since the Hon. Alexander Henry, who was, for seven years past, filled with eminent credit to himself and benefit of Philadelphia, the position of Mayor of the city, announced to his friends his fixed determination to retire finally from the position, declining a renomination [sic]. Mr. Henry has on previous occasions felt a disinclination to continue to labor at the arduous duties of the post, and therefore his present resolution is not a sudden one, but the consummation of a long cherished wish. His unimpeachable integrity, combined with his purity of motives, have procured for him the

¹³⁹ “A Patriotic Demonstration,” *New York Observer and Chronicle*, 26 September 1861, p. 310.

¹⁴⁰ Eighth Census of the United States, 1860; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M653, 1483 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁴¹ Weigley, *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History*, 411.

¹⁴² Weigley, *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History*, 405.

¹⁴³ “Inauguration of Mayor Henry.,” *Dollar Newspaper*, 7 January 1863, p. 2.

¹⁴⁴ “Appeal of Mayor Henry to the People of Philadelphia,” *World*, New York: 30 June 1863, p. 1.

¹⁴⁵ “Union Nominations for Mayor,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 16 August 1865, p. 8.

respect of all classes of our people in a high degree. He has been a friend of economy in the administration of municipal affairs consistently from the beginning, yet at the same time keenly alive to the necessity of fostering our business interests by a liberal policy in all that affects them. Mr. Henry has sustained the honors of his position with dignity, urbanity and efficiency throughout, and, whoever may be his successor, we shall part from our chief magistrate with regret.¹⁴⁶

The Democrat, Mr. Fox again ran, but lost by “6935 votes” to Morton McMichael, the Republican nominee.¹⁴⁷

Of all of the accomplishments and reforms made under Alexander Henry’s administration, law enforcement was perhaps his greatest achievement. Historian Howard O. Sprogle states:

It was one of the cardinal principles of Mayor Henry’s administration that members of the police force should be retained during good behavior, without liability to removal for their political opinions. He regarded it as a matter of great importance not only to the maintenance of an effective police force, but to the welfare of the community. Several bills to that end were prepared by him and submitted to the Legislature.¹⁴⁸

The consolidation of Philadelphia in 1856 had created a rather disorganized police force. This combined with “climactic sectional crises” and the problems created by the Civil War led to many challenges in local law enforcement. Despite the continual uprisings during this period, Alexander Henry and the new police force succeeded.¹⁴⁹

As mayor, he [Alexander Henry] never permitted the constitutional rights of the people to be crushed. We honor the public officer who stands by the Constitution of the State and that of the Union. Mayor Henry did that at a time when the “loyal leaguer” and the “loyal shoddy,” and the “loyal lawyer” were striking down every vestige of the constitutional privileges and rights of the citizen. Mayor Henry yielded no obedience to the behests of the “Loyal League.” Mayor Henry never yielded to the negro phobia of the times. He believed a

¹⁴⁶ “Mayor Henry,” *North American*, 18 August 1865, p. 2.

¹⁴⁷ Sprogle, *The Philadelphia Police, Past and Present*, 134-135.

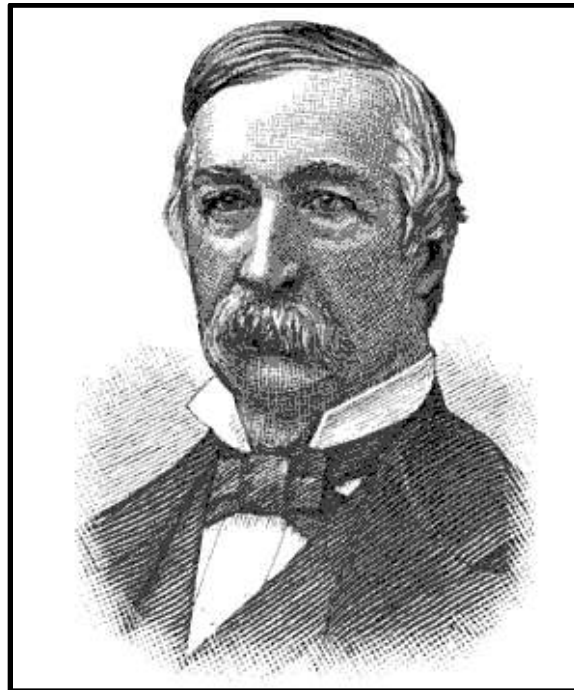
¹⁴⁸ Sprogle, *The Philadelphia Police, Past and Present*, 126.

¹⁴⁹ Weigley, *Philadelphia: A 300 Year History*, 372.

negro was a human being—to be protected in his position, but never to be raised above it for political purposes.¹⁵⁰

Henry retired from his position of Mayor of Philadelphia on January 1, 1865 at the inauguration of Morton McMichael in the old chamber of the Common Council.¹⁵¹ There was almost immediate talk of appointments to various posts for the former mayor. Several judicial appointments were entertained—some of which proved entirely false, never even having occurred. Alexander Henry even published letters to dispel such rumors.¹⁵²

After serving as mayor, Alexander Henry devoted his life to other charitable and business pursuits, as well as a full return to his law practice. One cause that had been started during his last year in office was the formation of a committee to honor former President Abraham Lincoln. He chaired the Monument Association, helping to erect a permanent memorial in Fairmount Park to the fallen president.¹⁵³ In business, he was also a longtime Director of the American Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia.¹⁵⁴



Alexander Henry. Ca. 1870. Courtesy Hathi Trust.

¹⁵⁰“Mayor Henry,” *Age*, Philadelphia: 13 December 1865, p. 2.

¹⁵¹ “Inauguration,” *The Daily Age*, 2 January 1866, p. 2.

¹⁵² “The Local Nominations,” *North American and United States Gazette*, 3 September 1866, p. 2.

¹⁵³ “A Monument to Mr. Lincoln,” *Commercial Advertiser*, New York: 31 May 1867, p. 4.

¹⁵⁴ “Advertisement,” *Patriot*, Harrisburg, 12 January 1870, p. 2.

By 1870, the Henrys moved out of the Paul residence into their own home. Then forty-seven years old, Alexander Henry was listed as a “Lawyer” with \$40,000 in real estate and \$25,000 in personal estate. He lived with his wife, Elizabeth, and their son, John. The household included several of servants—J.M. Chamberlain, a teacher; Eliza Chamberlain, a nurse; Susan Maguire, servant; Annie Carlin, servant; Ellen Dowd, servant; and David Hunter, gardener.¹⁵⁵ In 1870, Henry became President of the Sinking Fund Commission, a position he held through September 1871.¹⁵⁶ Later that year, he announced a “Fair for the Benefit of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals,” of which he was the presiding officer at that time.¹⁵⁷ In April 1873, Alexander Henry was named a “centennial supervisor” by Governor Hartranft (1830-1889), a post that would evolve over time and involved Henry in the planning of the Centennial Exhibition and its financial affairs.¹⁵⁸

He was also a Trustee of the Fairmount Park Commission, Director of the Fidelity Insurance, Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, and Inspector of the Eastern State Penitentiary. He was also a member of the Centennial Board of Finance.¹⁵⁹

In 1883, Elizabeth Henry was in poor health and it was recommended that she take a trip abroad to improve her condition. She had emotionally strained since the death of their only child three years earlier. After the entire summer and fall, the Henrys returned to Philadelphia. Alexander Henry returned with a reported, “...new lease of life.”¹⁶⁰ Seemingly in perfect health, he visited his office in Walnut Street daily through the first days of December when on a Wednesday he showed signs of a severe cold. Alexander soon was diagnosed with typhoid-pneumonia and died December 5, 1883 at his home at 22 W. School Lane in Germantown.¹⁶¹ He was interned at Laurel Hill Cemetery on.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁵ Ninth Census of the United States, 1870; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M593, 1,76 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁵⁶ “Resignation,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 10 May 1870, p. 8; “City Intelligence,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 22 September 1871, p. 2.

¹⁵⁷ “A Fair For the Benefit of the...,” *Public Ledger*, 6 December 1870, p. 2.

¹⁵⁸ “The Centennial,” *Patriot*, Harrisburg: 1 April 1873, p. 2.

¹⁵⁹ Charles Henry Jones. *Genealogy of the Rodman Family, 1620-1886* (Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott, 1886). 226.

¹⁶⁰ “Death of Alexander Henry: The Life and Public Services of Philadelphia’s War Mayor,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7 December 1883, p. 2.

¹⁶¹ “Death of Alexander Henry,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7 December 1883, p. 2.

¹⁶² “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>.



The Wachsmuth-Henry House. Ca. 1890. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.

CRITERION C

The Wachsmuth-Henry House represents an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style—the Federal style. Philadelphia is one of few locales in the United States that adequately represents the Federal period in its built environment. Rooted in the English origins of the Quakers and other English settlers, the early founders of Philadelphia brought with them from England the Georgian architectural motifs from their native country. These buildings were articulated in the most high style specimens and in everyday vernacular building types. After the American Revolution, the pride of Philadelphia’s role in founding the new nation could be seen in the adaptation of the Georgian style to a Federal mode. That tradition carried on through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the built environment of the Quaker City. While the application of the style became less pure over time, it remained an inherent building trait representative of the identity and perhaps pride in place. The Henry House represents that era in its architectural style, as an evolving house built earlier in the eighteenth century.

CRITERION D

The Federal Style (1780-1820)

The Henry House a distinctive example of the Federal style of architecture, as articulated in early nineteenth century vernacular mansions in Philadelphia and, particularly, Germantown.

The following description of the Federal style is taken from the Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide, which is provided by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission:

The Federal style is also known as the Adam style, after the Adam brothers, British architects who developed this style in England. It is really a refinement of the Georgian style, which was popular in the years preceding the Federal style. Like the Georgian style, the Federal style is designed around center hall floor plan, or side hall for narrow row houses. The Federal style has many of the same elements of the Georgian style - symmetry, classical details and a side gabled roof - yet it is different in its ornamentation and sophistication. Federal details are more delicate, slender and finely drawn than their Georgian counterparts and may feature swags, garlands and urns. Also, more formal elements were introduced in the Federal style, such as the front door fanlight window, sometimes with flanking sidelights, and more elaborate door surrounds and porticos. The Federal style is also known for dramatic windows, three-part or Palladian windows with curved arches. Another outstanding - yet less common - Federal feature is the use of curving or polygonal window projections.

The Federal style became popular throughout the colonies after the American Revolution and was dominant until about 1820, when it was supplanted by the Greek or Classical Revival Style. The easiest way to identify a Federal style building from a Georgian one is to look for the elliptical fan light over the front door or the Palladian windows - not that those design features do not appear in later styles as well. The Federal house in Pennsylvania is usually a brick two or three story building.¹⁶³

The aforementioned field guide also details a list of typical features:

1. Symmetrical form and fenestration

¹⁶³ "Federal Style 1780-1820," in *Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide*. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, last modified August 26, 2015, <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/federal.html>

The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 - Page 78

2. Elliptical fan light over paneled front door
3. Side lights flanking front door
4. Classical details, similar to the Georgian style, but more delicate in size and scale
5. Flat lintels over windows, often with bull's eye corners
6. Cornice with decorative moldings, often dentils
7. Low pitched side-gable or hipped roof
8. Double hung windows with thin muntins separating the panes (6 panes over 6 most common)
9. Decorative front door crown or entry porch
10. Tripart or Palladian window
11. Curving or polygonal projections¹⁶⁴

The Wachsmuth-Henry House contains a somewhat symmetrical form and fenestration due to its additive nature, despite the number of dormers; an elliptical fanlight over the front door; limited classical details, including the treatment of the original dormers and the paneling around the door; flat lintels over windows, which are concealed by stucco; a cornice with decorative moldings; a side-gabled roof with simple fanlights in the gable-ends; double-hung windows with a six-over-six light configuration in the remaining original and/or period wooden windows; the base of a classical inspired entrance porch; etc. Frank Cousins' 1920 guide to Philadelphia colonial architecture contains this description:

Of far more modest character is the porch of the old Henry house, Number 4908 Germantown Avenue, long occupied by Doctor W.S. Ambler. It is much smaller, extremely simple in its detail and of generally less pleasing proportions. Two slender, smooth columns and corresponding pilasters on the wall of the house support a pediment rather too flat for good appearance. Except for the Ionic capitals, the detail is rather nondescript as to its order. The round-arched, deeply recessed doorway has the usual paneled jambs and soffit, but the reeded casings and square impost blocks are of the sort that came into vogue about the beginning of the nineteenth century. The single door with its eight molded and raised panels is of that type, having three pairs of small panels of uniform size above a single pair of high panels, the lock rail being more than double the width of the rails above and wider than the bottom rail. Unlike the usual fanlight, this one is patterned after a much used Palladian window with sash bar divisions suggested by Gothic tracery.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁴ "Federal Style 1780-1820," in *Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide*

¹⁶⁵ Frank Cousin, *The Colonial Architecture of Philadelphia* (Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1920), 121.

*The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 79*

While the Wachsmuth-Henry House may have been built in stages, it still retains elements of Georgian symmetry typical of the style. In a book titled, *The Honest House*, the building is referenced as:

The old Henry house at Germantown, Pennsylvania. Note the beautifully proportioned windows.¹⁶⁶



The Wachsmuth-Henry House. Ca. 1910. Courtesy the Germantown Historical Society.

Another familiar feature of the Federal period was the use of stucco over stone as described in Joseph A.F. Cardiff's piece on *Early Stucco Houses*.

Still another and apparently later variety is that shown in Plate VII. The texture seems to have been procured by first rough-casting the mortar and then forcibly throwing pea-size pebbles in the fresh stucco. The sand is coarse and of a brownish-yellow tone, and the lime binder which would naturally lighten the color considerably has almost disappeared from the surface, so that the tone is the natural color of the aggregate. The pebbles vary from pinkish white and yellow to brown and black, giving a delightful yellow and black mottle

¹⁶⁶ Ruby Ross Goodnow, *The Honest House* (New York: The Century Co., 1914), 86.

The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 80

to the warm background. The Henry house (XIV) and the Wister house (XVI) are of this variety.¹⁶⁷

Embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style, the Wachsmuth-Henry House is a significant specimen of architecture.

Criterion 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.

The Wachsmuth-Henry House is one of a few dozen buildings that comprise the Colonial Germantown Historic District. The building contributes to the said historic district, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the Colonial Germantown Historic District is a National Historic Landmark. This building satisfies Criterion G, as it is part of and related to a distinctive area, which should be preserved according to an historic cultural and architectural motif, as prescribed by the NRHP and NHL programs.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁷ Joseph A.F. Cardiff, *Early Stucco Houses* (New York: The Atlas Portland Cement Company, 1916), 8.

¹⁶⁸ National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form for the Colonial Germantown Historic District. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/CRGIS_Attachments/SiteResource/H001384_01H.pdf

The Wachsmuth-Henry House, 4908-4914 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Spring 2016 – Page 81

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