

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: **6365-6367 Germantown Avenue**

Postal code: **19144**

Councilmanic District: **8**

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: **Front: The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew**

Rear: The Carpet Mill of Richard Bew & Son

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: **Commercial/Residential**

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

c. 1872 to 1898

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration:

Front: 1898/Rear: 1872-1879

Architect, engineer, and/or designer:

Unknown

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan:

Front: John Owens, Contractor

Original owner:

Sophia Thewlis Bew

Other significant persons:

Richard Bew

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,**
(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:

THE KEEPING SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA

Name with Title

Oscar Beisert & J.M. Duffin

Email

Oscar.Beisert@gmail.com

Date

17 February 2017

Street Address

1315 Walnut Street, Suite 732

Telephone

(717) 602-5002

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

Nominators are not the property owners.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: January 31, 2017

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete

Date: March 14, 2017

Date of Notice Issuance: March 17, 2014

Property Owner at Time of Notice

Name: The Business Known as TVC PA 6365 Germantown Ave

Address: 125 Edgewood Ave

City: San Francisco

State: CA

Postal Code: 94117

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

Nomination
for the
Philadelphia Register of Historic Places



Left: Front building 6365–6367 Germantown Ave. Right: Rear building at 6365–6367 Germantown Ave.
Source: Oscar Beisert

The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew
The Carpet Mill of Richard Bew & Son
6365–6367 Germantown Avenue
Germantown
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary description of the proposed designation is as follows:

SITUATE on the Northeasterly side of Germantown Avenue at the distance of 168 feet 11-1/2, inches Southeastwardly from the Southeasterly side of Johnson Street in Germantown in the 59th Ward of the City of Philadelphia.

CONTAINING in front or breadth on the said side of Germantown Avenue (or Main Street) 35 feet 5-1/4 inches and in depth on the Northwesterly line thereof North 75 degrees 30 minutes East 33 feet 2-1/4 inches; thence North 65 degrees 40 minutes East 83 feet 8-1/4 inches and on the Southeasterly line thereof North 75 degrees 30 minutes East 32 feet 7-1/2, inches; and thence North 55 degrees 7 minutes East 93 feet 8 inches in the center of a certain 12 feet wide alley and in the rear along the middle of said alley 17 feet 5-1/4 inches.



The boundary for the subject property is in red. Courtesy Philadelphia Water Department.

OPA/BRT Account: 881097335

Department of Records Registry Number: 051N24-0011



Looking east. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The buildings that comprise the subject property at 6365–6367 Germantown Avenue include: 1. The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew and 2. The Carpet Mill of Richard Bew & Son. These buildings occupy almost the entire parcel, facing onto Germantown Avenue at the front and Harrison Court at the rear.

The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew (1898)

Referred to at the time of its construction as “the large four-story store and dwelling,” 6365–6367 Germantown Avenue is the largest building on the block, resembling the late nineteenth century version of a mixed-use commercial property. Set immediately upon

The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew

The Carpet Mill of Richard Bew & Son

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the avenue, the four-story building appears to be entirely of load bearing masonry construction, possibly reinforced with structural steel. Architecturally, the façade is eclectic in style. There are elements of the Federal style in its form, symmetry, and even some of its details. However, with its “buff” or Pompeian brick, “numerous bay windows,” and an interesting mixture of architectural details, the building adheres primarily to the Queen Anne Revival style. The first floor consists of two shop fronts with a central double door entrance. Keystone lintels at center and on the south end of the façade indicate a previous configuration at the ground floor. Small centrally located windows are present on the second, third and fourth floors. Flanking this central opening on the second and third floors are impressive, continuous two-story oriel windows. The oriels feature ornamental sheathing of a diamond pattern beneath the second floor windows and imitation clapboard beneath the third floor windows, which may be the work of a pressed tin metal cornice maker. At the top of each oriel is a projecting cornice with modillions. The small central window in the fourth floor is flanked by two windows on each side. These windows are set within substantial wooden architraves and feature flat Georgian Revival style lintels. Continuing the notion of the diamond pattern motif, the cornice is of galvanized iron.



Looking east. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking east. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

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Looking east. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

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Looking northeast. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew
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Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.

The Mill of Richard Bew & Son (1873-1879), Ingrains and Carpets

Being the former Mill of Richard Bew & Son, the building in the rear of 6365–6367 Germantown Avenue is a medium size, three-story roughcast stone industrial building, communicating with the E. Johnson Street egress to what was historically known as Harrison’s Court.

Constructed between 1873 and 1879, the Mill reflects the Second Empire Style with a fully articulated Mansard roof that appears to retain much of its original and/or period-appearing slate. The street-facing elevation features two pedestrian openings at the ground floor. At the second floor are three apertures—a loading bay with its original and/or period appear wooden door, which is flanked by two windows. The third floor

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features a fully articulated Mansard roof with three shed dormers at the primary elevation and several gable-fronted dormers at the side elevations.



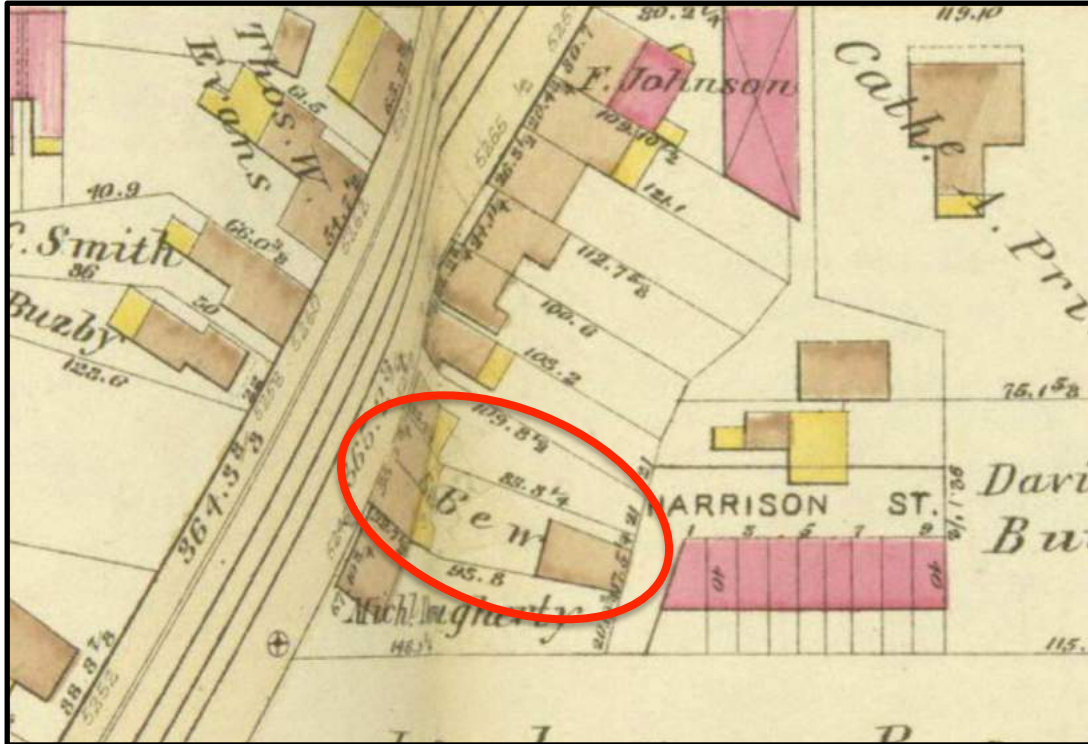
Looking southwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking northwest. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



Looking south into Harrison Court. Courtesy Oscar Beisert.



A detail of the Bromley Philadelphia Atlas, 1889. This map shows the original Bew House and the subject Mill. Source: the Free Library of Philadelphia.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

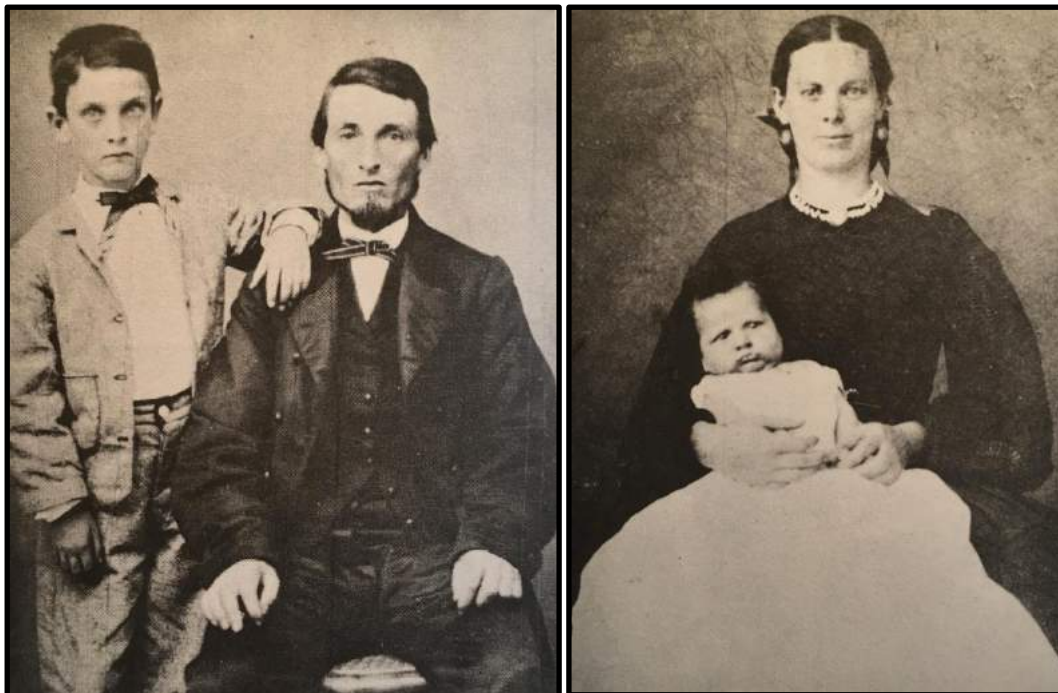
The buildings that comprise 6365–6367 Germantown Avenue constitute a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Located in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia, the building satisfies the following Criteria for Designation as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- a) *Has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth, or nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past;*
- c) *Reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive 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; and*
- j) *Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.*

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Left: James and Richard Bew, c. 1870s. Right: Sophia Thewlis Bew and George Bew, c. 1870s. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976).

Criterion A and J

The buildings that comprise 6365–6367 Germantown Avenue represent the development, economic, and social heritage of Germantown in the late nineteenth century, being historically a single property that was commercial, industrial, and residential. These phases of development, economic, and social history led to the emergence and evolution of architectural types articulated in the popular styles of the period. The “store and residence” facing onto Germantown Avenue was constructed in 1898, while the mill facing onto Harrison Court was built between 1873 and 1879.¹

Furthermore, the subject property is the sole surviving example of a small-scale carpet manufacturing building from this period left in the Germantown, Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill section of the city. The 1882 census of manufacturers identifies twelve such carpet manufacturers in the 22nd Ward.² Most were these were run out of houses in present-day Mount Airy and lower Chestnut Hill and no separate manufacturing building survives on any of these sites.³

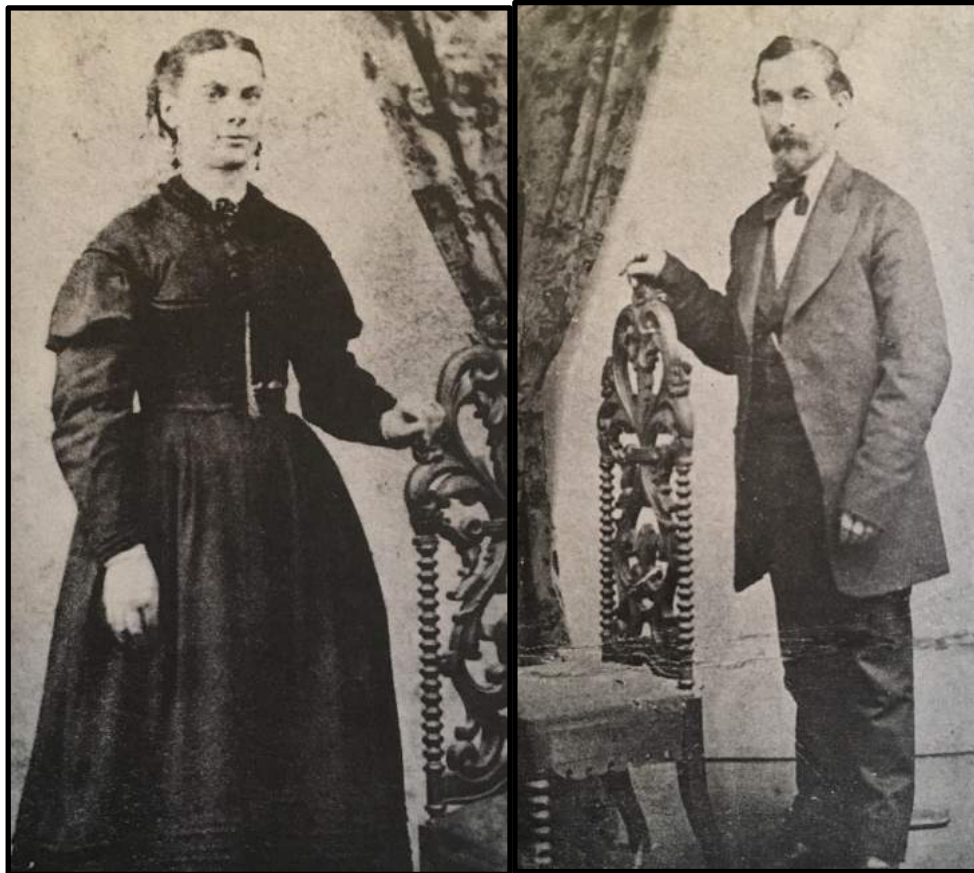
¹ A reference in Sophia Daily’s book indicates that the Bews took out a mortgage for \$5,000 in 1877 to “enlarge weaving areas,” which likely refers to the construction of the manufactory (Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families* [St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976]).

² Blodget, *Census of Manufactures of Philadelphia*, 161.

³ Confirmed by comparing locations in Blodget’s list with 1879 to 1883 city directories, 1880 Federal Census and the Philadelphia Deed Registry records and locating their present-day locations. Two locations
The Store and Residence of Richard & Sophia Thewlis Bew

Historic Context

English immigrants, Richard and Sophia Bew moved from Manayunk to Germantown in 1872, purchasing the subject property for \$2,200.⁴ At the time of purchase, the property consisted of a “double stone house” built or remodeled as part of a larger project by Thomas Reilly between 1863 and 1871.⁵ Reilly’s work represents the first phase of development after the subdivision of the Chew Estate in the mid-nineteenth century—a primary period of local suburbanization.



Left: Sophia Thewlis Bew, c. 1870s. Right: Richard Bew, c. 1870s. Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976).

The Twenty-second Ward was home to more than 1,000 textile workers, producing over \$600,000 in manufactured goods by 1850. Both Germantown and Manayunk had become home to a wave of English immigrants, who collectively revived the textile industry in

in Blodget’s list with exact addresses – 4535 (present-day 4827) Germantown Avenue and 73 (present-day 182 E.) Sharpnack Street – also yield the same result.

⁴ Deed: Elias Gould, Jr. of Germantown to Sophia Bew, wife of Richard Bew, Carpet Weaver of Germantown, 1 October 1872. Philadelphia Deed Book J.A.H., No. 276, p. 440. Technically, the property was purchased by Sophia Bew, a common practice at the time to protect property from the husband’s business debts.

⁵ “M. Thomas & Sons Auctioneers,” (Advertisement). *Legal Gazette* (30 June 1871), p. 207.

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the mid-nineteenth century.⁶ Both Richard and Sophia Thewlis Bew were from the Midlands in England that being a great weaving center.⁷ Originally from Berkshire, England, Richard Bew was a weaver by trade. His wife, Sophia Thewlis, was from Huddersford, Yorkshire.⁸ In 1870, Philadelphia was one of the greatest textile manufacturing centers in the world. Germantown enjoyed no less than 61 related enterprises—wool, dyeing/finishing, spinning, hosiery/knit goods, and carpet. There were a reported 2,351 textile workers in Germantown. Under the ownership of the Bews, the purely residential property became commercial, industrial, and residential, representing yet another phase of development. “Richard Bew & Son, Carpet & Ingrain” was established on the site and there it flourished, justifying the construction of a small manufactory between 1873 and 1879. They produced rugs, blankets, and bier rugs.⁹



The original building that stood on the subject parcel prior to the construction of the store and dwelling in 1898. Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976). Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

The subject building represents the Bews’ transition from shop to mill. Between 1870 and 1880, Germantown went from 61 to 101 textile firms, increasing by sixty percent. The products/services also diversified—cotton, cotton-wool, wool, silk, dyeing/finishing, spinning, hosiery/knit goods, carpet, etc. Philadelphia was home to more than 4,000 handlooms, producing an average of 130 yards of carpet per week. Much of this work was done in the homes English and German immigrants in Kensington, but Germantown

⁶ Philip Scranton *Proprietary Capitalism: The Textile Manufacture at Philadelphia, 1800-1885* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1983), 224-25.

⁷ Daily. *We Look Back*.

⁸ “George Hyde Bew,” in Alfred M. Heston, ed., *South Jersey, A History*. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1924), 4: 252.

⁹ Daily. *We Look Back*.

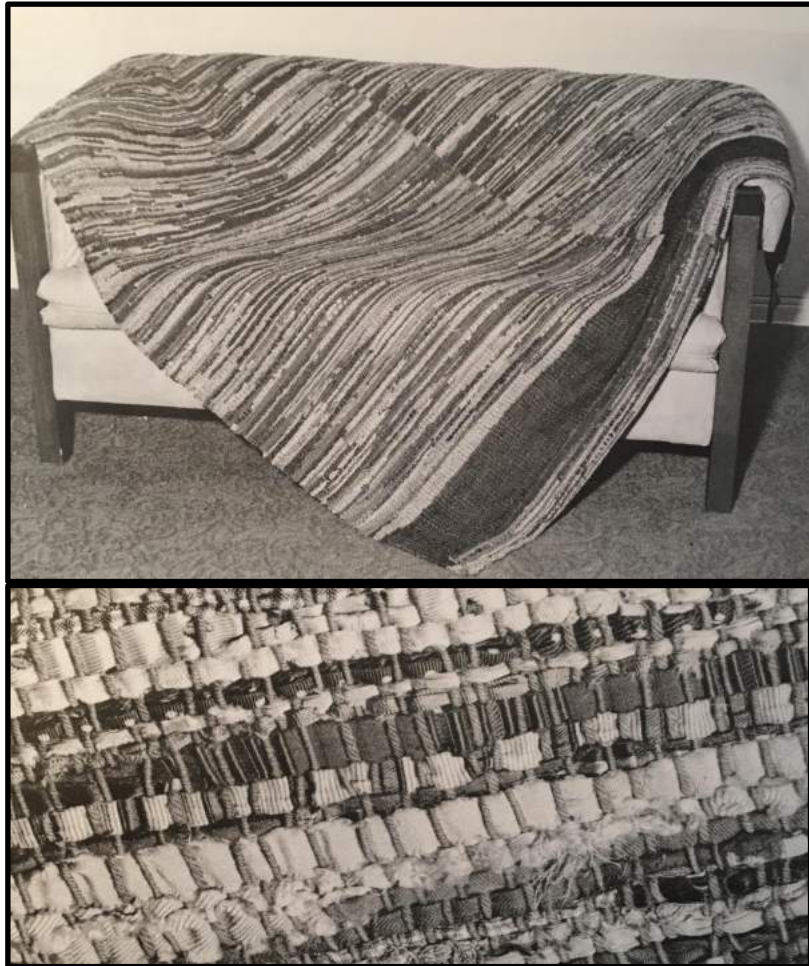
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too had increased its carpet manufacturing capacity from three firms in 1870 to sixteen by 1880. Lorin Blodget said the following about the carpet industry:

The most rapid growth was in 1873 to 1880, at the time most disastrous to business generally; the hosiery interest then growing up to take the place of the previous heavy importations from Germany and England; and the carpet manufacture even more decisively filling the local market to the exclusion of importations, supplying the large new demand from the interior and the west.¹⁰



Top: A rug made by Richard Bew & Son at the subject property. Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976). Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Bottom: Rag quality and construction of rug made by Richard Bew & Son. Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976). Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

¹⁰ Lorin Blodget, "The Woolen Industry of Philadelphia," *Bulletin, National Association of Wool Manufacturers* 10 (1880): 31.

Richard Bew & Son were one of the sixteen Germantown firms engaged in the manufacture of carpet.¹¹ The firm was listed in the Manufacturers' Census in 1880, and later identified in the *Textile Manufacturers' Directory of the United States* in 1881.¹² Richard Bew operated the textile business at the subject property from 1872 to 1887.¹³ Bew was typical of the small-scale hand-loom carpet manufacturers that Germantown was known for. In 1880 Bew's rag carpet business had a capital of \$1,000 and \$5,000 in the total value of products and employed 3 men. The vast majority of the businesses in this category employed between 1 and 6 people. Among the 50 rag carpet manufacturers in Philadelphia in 1880, Bew's capital investment was double to that of the median for most firms.¹⁴ This was probably mostly in his building. By 1882 there were fifteen manufacturers of carpets in the 22nd Ward (comprising present-day Germantown, Mount Airy, Chestnut Hill as well as East/West Oak Lane and Olney). Of these twelve were operating a business with just six looms or less. Bew had five looms and employed six people working on ingrain carpets.¹⁵

As described extensively in *Proprietary Capitalism*, this was a great period for the development of small to medium size textile mills in Germantown. These enterprises produced all manner of textiles. Germantown was also well known for its use and the persistence of hand-loom small-scale textile manufacturing even as late as 1882 when power looms began to come in.¹⁶ Blodget's description of carpet manufacturing in the 22nd Ward provides an invaluable glimpse of a the type of operation Bew had:

Hand looms on ingrains were the chief feature of these mills until recently, but now these have been wholly replaced by power looms, and the product is chiefly Brussels, Wilton, and other carpets of the finer grades. The hand looms so long used are now held by the private weavers, who work them at their homes; one, two or four looms in each case, the owners residing on Allen's lane, Mount Airy avenue, and other streets in the vicinity of the Glen Echo mills. About 60 looms are still so held, and operated on fine ingrains chiefly, in many cases the workmen "drawing their work," or working on yarns furnished by the proprietors of mills in Kensington. A mill on the eastern line of the ward at Crescentville [today Olney], long known as a factory for fine woollens, changed early in 1882 to a carpet factory, running 60 power looms on Brussels and fine ingrains,—Vandeventer & Horne, proprietors. McCallum, Crease & Sloan employ

¹¹ Scranton. *Proprietary Capitalism*, 314-21.

¹² *The Textile Manufacturers' Directory of the United States*. (1881), p. 166.

¹³ "George Hyde Bew," *South Jersey A History*, 252.

¹⁴ Theodore Hirshberg, Philadelphia Social History Project: Manufacturing Data, 1880 [Computer file], ICPSR34967-v2. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2014-04-14. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR34967.v2>.

¹⁵ Lorin Blodget, *Census of Manufactures of Philadelphia: A Census of Industrial Establishments, And of Persons of Each Class Employed Therein, In the City of Philadelphia, For the Year 1882* (Philadelphia: Dickson & Gillig, 1883), 161.

¹⁶ Blodget, *Census of Manufactures of Philadelphia*, 87-88.

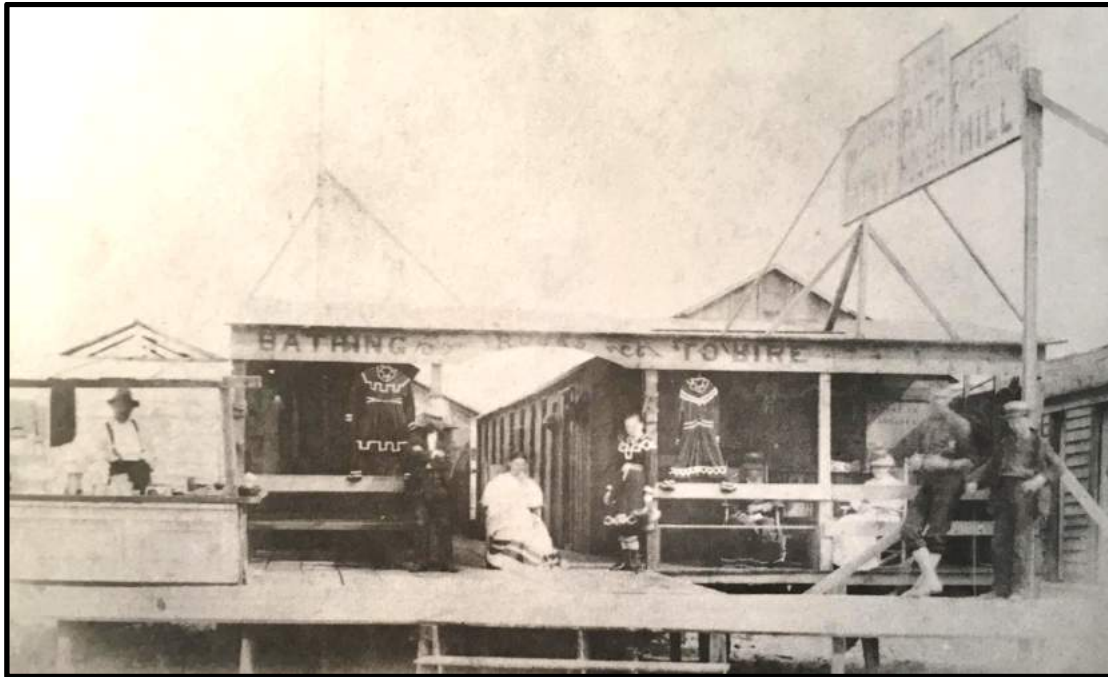
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273 persons, Vandeventer & Horne, 81, and 13 smaller car pet makers employ 85 persons in addition.¹⁷

While examples of the larger power loom carpet mills, such as the New Glen Echo Mill at Wayne Junction, still survive today, the subject property represents the earlier stage of carpet weaving that was once very common in this part of this city.



The family poses in front of Bew's Hotel and Baths. Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976).

Spending their holidays at the Jersey Shore, the Bews made Atlantic City their permanent residence in 1887. However, they had for years been dabbling in the tourist industry during their Jersey Shore excursions. There they built Bew's Hotel and Baths on property leased at the corner of Illinois Avenue and the Boardwalk. Later the Bews built, owned, and operated the Windsor Hotel.¹⁸ Richard Bew was considered one of the "pioneer hotel men of Atlantic City."¹⁹

¹⁷ Blodget, *Census of Manufactures of Philadelphia*, 88.

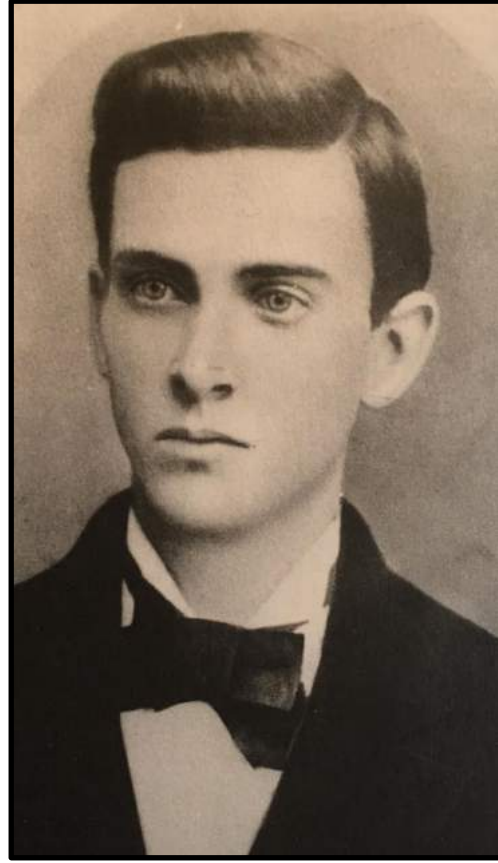
¹⁸ John F. Hall, *The Daily Union History of Atlantic City and County, New Jersey*, (New Jersey, 1900), 239.

¹⁹ "George Hyde Bew," *South Jersey, A History*, 252.

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Both images are of James T. Bew. Source: Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976).

Richard and Sophia became so engaged in their shore businesses that the mill was turned over to their sons, George Hyde Bew and James T. Bew.²⁰ The former remained for just two years before removing to Atlantic City to assist with the hotel business.²¹ The latter remained in Germantown, managing the textile manufactory through the end of the century.²² The period of 1872-1887 represents the “shop to mill” trajectory that occurred among “immigrant proprietors” in Germantown and throughout Philadelphia, being significant to local development, economic and social history.

²⁰ A reference in *We Look Back* indicates that Richard and Sophia Bew sold the business to their sons on January 20, 1888 (Daily. *We Look Back*).

²¹ “George Hyde Bew,” *South Jersey A History*, 252.

²² Philadelphia City Directories. Source: Ancestry.com.

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A second version of Bew's Hotel on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City. Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976).

In September 1898, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* announced that Sophia Bew had commissioned John Owens, an important local contractor, to build a “four-story store and dwelling, 35.6x50 feet, at 6365 and 6367 Germantown road.”²³ By November 29, 1898, the building was “nearing completion,” being referred to by *The Philadelphia Inquirer* as “the large four-story store and dwelling” with a façade of “buff brick” and “numerous bay windows.” The total cost for the project was estimated at \$12,000.²⁴ Since the family's domicile had been changed to Atlantic City, it makes perfect sense that they did not show up on Germantown Avenue in the 1900 Census, indicating that the “dwelling” was likely for their use. The combination store and dwelling was common type, but unusual in size for Germantown. Naturally, the collocating of domestic and commercial in a single building was as old as Germantown itself, but the subject building is a substantial version of the property type.

Even after her husband's death in 1910, Sophia Thewlis Bew retained ownership of the property until 1923.²⁵

²³ *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. (Philadelphia: 7 September 1898), p. 7.

²⁴ *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. (Philadelphia: 29 November 1898), p. 12.

²⁵ Deed: Sophia Bew to Joseph Orlow. 27 August 1923, Philadelphia Deed Book J.M.H., No. 1707, p. 26.

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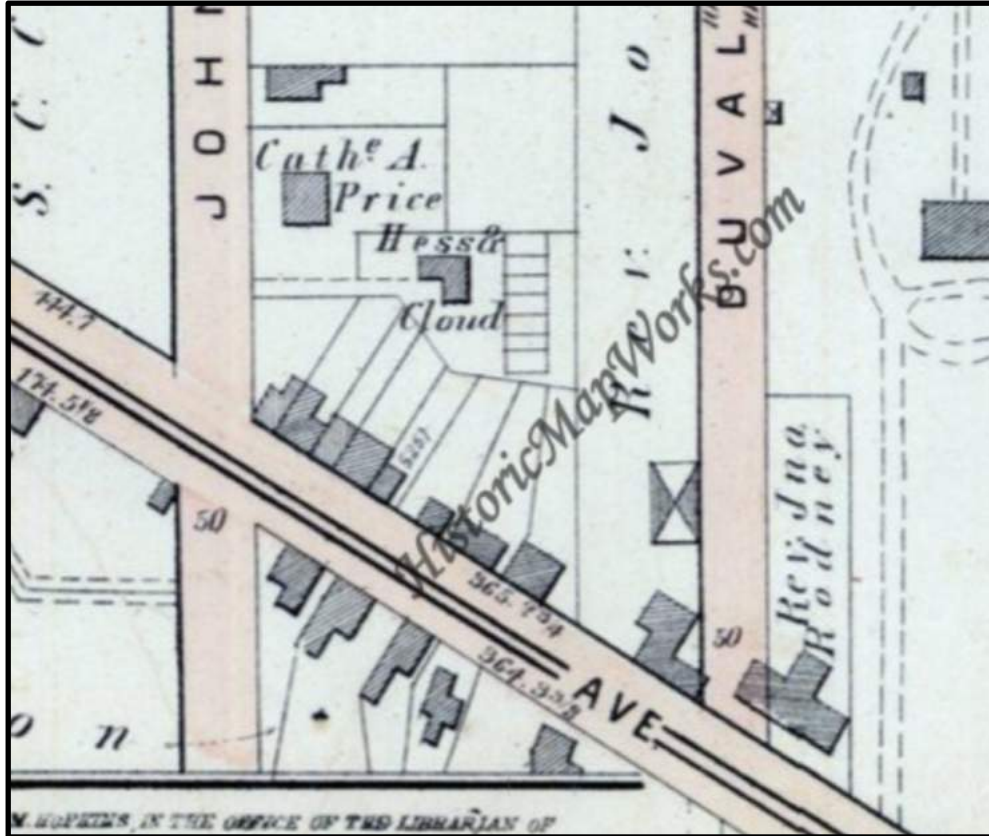
Sophia Thewlis Bew, c. 1910s-1920s.

Source: Sophia Thewlis Bew Roberts Daily. *We Look Back: The Bew and Thewlis Families*. (St. Petersburg, Florida: 1976).

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Detail from Plate T of the Hopkin's Philadelphia Atlas, 1876, Vol. 1, Ward 22nd. Note: the original Bew house is circled in red.

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Advertisement for the Roberts' Mill, showing the Spencer Roberts Mansion, Church Lane, East Germantown. Demolished. Source: the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Criterion C and J

The collocating of domestic, commercial, and industrial buildings upon a single parcel within a dense urban or suburban location is an important architectural type of the past in Germantown and the larger context of Philadelphia. The most common configurations of include: 1. House and Store; 2. House and Stable; 3. House and Office; 4. House, Office, and Stable; 5. House and Manufactory. The first and fifth configurations represent the subject property. The imagery shown in this section will also illustrate that within this architectural type, the Second Empire Style and the use of the Mansard roof was characteristic of the era as well. All of these things represent the cultural, economic, and historical heritage of Germantown in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Historic Context: the House and Manufactory in Germantown

At one time it would have also been common to find buildings of domestic and industrial use set upon a single parcel throughout Philadelphia. However, of the five property types, this configuration has the fewest surviving examples, as most of these properties have passed from the urban and/or suburban environment. In the textile industry, it was common for knitters, spinners, and weavers to set up shop in their home, but those who prospered eventually required purpose-built or, at least, separate buildings to house their operations. If located in the urban and/or suburban setting, the house and manufactory usually represent a small business that may or may not have grown over time. Those that expanded often demolished their domestic buildings for industrial expansion, while others abandoned their original sites entirely.

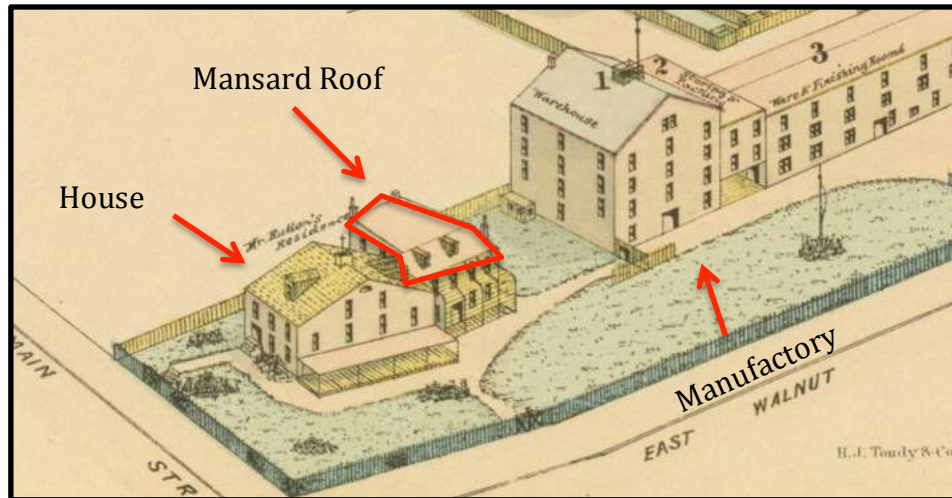
In Germantown, there were numerous examples of the subject property type. The most famous example was Roberts' Mill on Church Lane east of Chew Avenue. Most of Philadelphia's history books date the mill to the 1683 through 1699, being "the oldest" or

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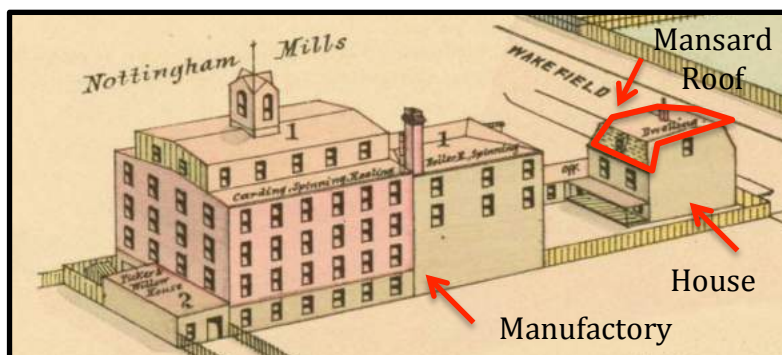
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at least among the oldest mills in Pennsylvania. The first owner was a Townsend, then a Spencer, and later Spencer Roberts. No longer extant, the site certainly collocated domestic and industrial uses. One could not discuss this property type in Germantown or Philadelphia without mentioning the age-old mill, but it is more common in the sense that its construction and the configuration of the site related to Germantown’s rural past.



Detail of Hexamer General Surveys, Volume 21, showing the Germantown Hosiery Mills at the northeast corner of Germantown Avenue and E. Walnut Lane. This was a large industrial complex owned by Conyers Button, his residence facing onto Germantown Avenue. Demolished

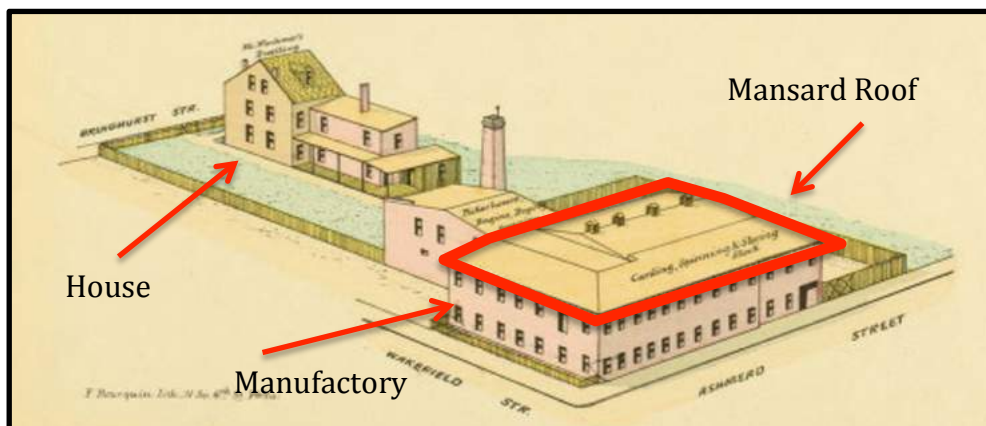
One of the great examples of the manufactory and house was the important operation that grew over time was that of Conyers Button in Upper Germantown. The proprietor’s house stood at the venerable juncture of Germantown Avenue and E. Washington Lane. The house was one in the Georgian tradition with a large old mill building in the rear. This property was quite large and extending from the old mill was a large complex that stretched back to Morton Street.²⁶



Detail of Hexamer General Surveys, Volume 21, showing the Nottingham Mills on Wakefield Street near Ashmead in 1879, which included the owner’s dwelling, facing onto the main street with the industrial complex in the rear. Demolished.

²⁶ Hexamer General Surveys, Volume 21. Source: Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network.
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Perhaps the densest and most notable context of the house and manufactory was the neighborhood located along Wakefield Street, south of E. Penn Street and north of Fisher’s Lane. In the second half of the nineteenth century the area became a hotbed of knitting, spinning, weaving, etc.²⁷ Located along Ashmead, Bringhurst, Collom, and Wakefield Streets—and even Wister Street, the textile manufacturers ranging in size and success. The smallest enterprises were home-based—there being only a single building for their trade. When these establishments flourished, separate buildings emerged for industrial purposes. North of Fisher’s Lane and south of Wister Street, the east side of Wakefield Street contained at least three examples of the subject property types. Each of these were detached houses with mills recessed back at the rear of the lot.²⁸ Prominent examples include the Nottingham Mills, Wakefield Street and the Horbury Spinning Mills, Wakefield and Ashmead—both large mills.



Detail of Hexamer General Surveys, Volume 21, showing the Horbury Spinning Mills at the northeast corner of Ashmead and Wakefield Streets in 1886, which included the owner’s dwelling, facing onto a primarily residential street. In 1886, this mill employed “9 boys, 4 girls, and 8 men.” Partly Demolished.

Throughout Germantown were more modest firms that occupied large row-like parcels with buildings that suited their operations. The Residence and Mill of John Why on Wakefield Street is an incredible illustration of the property form. Two other examples exist in the same block of Wakefield and a handful of others nearby on Ashmead and Bringhurst Streets.²⁹

²⁷ Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism*, 314-21.

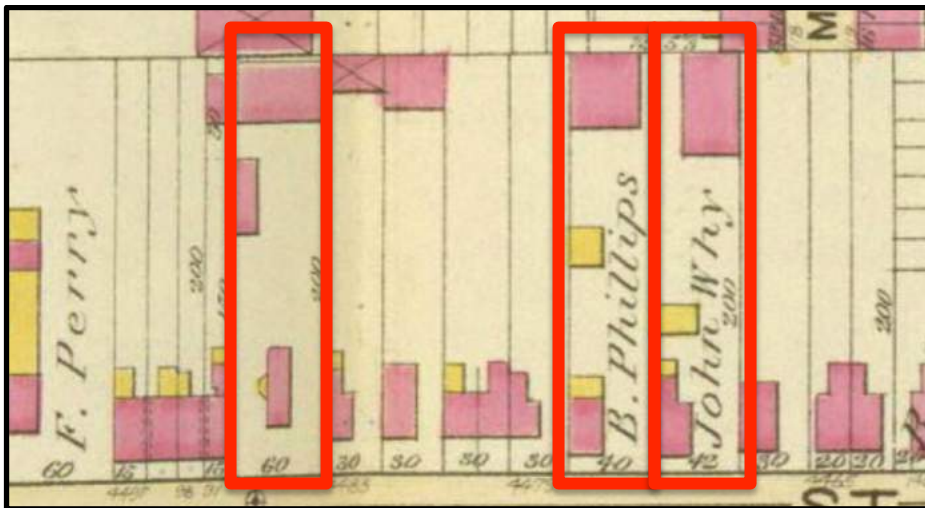
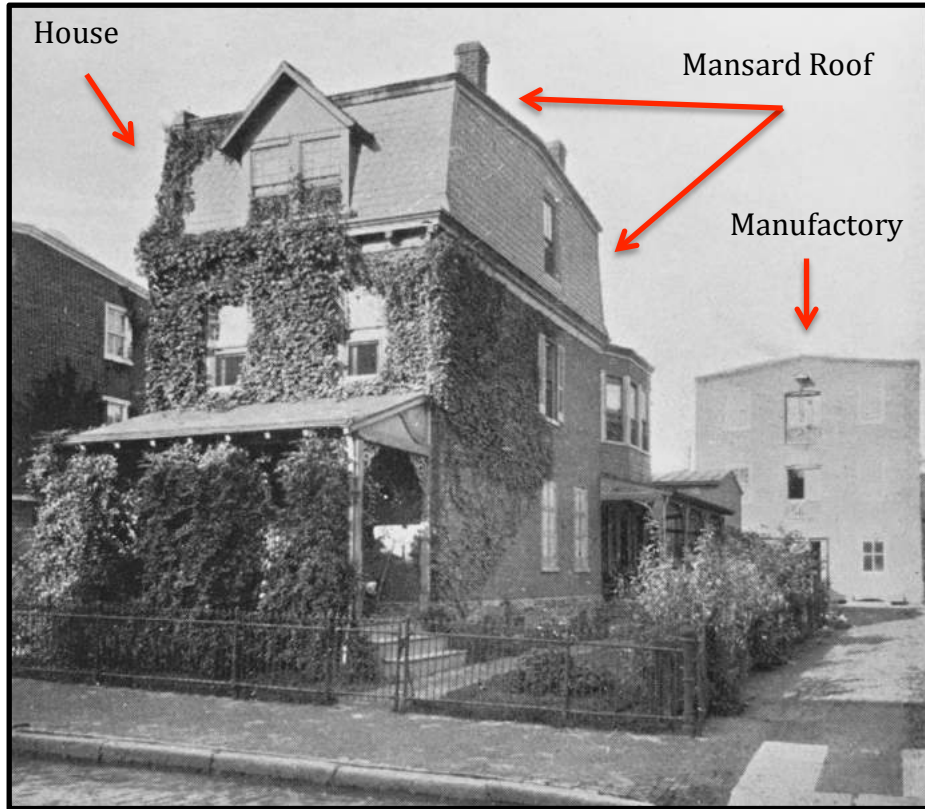
²⁸ G.M. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, Volume 7, 22nd Ward, (Philadelphia: G.M. Bromley, 1889).

²⁹ *Handsome Homes: Germantown, Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy and Pelham* (Philadelphia: Press of the Germantown Independent Gazette, 1899).

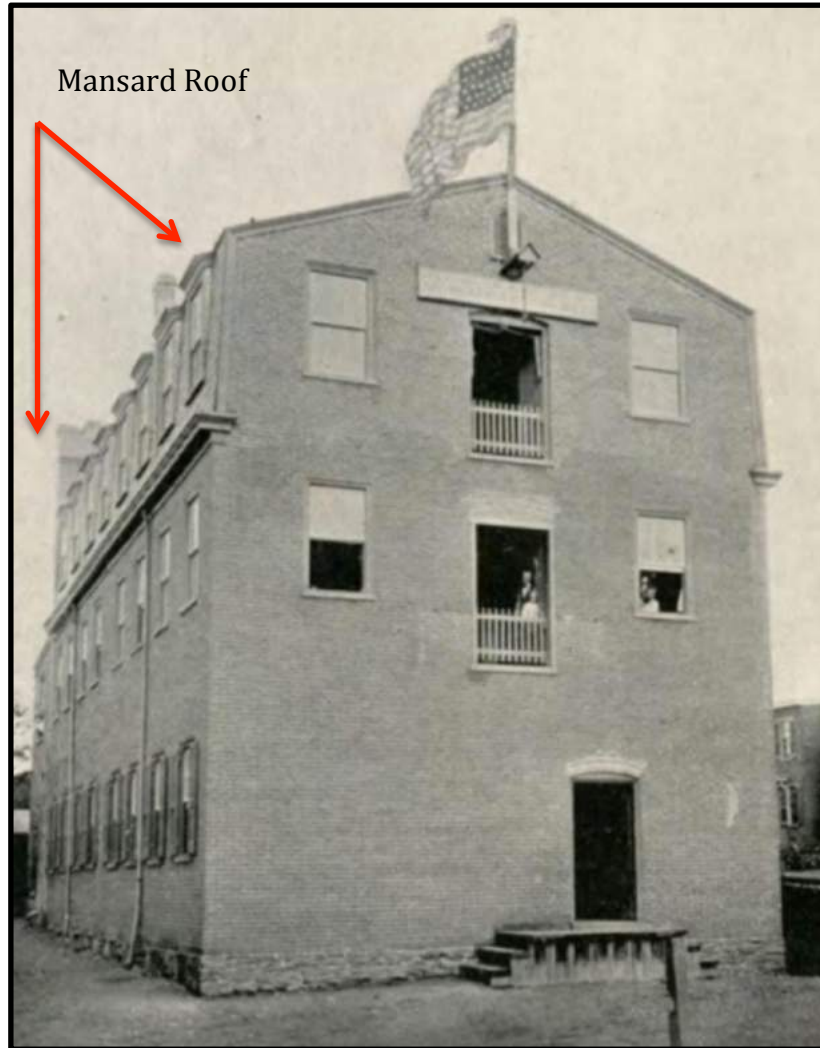
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Top: The Residence and Mill of John Why. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Bottom: Detail of Bromley's *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia*, Volume 7, 22nd Ward, 1889, showing Wakefield Street between Fisher's Lane and Wister Street with at least three examples of the subject property—residence and manufactory (circled in red). Numerous other examples were built historically throughout the German Township, but few survive today.



The Shirland Mills, 5239-43 Wakefield Street. Thomas Greaves, Prop. Demolished. Source: *Handsome Homes: Germantown, Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy and Pelham*. (Philadelphia: Press of the Germantown Independent Gazette, 1899).

While the architecture of mills varies per period, those of the second half of the nineteenth century were influenced by both their utilitarian requirements, as well as the prevalent styles of the day. Each of the complexes shown above features elements of the Second Empire Style. Above is a photograph of the Shirland Mills formerly at 5239-43 Wakefield Street. Thomas Greaves, its owner, clearly commissioned a building that was practical, but also stylish so much so that it was featured in *Handsome Homes*, published by the *Germantown Independent Gazette* in 1899.³⁰ Being influenced by the Second Empire Style, this is just one of many examples of medium size mills decorated with Mansard roofs.

³⁰ *Handsome Homes: Germantown, Chestnut Hill, Mt. Airy and Pelham* (Philadelphia: Press of the Germantown Independent Gazette, 1899).



Situated on Germantown Avenue opposite Tulpehocken Street, the Store and Dwelling of Henry Freas, c. 1890. On right is another store building, which was of wood frame construction. This is clearly an eighteenth century house that was altered to accommodate a store; however, the subject conversion may be an early example. Demolished 1913. Source: the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Criterion C

The Store and House of Richard and Sophia Bew is an exceptional example of this architectural type in an era characterized such buildings. As an aesthetic expression, the building also represents a design that is primarily Queen Anne Revival style, but with curious characteristics of the Federal period—perhaps to be appropriate to Philadelphia.

Address

1. State how many buildings are to be erected, 1

2. How occupied; if for dwelling, state the number of families, Store Store with dwelling attached, for one family

3. What is the street and the number thereof, or the side of the street and distance from the nearest cross street? 6365 and 6367 Germantown Ave, 22 Ward, _____

4. Size of lot.—No. of feet front, 356; No. of feet rear, 26; No. of feet side, 80

Detail of Permit No. 5207: Application For Erection Of New Buildings at 6365 and 6367 Germantown Avenue. Applicant: John Owners, Contractor and Sophia Bew, Owner. Source: City Archives of Philadelphia.

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P 6

Plan No. 840 Permit No. 5207

APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF NEW BUILDINGS.

Application is hereby made to the Bureau of Building Inspection of the City of Philadelphia, for the approval of the detailed statement of the specifications and plans herewith submitted, for the erection of the building herein described. All provisions of the Building Law shall be complied with in the erection of said building, whether specified herein or not.

Philadelphia, Sept. 9/7 (Sign here) John Owens
1898.

Address

- State how many buildings are to be erected, 1
- How occupied; if for dwelling, state the number of families, Store Store with dwelling attached, for one family
- What is the street and the number thereof, or the side of the street and distance from the nearest cross street? 6365 and 6367 Germantown Ave.,
22 Ward,
- Size of lot.—No. of feet front, 35.6; No. of feet rear, 26; No. of feet deep, 80
- Front building.—No. of feet front, 35.6; No. of feet rear, 35.6; No. of feet deep, 33.
- Back building.—No. of feet front, 15; No. of feet rear, 15; No. of feet deep, 27
- No. of stories in height.—Front building, 3 above store basement; Back building, 2 above cellar
- Give total height.—Front building, 44; Back building, 24
- Give height of each story.—Basement, 12 ft.; 1st story, 12; 2d story, 10; 3d story, 9; 4th story, _____; 5th story, _____; 6th story, _____; 7th story, _____; 8th story, _____; 9th story, _____; 10th story, _____; 11th story, _____; 12th story, _____; and upper stories.
- What will be the depth of foundation walls from curb level or surface of the ground? 3 ft.
- Upon what kind of soil will the foundation be laid? natural, partly rock
- What will be the footing, stone or concrete? Stone If stone, give size and thickness, 20"; If concrete, give width, thickness and composition,
- If piers are used, give size, _____; Footing, _____
- Give thickness of foundation walls, 20; Of what materials constructed? Stone
- What will be the thickness of the upper walls? 13" Brick, side walls of stone,

STORIES	FRONT WALLS	SIDE WALLS	REAR WALLS	PARTY WALLS
Basement,	<u>20"</u>	<u>old - 18"</u>	<u>old 18 -</u>	<u>18</u>
First story,	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>
Second story,	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
Third story,	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
Fourth story,				
Fifth story,				
Sixth story,				
Seventh story,				
Eighth story,				
Ninth story,				
Tenth story,				
Eleventh story,				
Twelfth story,				
Thirteenth story,				
Fourteenth story,				
Fifteenth story,				
Upper stories,				

- Of what materials will the walls be constructed? Brick
- Give composition of mortar in foundation walls, Washed Sand & lime Mortar
- Give composition of mortar in upper walls, Best sand & lime for Brick
- If party walls are to be re-enforced, state materials, thickness of reinforcement, and how laid,

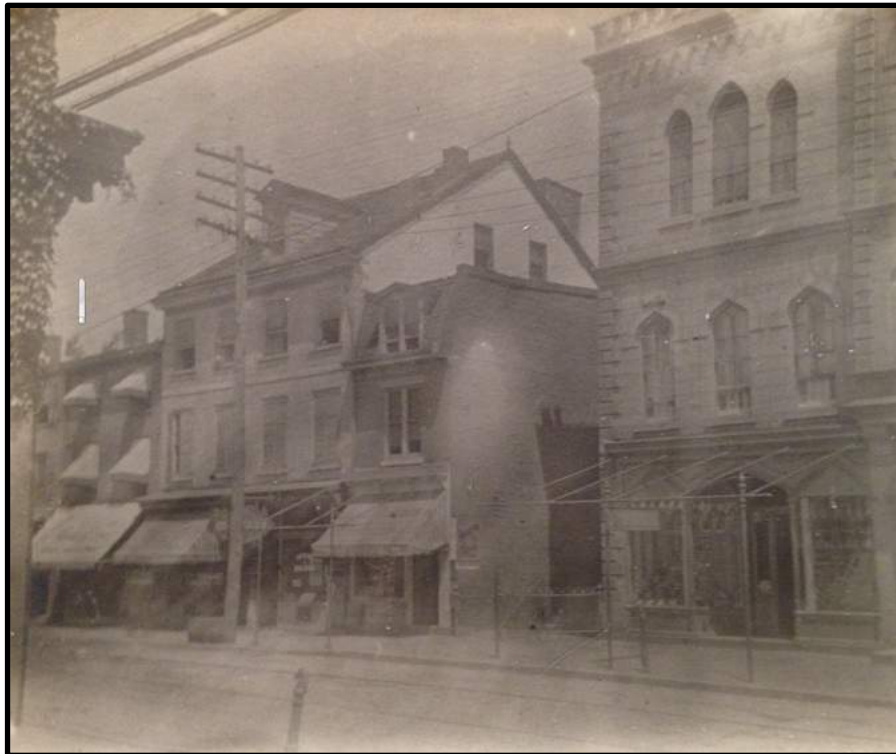
Permit No. 5207 of 1898: Application For Erection Of New Buildings at 6365 and 6367 Germantown Avenue. Applicant: John Owens, Contractor and Sophia Bew, Owner. Note: the permit is for the erection of "Store with dwelling—attached. For one family." Source: City Archives of Philadelphia.

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Historic Context: The Store and Dwelling in Germantown

“Living over the store” is an ancient tradition that essentially represents historic urbanity worldwide. This tradition led to enumerable building forms and type-variants that were articulated in all manner of architectural styles over time. In Germantown, there were numerous examples of the subject property type. Early on, a simple stone, brick, or even frame dwelling might have always included a store, but other than signage there may have been no physical differentiation like was known later or in more urbanized locations. Some of these buildings started life as private houses and were enlarged and/or altered to become a store and dwelling. This is a type that served as commercial at the ground floor, street front with private quarters for the shop keeper and/or business owner. While local examples certainly existed in Colonial and Federal periods, it was during the Victorian and Edwardian periods that these buildings types truly evolved and progressed in more sophisticated forms. This was especially true in Germantown with the advent of the railroad and later the streetcar. Suburbanization was especially important in creating a critical mass that called for a more sophisticated articulation of the store and dwelling.

The following images show store and house examples known in Germantown, only some of which are extant today:



The 5400 Block of Germantown Avenue. The following buildings line the east side of the street: The Masonic Temple at 5423-27 Germantown Avenue); a small Victorian-era building with a shopfront; and a Georgian or Federal period house with a shopfront. Only the Masonic Temple survives. Source: the Jane Campbell Scrapbooks. Courtesy the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

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“William N. Topham’s New Business Place and Residence.” Located at 6330 Germantown Avenue, the building that comprises the store (and office) and residence predates Topham’s renovations in 1902. Source: “Getting the Glad Hand, William N. Topham Being Showered With Congratulations on His Elegantly-Appointed New Business Establishment and Residence,” *Germantown Telegraph*. (Philadelphia: 1902). Source: the Germantown Historical Society.



Harkinson’s, 5834 Germantown Avenue, another great example of a store and house. Demolished ca. 2010. Source: Google.

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D. Harkinson's Bakery, Confectionery, and Residence, also known as the Susan D. Wharton House, 6004 Germantown Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is another example of a dwelling that was altered to accommodate a store, which also featured a distinct and private residential component. Courtesy J.M. Duffin.



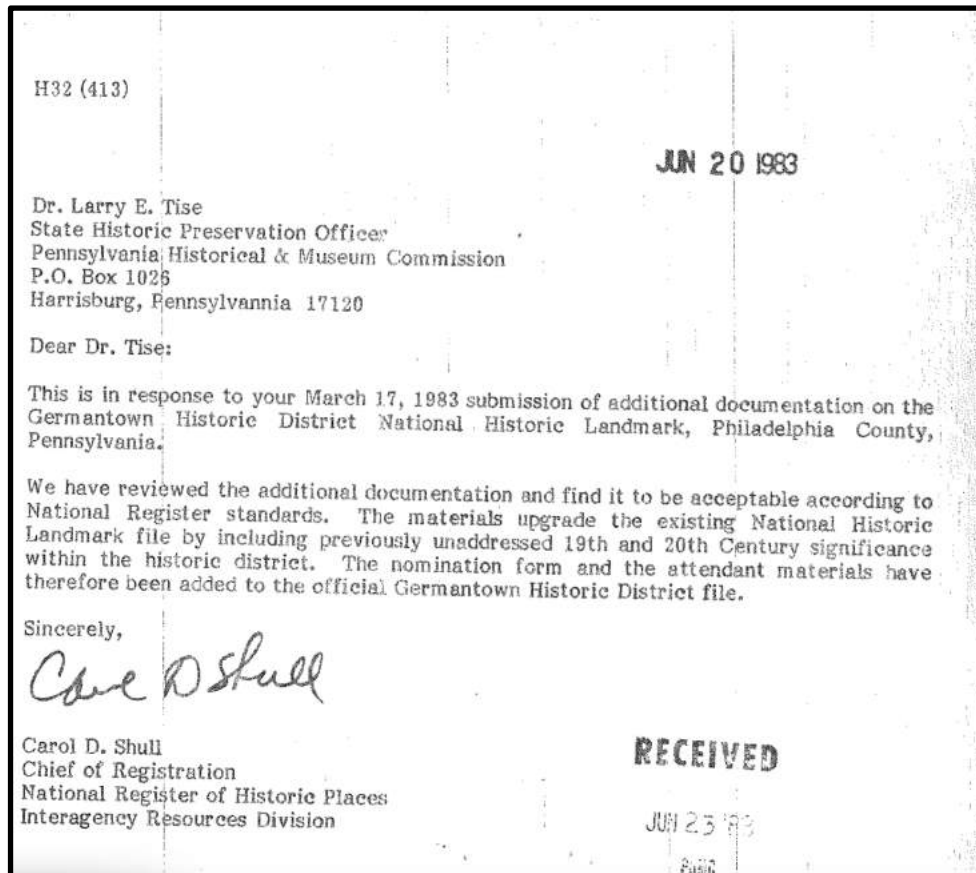
The House, Store, and Livery of Patrick McGarrigle, 5336-38 Germantown Avenue. Located above E. Penn Street on the west side of Germantown Avenue, this building was commissioned for Patrick McGarrigle who operated a carriage repository and stable on the site, and was later modernized for car storage and service. Designed by Harris & Richards, Architects, the building is an excellent example of the architectural type. Source: Google Earth.

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Criterion G

The building standing at the front of the parcel, facing onto Germantown Avenue, is an integral component of a distinctive area, which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural or architectural motif. The subject building contributes to the said historic district, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Furthermore, the Colonial Germantown Historic District is a National Historic Landmark (NHL). 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.³¹



Letter: Carol D. Shull, former Keeper of the National Register, to Dr. Larry E. Tise, former State Historic Preservation Officer, 20 June 1983. This letter confirms that the subject building is a contributing resource of a NHL Historic District. Courtesy Germantown Historical Society.

³¹ 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>

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