

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

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

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

Street address: 6626 Germantown Avenue

Postal code: 19119

2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE

Historic Name: Pelham Pharmacy – Clement B. Lowe Drugstore & Dwelling

Current/Common Name: Hebron Tabernacle of America

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: Religious

5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and site/plot plan of the resource's boundaries.

6. DESCRIPTION

Please attach a narrative description and photographs of the resource's physical appearance, site, setting, and surroundings.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

Please attach a narrative Statement of Significance citing the Criteria for Designation the resource satisfies.

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1904 to 1905

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1904-05

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: David Knickerbacker Boyd, architect

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: William S. Kohl, contractor

Original owner: Clement B. Lowe, pharmacist

Other significant persons: N/A

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:

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

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

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Please attach a bibliography.

9. NOMINATOR

Organization Keeping Society of Philadelphia Date 8 November 2018

Name with Title Oscar Beisert, architectural historian Email keeper@keepingphiladelphia.org

Street Address 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 320 Telephone 717-602-5002

City, State, and Postal Code Philadelphia, PA 19107

Nominator is is not the property owner.

PHC USE ONLY

Date of Receipt: 8 November 2018

Correct-Complete Incorrect-Incomplete Date: 3 January 2019

Date of Notice Issuance: 3 January 2019

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: Hebron Tabernacle of America

Address: 6626 Germantown Avenue

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19119

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: 13 February 2019

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: 8 March 2019

Date of Final Action: 8 March 2019

Designated Rejected

NOMINATION

FOR THE

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES



Left: a photograph of “A Drug Store, Pelham,” showing the primary, commercial elevation of the subject property, taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018. Right: the primary, commercial elevation of the subject building on Germantown Avenue. Source: Google, 2018.

PELHAM PHARMACY **ERECTED 1904**

—
CLEMENT B. LOWE’S
DRUG STORE & DWELLING
6626 GERMANTOWN AVENUE
MT. AIRY, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

*Pelham Pharmacy - Clement B. Lowe’s Drug Store and Dwelling
6626 Germantown Avenue, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Fall 2018 – Page 1*



The subject designation is confined to the parcel delineated above in blue. Source: City of Philadelphia, Atlas, 2018.

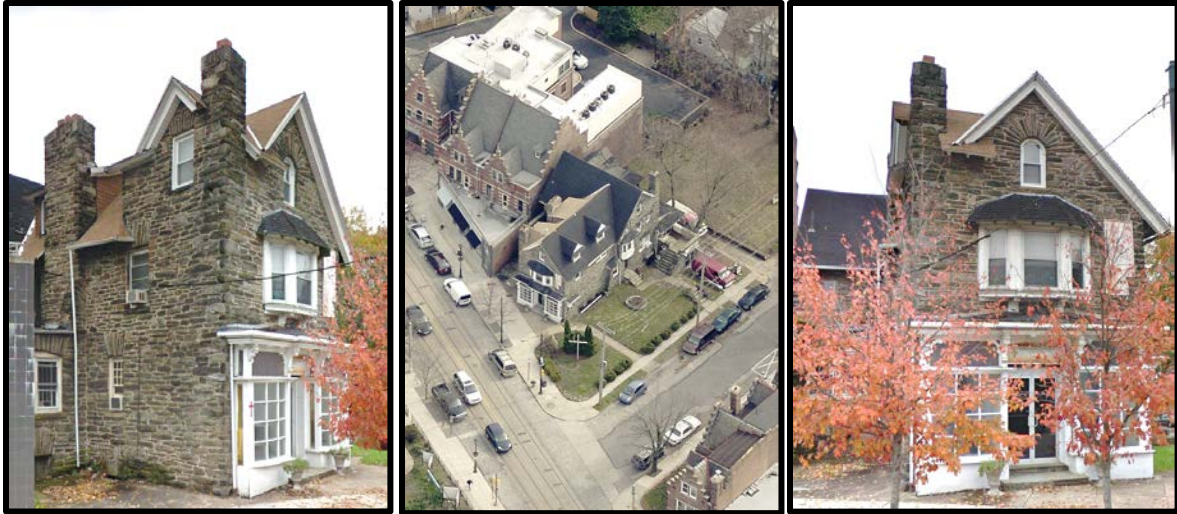
5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the subject designation is as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, SITUATE in the Twenty-second Ward of the City of Philadelphia, BEGINNING at a point on the Southeasterly corner of Germantown Avenue and W. Phil Ellena Street; thence extending Southeastward along the Southwest side of said Germantown Avenue seventy-six feet eight and three-fourths inches to a point; thence extending Southwestward parallel with said Phil-Ellena Street, passing through the center of the party wall one hundred and forty-eight feet five and one-eighth inches to a point; thence extending Northwestward at right angles to said Phil-Ellena Street, sixty-seven feet four and three-eighths inches to a point; thence extending Northeastward along the Southeast side of Phil-Ellena Street one hundred eighty-five feet two and one-fourth inches to the point and place of beginning.

TAX PARCEL NO.: 775161800

DEED REGISTRY NO.: 83N15-73.



Left: Looking west at the primary and side elevations of the subject property as seen from Germantown Avenue. Source: Google, 2018. Center: Looking south at the street-facing elevations of the subject property. Note that the building is essentially an L-shaped plan. Source: City of Philadelphia, Atlas, 2018. Right: The primary, Germantown Avenue elevation of the subject property. Source Google, 2018.

6. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Located at the south corner of Germantown Avenue and W. Phil Ellena Street, on what is traditionally known as the west side of the old road, the subject property, known historically as the Pelham Pharmacy, at 6626 Germantown Avenue is an attractive two-and-one-half-story stone “drug store and dwelling” that adheres to a L-shaped form, comprising an eclectic mixture of the Arts and Crafts and Colonial Revival styles. The L-shape form is comprised of two intersecting two-and-one-half-story blocks, each of which emulate the typical Georgian house form. The upper portion of the L-shape faces onto Germantown Avenue, its primary elevation being the commercial face of the building, while the lower portion presents a residential front at Phil Ellena Street. The entire building maintains its beautifully executed rusticated Wissahickon schist façade that never appears to have been painted or roughcast.

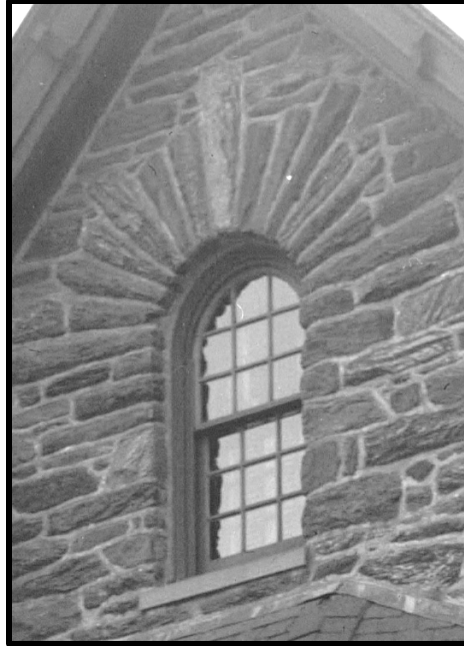


Looking southeast at the storefront of the subject property. Source: Susan Babbitt, Flickr, 2017.



Looking south at the Pelham Pharmacy, the subject property, showing the context of Germantown Avenue and W. Phil Ellena Street. Source: Cyclomedia, April 2018.

The primary, Germantown Avenue elevation is the gable-end of the upper block of the L-shape building and is identified by a beautifully executed shopfront at the ground floor. The shopfront projects from the building by a few feet, and is of frame construction within a large opening in the stone wall. The primary entrance to this elevation is at the center, recessed within two projecting shop windows. Flanking the primary entrance, the projecting shop windows feature large multi-light picture windows, dating to the mid-twentieth century. The windows are set within wooden architraves and beneath transoms of Craftsman style stained glass that are delineated by wooden brackets. The shopfront features a low-slung hipped roof clad in asphalt. The second floor of the primary elevation features a projecting bay window at center, which also features a low-slung hipped roof. Within the gable portion of the third, half-story, is a single aperture at center with a round arch opening, containing a replacement one-over-one sash window. The arch is formed by a lintel composed of schist voussoirs. The gable-front is broken at the east side by a schist chimney stack that rises to the same height as the peak of the gable-end. A shed roof feature bridges the gap between the gable and the stack, featuring exposed eaves and wooden rafter tails.



Detail of a photograph taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) of the original window within the third, half-story of the gable-end of primary elevation of the subject property in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.



Left: Detail of a photograph taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) of a gable-front dormer window within the side, W. Phil Ellena Street elevation of the subject property in 1909. Right: Detail of a photograph taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) of a bay window within the primary elevation of the subject property in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.



Looking southeast at the side, W. Phil Ellena Street elevation of the subject building. Source: Google, 2018.

The W. Phil Ellena Street elevation of the upper block is somewhat unadorned, featuring two windows at the ground floor that flank a largely blind stone wall, which historically served as a trellis for the ubiquitous ivy found on many similar buildings of the era in Philadelphia. The apertures on the first-floor feature architecturally correct windows that, while different in size, are six-over-one wooden sash. The window at the northeast features a lintel that emulates a fanciful pent roof that is bracketed, while window at the southwest is beneath a simple, traditional pent roof that leads into the second block of the building. The second-floor fenestration is comprised of two irregular openings, symmetrically placed with the dormers above, featuring a one-over-one sash replacement window at the northeast, and a two-part mullion window, featuring one-over-one replacements at the southwest. Symmetrically placed in the third, half-story above, two impressive pedimented, gable-front dormers penetrate the roofline, containing one-over-one sash replacement windows.

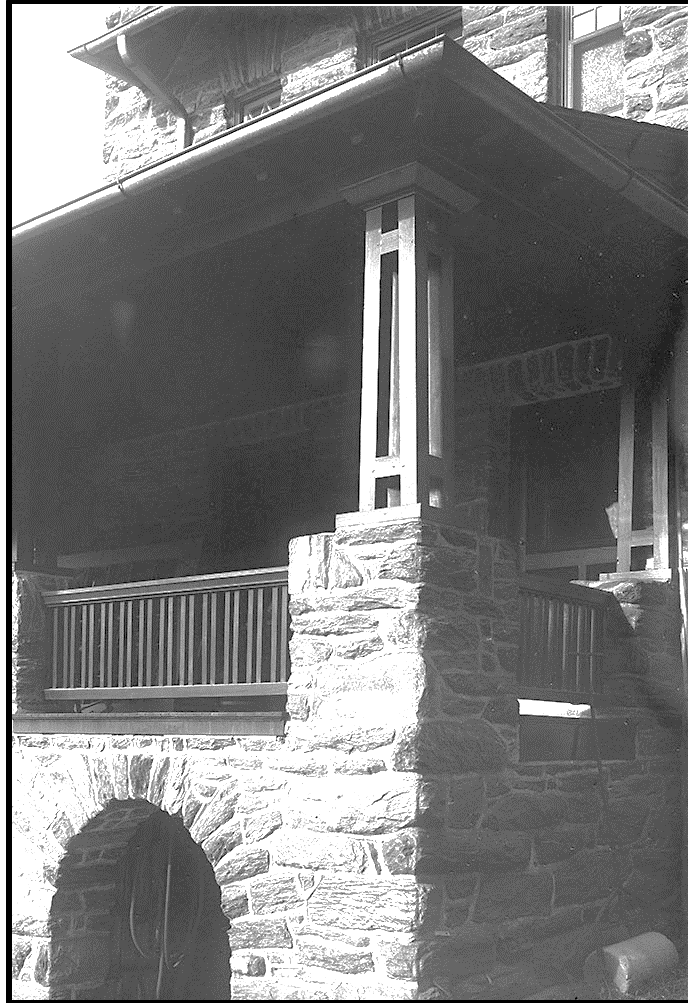


Looking southeast at the side, W. Phil Ellena Street elevation of the primary elevation.
Source: Google, 2018.



Looking east at the W. Phil Elena Street elevation of the subject property. Source: City of Philadelphia, Atlas, 2018.

The lower and second block of the subject property also presents the primary elevation within the gable-end, facing onto W. Phil Ellena Street. This section of the building serves as the formal residential entrance. The primary entrance is recessed from the street by an open lawn that is created by restricted setback in the original deed of the Pelham development. The primary residential entrance is accessed by a flight of steps at the sidewalk that are defined and supported by rusticated stone abutments. A concrete sidewalk serves as a path to concrete steps and the primary entrance. The single pedestrian opening features a replacement door and is set beneath a bay window that also serves as a slight overhang for the doorway. Overall, this elevation is defined by an eclectic fenestration. The bay window is somewhat elaborate in execution, featuring wooden clapboards at the lower portion with leaded- or stained-glass windows and transoms above. At the center of the elevation in the second floor is a single aperture with a one-over-one sash replacement window and a stone lintel, which is composed of schist voussoirs. To the southwest of this window and set slightly higher is small opening that contains a single sash that features diamond patterned muntins. This opening is defined by a stone lintel, which was composed of schist voussoirs. At center, above the bay window, is another small aperture featuring a one-over-one sash replacement window, which is defined by a dramatic stone lintel comprised of schist voussoirs. At the center of the third, half-story is a large, round-arch opening that is delineated by an elaborate lintel comprised of schist voussoirs.



“Rear Wing of Pelham Drug Store,” showing the rear porch elevation of the subject property, taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.

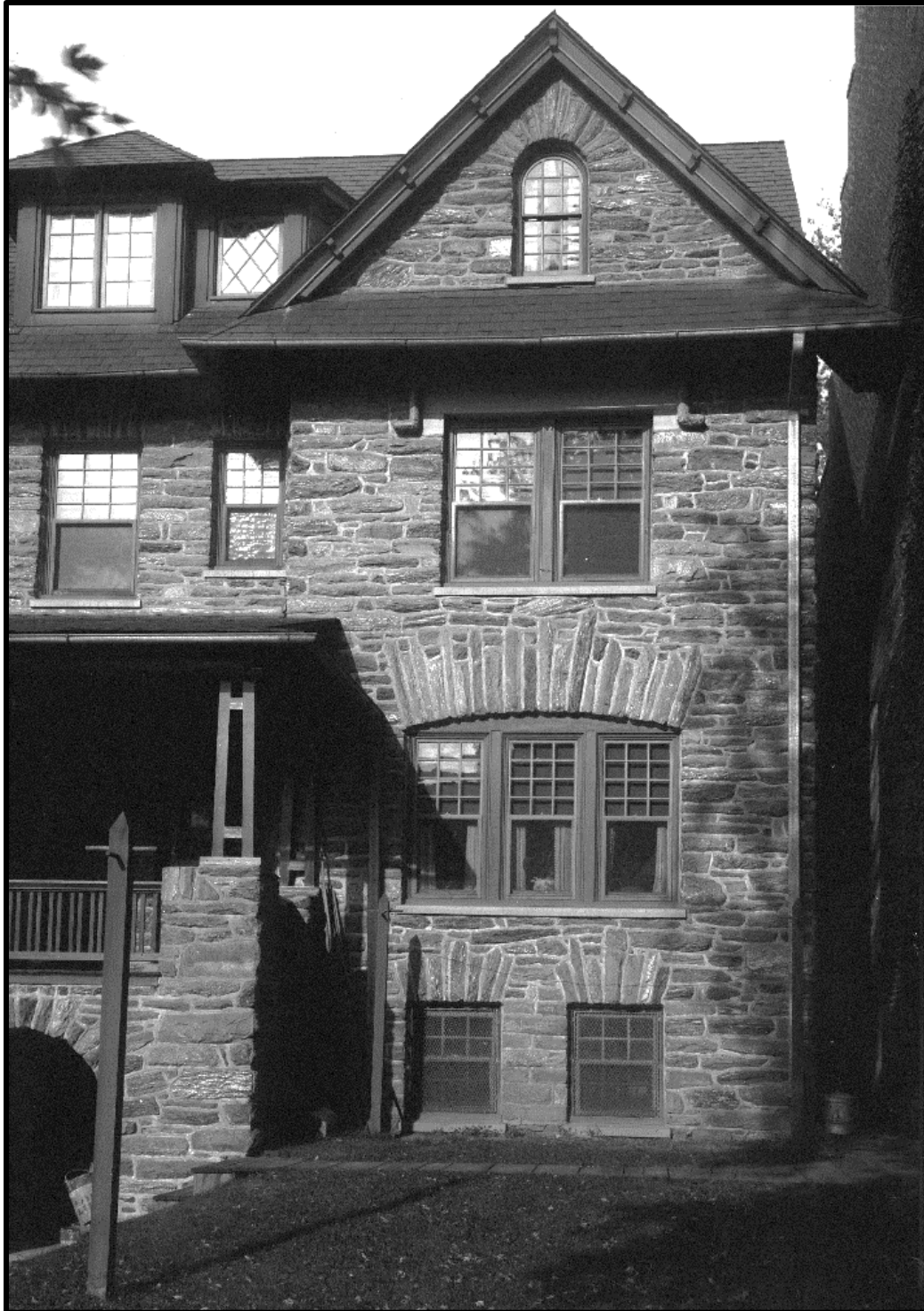
At the west corner of the building, within the lower block, a one-story stone structure projects from the building, supporting a covered porch at the ground floor and a large vehicle or loading entrance at the basement level. The porch and basement portion created by this stone structure is present at the rear of the southwest-facing elevation, wrapping around to the rear, southeast-facing elevation. At the side, W. Phil Ellena Street elevation are steps concealed by a stone wall that provide egress to the porch. Originally, the porch was supported by open, Arts and Crafts style wooden piers set upon stone plinths. The plinths are present at each corner of the porch, originally joined wooden balustrades, also reflective of the Arts and Crafts tradition.

The rear elevation of the porch is supported by a stone arch lintel comprised of schist voussoirs. The fenestration of the rear elevation is an eclectic arrangement of apertures, being divided into two sections, the northwest and southeast. The northwest section includes the porch at the ground and basement floors. The second floor contains three openings—one large window, originally twelve-over-one wooden sash, at center flanked by smaller windows, originally nine-over-one

wooden sash. This section of the rear elevation featured a hipped roof with three dormers—one large dormer at center with a hipped roof, originally containing two eight-light wooden sash windows on pivots, flanked by smaller dormers with hipped roofs, originally containing a wooden sash with muntins in a diamond pattern. The southeastern section of the rear elevation featured two fully exposed basement windows defined by lintels comprised of schist voussoirs. The first, ground floor of this section of the rear elevation features a large three-part mullion window set beneath a lintel comprised of schist voussoirs. The second floor of this section of the rear elevation contains a two-part mullion window, originally featuring twelve-over-one wooden sash windows, set beneath a Gothic Revival style hood. Projecting from the larger side gabled roof is a slightly smaller gable that dominates the southeast section of the rear elevation. The gable features a shed or pent roof at the bottom. The pitch of the gable contains dentils indicative of the Craftsman style. A round arch aperture is at the center of the third, half-story, which is defined by a lintel comprised of schist voussoirs.

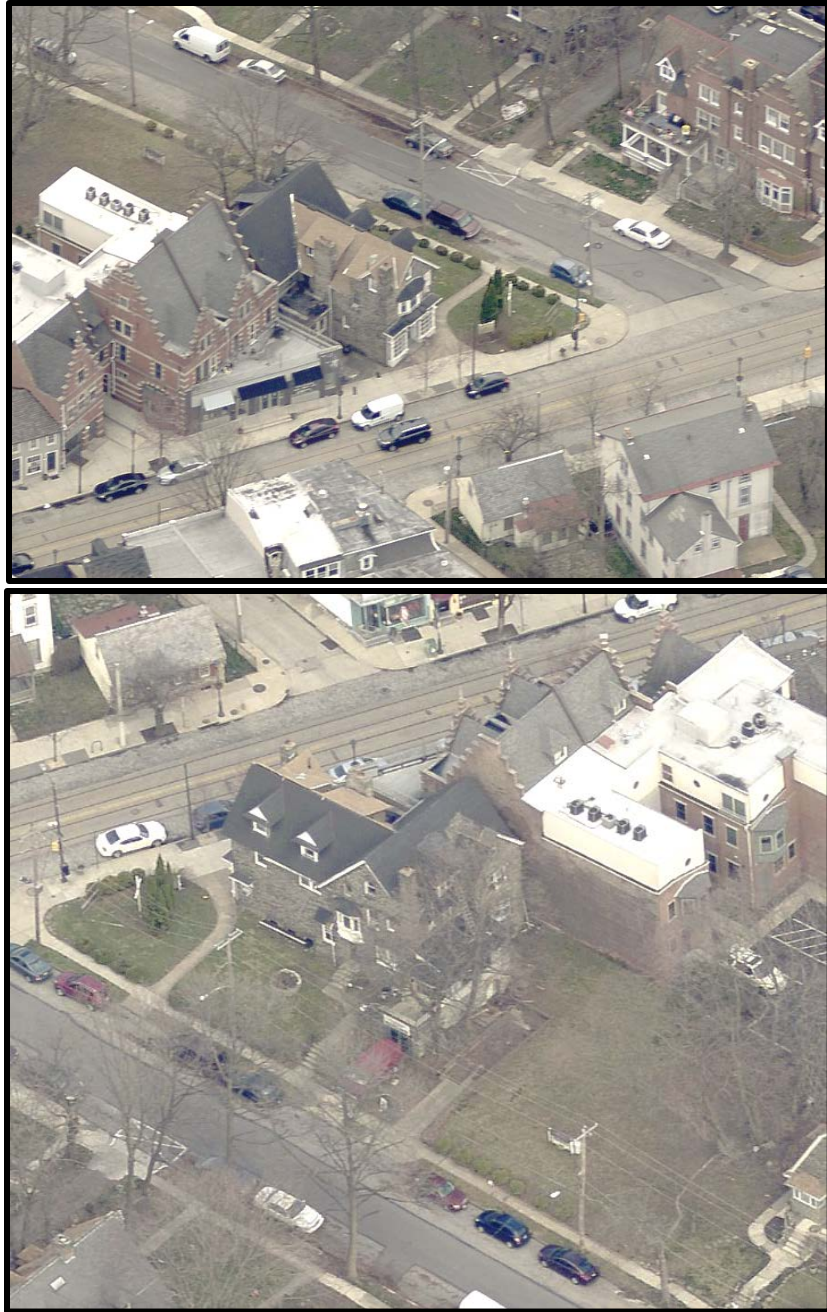


Rear of 6626 Germantown Avenue, January 2019.

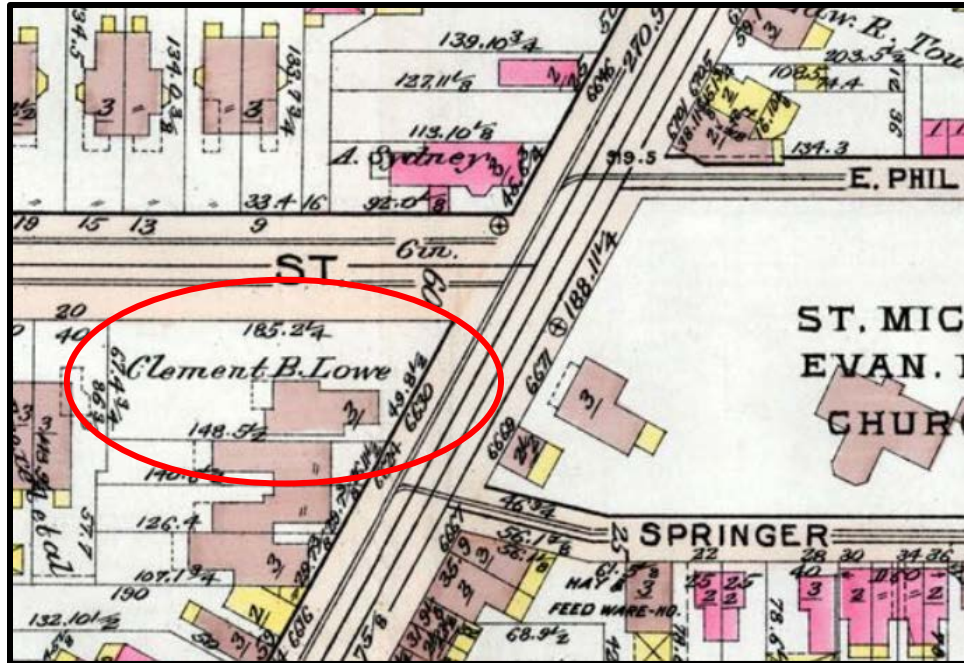


“Rear Wing of Pelham Drug Store,” showing the rear elevation of the subject property, taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.

*Pelham Pharmacy - Clement B. Lowe's Drug Store and Dwelling
6626 Germantown Avenue, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, Fall 2018 – Page 11*



Above: Looking southeast at the side and primary, Germantown Avenue elevations of the subject property. Below: Looking northeast at the side, W. Phil Ellena Street and rear elevations of the subject property. Source: City of Philadelphia, Atlas, 2018.



Philadelphia Atlas 1911, Ward 22, Published by G. W. Bromley and Co. Source: Historic Map Works.

7. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pelham Pharmacy, Clement B. Lowe's Drug Store and Dwelling, at 6626 Germantown Avenue is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Located in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of the larger German Township, the subject building satisfies the following Criteria for Designation, as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (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; and
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.



Detail of “A Drug Store, Pelham,” showing the primary, commercial storefront elevation of the subject property, taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.

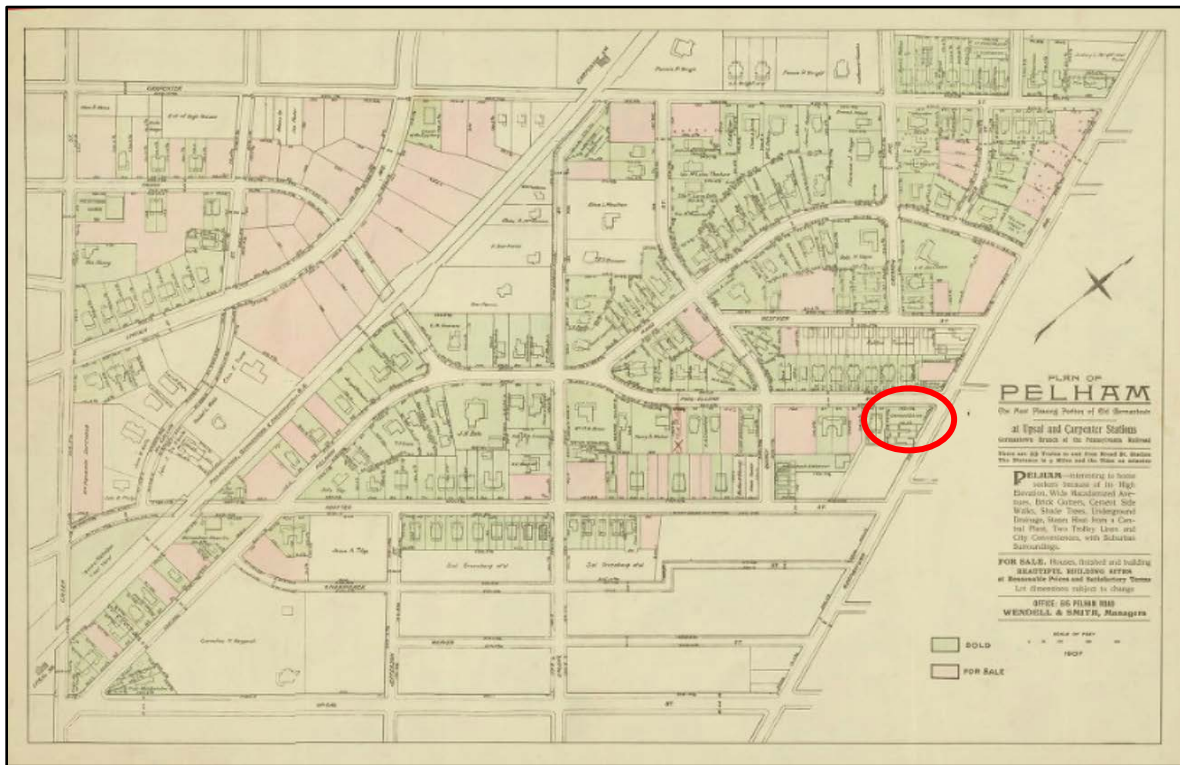
CRITERION J

Originally part of the Carpenter Estate and the grounds of Phil Elena—the country seat of George Washington and Ellen Carpenter, the subject property, the former Pelham Pharmacy, was later part of the Pelham neighborhood development, when bankers Anthony J. Drexel and Edward T. Stotesbury purchased the property from the Carpenter Estate in 1893.¹ Drexel and Stotesbury formed the Carpenter Land and Improvement Company, which developed the estate into a new community they called Pelham. Pelham was one of the city’s first modern, large scale real estate developments contemporary to Overbrook Farms, which Drexel and Stotesbury were creating simultaneously.² The management of these projects was handled by the real estate

¹ Deed: Sydney L. Wright and the Provident Life and Trust Company of Philadelphia et alia to Anthony J. Drexel and Edward T. Stotesbury, 18 May 1893, Philadelphia Deed Book T.G., No. 341, p. 1, City Archives of Philadelphia.

² Overbrook Farms Club, “Nomination: Overbrook Farms Nomination of Historic District,” Philadelphia Register of Historic Places (October 2004)

development firm of Wendell & Smith, who “unlike other suburban developers ... controlled every aspect of the development from the platting of land and the installation and maintenance of private infrastructure systems to the financing design, construction, sales, and rentals of lots and homes.”³ The development followed a plan, in which most of the houses were built between 1893 and roughly 1910, being designed by the same group of architects, almost always chosen by Wendell & Smith. These architects also designed the few commercial buildings for Pelham along Germantown Avenue and those similar buildings in Overbrook.⁴



Plan of Pelham, 1907. Source: Source: Pew Museum Loan—Radnor Historical Society Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia (Local ID #: PEW/RHS/2/17; ECW Filename: pat10007/PEW-RHS-2-17.ecw).

In the development of the Pelham subdivision, Wendell & Smith improved upon the designs, plans, and policies of their past developments, including “wide, curving streets with homes in varied designs set on large lots with minimum setback requirements.” An 1898 advertisement included the following description about the development:

³ Laura DiPasquale, Philadelphia Historical Commission, “Nomination: Fairlawn, 30 Pelham Road and 15 Westview Avenue,” Philadelphia Register of Historic Places (7 March 2017).

⁴ For a richly detailed description of Wendell & Smith’s methods see Statement of Significance, Overbrook Farms Club, “Nomination: Overbrook Farms Nomination of Historic District,” Philadelphia Register of Historic Places (October 2004)

There's a vista of beautiful road-bed cottages sitting placidly in plots of greensward, and here and there a clump of old trees screen from view all save the odd gable of a Pelham home...

It is a park—that is the first thought that strikes one. The houses are set down in no stiff row of conventional exactitude.⁵

Situated on a large lot that remained undeveloped until Dr. Clement B. Lowe commissioned the well-known and prolific architect David Knickerbacker Boyd (1872–1944), the “stone store and dwelling” at “Phil-Ellena and Main [Germantown Avenue] sts., Germantown” is executed with the same architectural bravado as their purely residential structures. The Pelham Pharmacy exemplifies this ideal, which Wendell & Smith established and improved upon throughout their development experience.⁶

In the period before many cities established their first zoning laws, Wendell & Smith used the only mechanism at their disposal, establishing strict building and development requirements through deed restrictions. These restrictions ensured that the Pelham subdivision would become and remain the perfect blend of town and country, with much of the beauty of a country place, but with all the modern amenities then associated with a city.

The scene strikes you as different. It breathes of freedom and the country, yet one walks on cement sidewalks and the road-beds are of Macadam...

It is the country, yet here is the electric light and off in the distance the sound of the gong of the trolley car is heard.⁷

Among the modern amenities, Wendell & Smith made it their business to guarantee clean water, electricity, sewage and drainage systems, steam heat, as well as well-maintained thoroughfares for both pedestrians and vehicles. In the case of Pelham, the subdivision's location was strategically selected as it was served by the Philadelphia, Germantown & Chestnut Hill Railroad—a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Both the Carpenter and Upsal Stations are within walking distance of the Pelham neighborhood.⁸

The concepts of Wendell & Smith were not unique to Philadelphia or America. In fact, it is clear in the advertising for Pelham that the developers were “influenced by the principles laid out by John Ruskin's *Seven Lamps of Architecture & Lectures on Architecture and Painting*.⁹ According to the *Nomination: Fairelawn, 30 Pelham Road and 15 Westview Avenue*, a Tudor

⁵ “A Word or Two About Pelham Homes,” *Times* (Philadelphia), 14 September 1898.

⁶ *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide*, v. 19, n. 35, p. 561 (31 August 1904); Philadelphia Building Permit No. 6191 of 1904, City Archives of Philadelphia.

⁷ “A Word or Two About Pelham Homes,” *Times* (Philadelphia), 14 September 1898.

⁸ DiPasquale, “Nomination: Fairelawn, 30 Pelham Road and 15 Westview Avenue,” 11–12.

⁹ DiPasquale, “Nomination: Fairelawn, 30 Pelham Road and 15 Westview Avenue,” 12–13.

Revival style mansion and carriage house in the Pelham subdivision, “Wendell & Smith set out to build a community with great variety and ornamentation.”

An 1898 advertisement for the Pelham development, using Ruskin quotes:

I would have, then, our ordinary dwelling-houses built to last, and built to be lovely; as rich and full of pleasantness, as may be, within and without, and with such differences as might suit and express each man’s character and occupation, and partly his history.¹⁰

Adhering to these ideals meant that Pelham featured homes “built of local Wissahickon schist,” and brick, some of which were clad with stucco. The designs “included a wide variety of architectural styles including Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, Jacobean, Flemish, Italianate, and Dutch Colonial, along with an assortment of idiosyncratic late Victorian hybrids, and additional influences of Queen Anne, Norman, Greek Revival, and East Lake.”¹¹ Those who purchased building lots in the Pelham development were able to decide on plans furnished by “the builders’ group of capable young architects, or could have one of the architects prepare a new design in keeping with the character of the neighborhood.”¹² The architects chosen by Wendell & Smith included established firms like Hewitt Brothers, as well as budding Philadelphia architects: Horace Trumbauer, William L. Price, Charles Barton Keen & Frank Mead, George T. Pearson, Hazelhurst & Huckel, and D.K. & L.V. Boyd.¹³

Regarding the subject building, the Pelham Pharmacy, the *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builder’s Guide* announced that Boyd was “receiving estimates” and “bids” on August 31, 1904.¹⁴ Under Boyd’s leadership, the construction contract was awarded to the contractor William S. Kohl in September 1904.¹⁵ Once the permits were approved, Dr. Lowe acquired title to the subject property from Edward T. Stotesbury and James W. Paul, Jr.¹⁶ In keeping with Pelham’s strict planning vision, the deed required that any buildings or improvements on the subject lot have a defined set back from Germantown Avenue and W. Phil Ellena Street, also prohibiting certain types of manufacturing uses.¹⁷ The deed also gave Stotesbury and Paul the right to enter on the property and demolish any non-conforming structure.

¹⁰ Quoted from original in the Germantown Historical Society Collections in Lois Frischling, “Pelham: A Residential Enclave” *Germantown Crier* 38 (1986): 86.

¹¹ Burt Froom, “A Look at Pelham’s Past,” *Pelham: Yesterday and Today* (December 8, 2011): 1, accessed October 27, 2015, <http://www.wman.net/a-look-at-pelhams-past/>.

¹² DiPasquale, “Nomination: Fairrelawn, 30 Pelham Road and 15 Westview Avenue,” 12–13.

¹³ Frischling, “Pelham: A Residential Enclave,” 83; DiPasquale, “Nomination: Fairrelawn, 30 Pelham Road and 15 Westview Avenue,” 12–13.

¹⁴ *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders’ Guide*, v. 19, n. 35, p. 561 (31 August 1904).

¹⁵ *Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders’ Guide*, v. 19, n. 36, p. 575 (7 September 1904).

¹⁶ Deed: Edward T. Stotesbury and James S. Paul, Jr., trustees, to Clement B. Lowe, of the city of Philadelphia, druggist, for \$6,000, 15 September 1904. Philadelphia Deed Book W.S.V., No. 390, p. 119; Philadelphia Building Permit No. 6191 of 1904, City Archives of Philadelphia.

¹⁷ The set-back restriction was: ““At all times hereafter forever leave unbuilt upon or unobstructed except by steps, cellar doors, fences, trees or shrubbery ... the five feet in depth of the ... lot fronting on ... Germantown Avenue

Presenting both a commercial and residential face, while maintaining the aesthetic and utilitarian ideals of Wendell & Smith, the Pelham Pharmacy exhibits the matured development principles that made these new subdivisions long-lasting success stories through their architectural, economic, and social influence of the period.



“A Drug Store, Pelham,” showing the primary, commercial elevation of the subject property, taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.

and the twenty seven feet in width of [the] ... premises fronting on the side of Phil-Ellena Street ... and shall not at any time hereafter erect or permit to be erected and built on the premises ... more than two stores or dwelling houses and the value of each of the ... store dwelling house shall not be less than \$5,000 for the inside building and \$7,000 for the corner building.”

*Pelham Pharmacy - Clement B. Lowe's Drug Store and Dwelling
6626 Germantown Avenue, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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Left: Dr. Clement B. Lowe in 1897. Source: “New Professors at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy,” *Druggists’ Circular and Chemical Gazette* vol. 41 (1897), 173. Right: Lowe in 1923. Source: “Clement Belton Lowe,” *American Pharmaceutical Association* (March 1923), 276–77.

Historic Context. Dr. Clement Belton Lowe (1846–1923) was a well-known figure in Philadelphia’s important pharmaceutical community. After graduating from Bucknell University in 1865, Lowe came to Philadelphia with the desire to become a civil engineer. His plans were cut short due to health issues and, in 1867, he entered the drug business of William Lippincott. The apprenticeship with Lippincott prepared him for entering the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy (now University of the Sciences) in 1882, receiving his Ph.G. in 1884. Dr. Lowe returned to the College of Pharmacy in 1886 as an instructor in materia medica and botany. He retained this position until 1897, at which time he became the Professor in Materia Medica—a position he held until 1921. Lowe also attended Jefferson Medical College in the 1870s and 1880s, earning his M.D. in 1887.¹⁸

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Lowe was very active in local and state professional groups. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association, serving first as a vice president from 1900 to 1901, and president in 1907. He was also on committees of the larger American Pharmaceutical Association, serving as chairman of the sections on education and legislation. Dr. Lowe had great interest in the topic of educational standards for the profession,

¹⁸ The main sources for this biographical sketch are: Joseph Winters England, and John Eicholtz Kramer, *The First Century of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, 1821–1921* ([Philadelphia]: 1922), 414–415; “Two Professors Elected,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pa), 2 June 1897, p. 11; “Clement B. Lowe: Former President of Pennsylvania Pharmaceutical Association Dies,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 7 February 1923, p. 27.

which proved to be a formative period of modern medical education in America. Dr. Lowe was often called upon for expert testimony and served an investigation of the conditions at the Blockley Almshouse.¹⁹ Throughout his career he contributed to national medical and scientific journals.²⁰

¹⁹ “Mismanaged Blockley: The Worst Institution of the Kind Which Mr. Harrah Ever Saw,” *The Times* (Philadelphia, Pa), 17 January 1892, p. 3.

²⁰ Examples of Lowe’s articles in medical and scientific journals include: “Causes Contributing Success Or Failure in Pharmacy,” *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, vol. 2, no. 12 (1913), pp. 1543–1546; “Some Every-Day Problems,” *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, vol. 1, no. 7 (1912), pp. 736–741; “The Abolition Of The Apprenticeship System: Apprenticeship in this Country Apprenticeship at the Present Time Apprenticeship System has Not Ceased to Exist None Turns Out Full-Fledged Journeymen Founding of Trade Schools Increased Efficiency by Means of Trade Schools Dispensing Courses in Favor of Practical Laboratory Courses,” *American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record* (1907), p. 183; “Store Experience,” *Druggists’ Circular and Chemical Gazette* vol. 50, no. 10 (1906), p. 356; “Pharmaceutical and Chemical Notes,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* vol. 75, 1903, p. 39; “the Treatment of Contusions and Wounds by the Apothecary: Method of Procedure in Treating Wounds,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1902, p. 386; “Some Odds and Ends of the Drug Store,” *Druggists’ Circular and Chemical Gazette (1866-1906)*, vol. 46, no. 7, 1902, p. 139; “Odor As An Aid To The Recognition Of Drugs: Classification Of Drugs Based On Their Odors,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1899, p. 416; “Odor as an Aid to the Recognition of Drugs: Division I. Drugs Having An Agreeable Odor Division Ii. Drugs with Disagreeable Odors,” *Druggists’ Circular and Chemical Gazette* vol. 153, no. 8 (1899), p. 178; “The United States and British Pharmacopoeias,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1899, p. 223; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: The Removal of Wax from the Ear,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 573; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: Glass Milk Jars. Repeating Prescriptions. to Remove a Foreign Body from Under the Nail. Salt as an Antiseptic. Modern Bullet Wounds. the Paris Sewage Park. Speech Defects. the Congenitally Blind as Outlook Men at Sea,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 521; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: The Renewal of Prescriptions, etc., in Germany. Analyses of Samples of Ground Coffees. Adulteration of Wheat Flour. the Oleander as a Drug. New Hot-Water Bottles,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 447; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: The Results of Serum Therapy in Diphtheria. The Medical Service of the Army. to Abort Erysipelas. Radiography of the Stomach. Sodium Saccharinate. Importance of Sugar as a Food. the Anti-Emetic Properties of Iceland Moss. Compulsory Vaccination. Hydrastis Canadensis. Diet for Consumptives,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 403; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: Yellow Snow and Wind Carrying Power. a New Method of Vaccination. Antipyrine in Sciatica. for Vomiting of Uterine Origin. Taeniafuge. English in Prescription-Writing,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 348; “The Philippine Islands and their Products,” *American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record* vol. 32, no. 2 (1898), p. 315; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: Secret Remedies. Cocaine Poisoning. for Chronic Cystitis. for Ulcers of the Leg. Homeopathy in Bavaria. a State Medical Law Upheld. Feeding of Infants. for Gastro-Intestinal Catarrh. for Urticaria. the American Hospital at Teheran,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 306; “Iarrea Mexicana,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 235; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: Seriously Grappling with the Charity Abuse. for Chronic Diarrhoea. Insanity on the Increase in Philadelphia. for Spasmodic Croup. Boiled Antitoxin. the Communication of Venereal Disease a Criminal Offence. Intestinal Antiseptic Mixture in Typhoid Fever. for Chronic Follicular Pharyngitis New Competitors in the Medical Field. Bryonin in the Treatment of Hepatic Congestion. Medical Etiquette in China. an Ointment for Acute Articular Rheumatism. the Teeth and the Soil. a Chemic Vaccine for Vipers’ Venom. Immunity to the Sting of Bees. an Application for Dental Caries,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 240; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: Selling Medicine for Trick Purposes an Assault and Battery. for Irritable Bladder. some of the Dangers Surrounding the Dairy. Treatment of Enuresis. the Death-Rate from Typhoid Fever. an Ointment for Enlarged Glands. for Erysipelas. an Abuse of Medical Charity. a Vaginal Antiseptic and Astringent. Pills for Neurasthenia. Progress in Formaldehyde Disinfection. for Pertussis,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 201;

The construction of the subject building marked a turning point Dr. Lowe's later career, having always lived and practiced in Philadelphia proper. His first drugstore, where he served Lippincott in 1867, was at the northeast corner of N. Ninth and Vine Streets—301 N. Ninth Street (no longer extant). By 1883, his own drugstore was next door at 833 Vine Street (no longer extant), where he and his family lived on the upper floors.²¹ In 1895, he closed the store, devoting his time to teaching, writing, and consulting. It appears that in the late 1890s Lowe moved his family to Mount Airy.²² In c. 1899–1900, he “purchased the Pelham Pharmacy in Germantown,” at which time he was renting a house at 3 W. Phil Ellena Street (which was part of the store complex at the corner).²³ As a druggist Dr. Lowe's business served Pelham's growing middle and upper-class population. His first store was at 6640 Germantown Avenue, which he rented from the Pelham syndicate. It was no doubt the relationship he formed as a tenant that was key to him securing the property across the street, which became his drugstore and dwelling in 1905.²⁴ Lowe operated the pharmacy until 1914, at which time he sold the property and removed to Vineland, New Jersey.²⁵ He sold the property to Maximilian Sonntag, a pharmacist, who continued the drugstore business at the subject site.²⁶

“Hygiene of the Teeth,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 191; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: Experientia Fallax. Treatment of Soft Chancre. Hydrastis and Viburnum in the Treatment of Dysmenorrhoea. Strychnine in Chloroform Poisoning. for Chapped Hands. x-Rays in Military Surgery. the use of Scopolamine among the Insane. Filtration of Milk. the Removal of Warts. an Ointment for Mumps. Additions to the British Pharmacopoeia,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 158; “Gleanings from the Medical Journals: A Prescription for Gastric Acidity. Plague Attacks Monkeys. Accident Insurance for Students. Typhoid Fever and Certain Games. Ivy Poisoning. Iron Beer,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1898, p. 111; “The Making of an Herbarium,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1896, p. 379; “Botanical Notes: Stem Markings. A Monstrosity. Indian Aconite. Apocynum Androsaemifolium,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1896, p. 191; “Pharmaceutical Notes,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1894, pp. 352; “On the Medical Uses of Compressed Gases,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1892, p. 601; “Conveniences in the Pharmacy,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* vol. 64 (1892), p. 14; “On Refined Tar of Commerce,” *American Journal of Pharmacy* 1889, p. 234; “The Making of an Herbarium,” *Scientific American* vol. 43 (April 17, 1897); “The Medical Uses of Compressed Gases” *Scientific American* vol. 68 (January 7, 1893).

²¹ *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1883* (Philadelphia: James Gopsill, 1883).

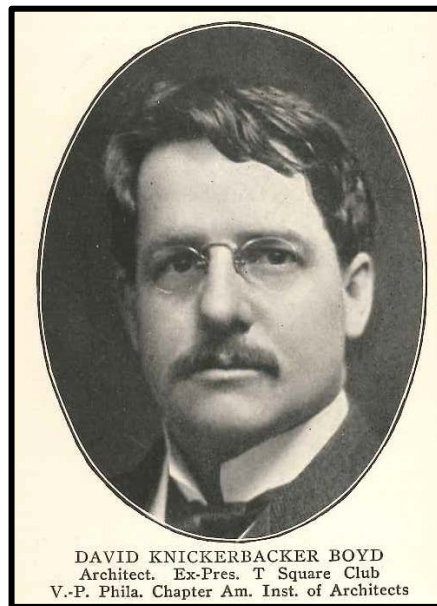
²² The Lowes lived first appear in the area in 1897 at 7147 Boyer Street (*Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory for 1897* [Philadelphia: James Gopsill, 1897]).

²³ “Clement Belton Lowe,” *American Pharmaceutical Association*. (March 1923), 276-77.

²⁴ *Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory* (1900, 1901 and 1902).

²⁵ “Clement Belton Lowe,” *American Pharmaceutical Association*. (March 1923), 276-77.

²⁶ Deed: Clement B. Lowe and Abbie A., his wife, to Maxmilian Sonntag, 10 May 1913, Philadelphia Deed Book E.L.T., No. 248, p. 233.

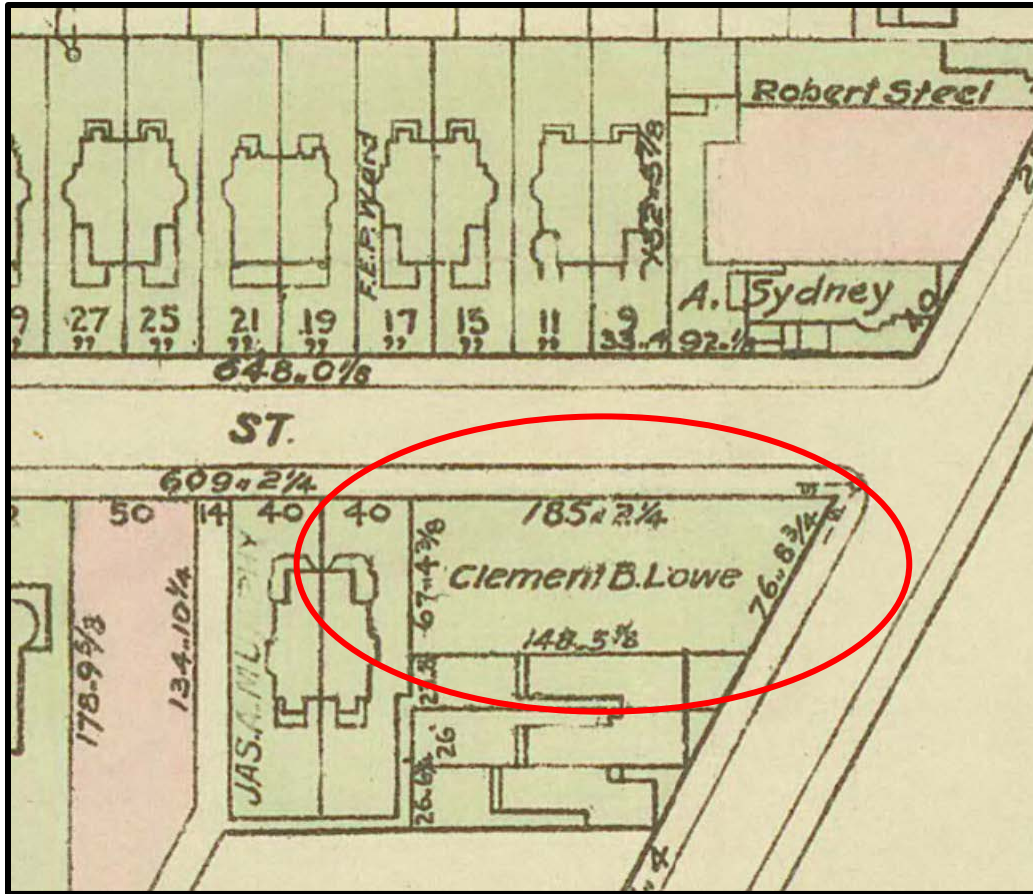


David Knickerbacker Boyd.
Source: Moses King, *Philadelphia and Notable Philadelphians* (New York: M. King, 1902), 87.

CRITERION E

Dr. Lowe commissioned David Knickerbacker Boyd (1872–1944), an architect whose work has significantly influenced the architectural development of the City of Philadelphia, to design the Pelham Pharmacy at 6626 Germantown Avenue in 1904. As stated in the historic context, Dr. Lowe commissioned designs and estimates in August 1904, which pre-dated the actual transfer of the deed of the subject property on September 15, 1904. Given that Dr. Lowe selected Boyd to complete his project, it is likely that Wendell & Smith suggested or required Boyd as the candidate for the design. While this cannot be proven with the information available at this time, Wendell & Smith, the agents of the Drexel Syndicate, had established this general pattern by 1904, using specific architects to produce particular results.²⁷

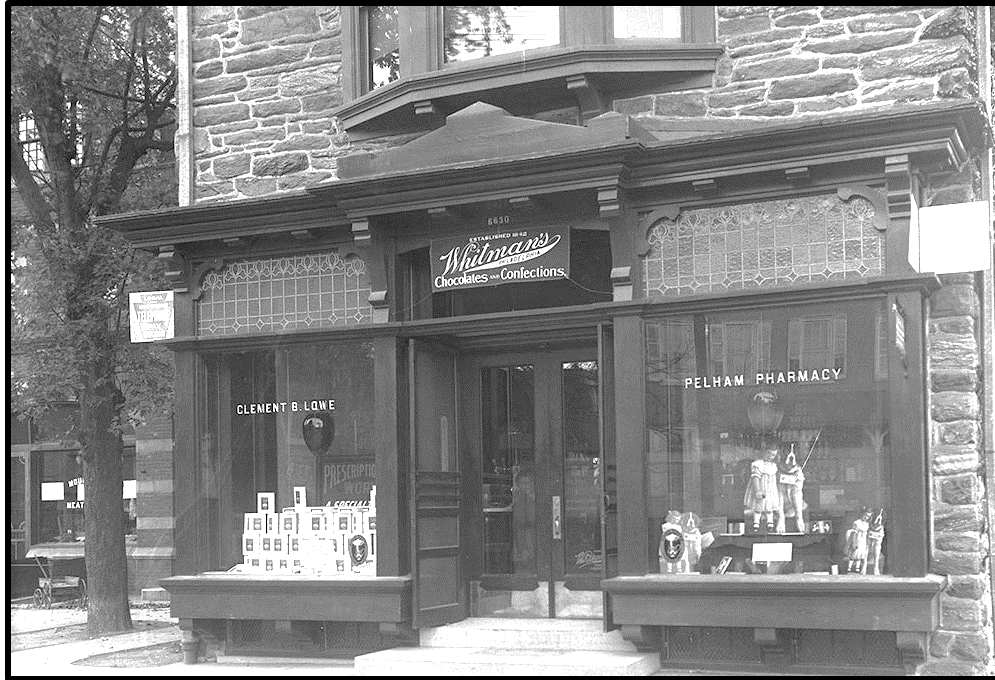
²⁷ Overbrook Farms Club, “Nomination: Overbrook Farms Nomination of Historic District,” *Philadelphia Register of Historic Places* (October 2004).



Detail of the Plan of Pelham, 1907. Source: Source: Pew Museum Loan—Radnor Historical Society Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia (Local ID #: PEW/RHS/2/17; ECW Filename: pat10007/PEW-RHS-2-17.ecw).

David Knickerbacker Boyd and his brother, Laurence Visscher Boyd, had established their careers as architects by designing suburban houses for development projects also agented by Wendell & Smith at Wayne and St. David's, both prominent Philadelphia suburbs. After much success, the Boyds were retained by Wendell & Smith for various projects in both Overbrook Farms and Pelham.²⁸ As part of the greater Pelham development, David Knickerbacker Boyd, specifically, was commissioned to design Dr. Lowe's "stone store and residence," which occupied a prominent corner that bridged the commercial corridor that was Germantown Avenue and the residential entry that was W. Phil Ellena Street. Subject to building restrictions related to use and landscape, Dr. Lowe's drugstore and dwelling was designed specifically by Boyd to meet the aesthetic and quality controls of his larger clients, the developers, while also creating the specifications required for a retail pharmacy.

²⁸ Overbrook Farms Club, "Nomination: Overbrook Farms Nomination of Historic District"; and Kim Broadbent Chantry, Philadelphia Historical Commission, "Nomination: Southwark Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia" Philadelphia Register of Historic Places (3 April 2017).



“A drug store front, Pelham,” showing the storefront of subject building during Lowe’s ownership, taken by Franklin Davenport Edmunds (1874–1948) in 1909. Source: Digital Collections of the Free Library of Philadelphia, 2018.

The subject building is an important example of Boyd’s work in the Pelham neighborhood, being both commercial and residential. It is the only commercial building designed by Boyd in Pelham and his only surviving design along Germantown Avenue.²⁹ Boyd was not just an aesthete nor were his thoughts limited entirely to the architectural style and immediate use of his specific clients, but, it is important to note, specifically for the design of the subject property, that he was concerned with architectural context, including the orientation of buildings and their relationship to the street and their environment.³⁰ As stated previously, the overall form of the building, articulated in two blocks that created an L-shape, emulating the eclectic approach Boyd and other architects might have taken to complete a design for twin residences on an irregular lot. However, in this case, Boyd employs this format to create a commercial face in the gable-end on Germantown Avenue, while also executing a residential façade on W. Phil Ellena Street. While the co-mingling of residence and store is an age-old practice on Germantown Avenue, earlier specimen, even those on corners, were rarely produced in such an attractive, distinctive, and sensitive design.

²⁹ Boyd’s brother Lawrence designed the former Mount Airy Post Office at Germantown Avenue and Westview Street in 1909 (Inventory, 6700 Germantown Avenue, Colonial Germantown Historic Landmark District Boundary Increase, National Register of Historic Places, 1987).

³⁰ David Knickerbacker Boyd. “The Skyscraper and the Street,” *The American Architect and Building News*. (18 November 1908), 1.



6632 Germantown Ave, ca. 1900. This is opposite the subject building and was part of a set of four Flemish style mixed use buildings constructed by Wendell & Smith along Germantown Avenue in 1895 designed by William L. Price.³¹ Source: Radnor Historical Society Loan – Walter B. Smith Collection, Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

Historic Context: David Knickerbacker Boyd (1872–1944)

Boyd's biography from the *American Architects and Buildings* database is as follows:

The amazingly industrious D.K. Boyd was one of that group of young Philadelphia architects, including William L. Price and Horace Trumbauer, who began their careers by working for the builders Wendell & Smith developing the northern and western suburbs of the city, but Boyd's career would take him far beyond the reaches of Philadelphia's suburbs; and, more than the others mentioned, he would have an enormous impact on the national profession.

Boyd was the son of David Boyd, Jr. and Alida Visscher Knickerbacker Boyd, the descendant of a prominent Dutch family. He attended Friends' Central School, the Rugby Academy for Boys (then at 1415 Locust St.), St. Austin's School (Staten Island) before the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (1887–89) and Spring Garden Institute (1889). By 1892 he is listed in the city directories as a draftsman, and by 1894 he had formed a partnership with his younger brother Laurence Visscher Boyd under the name Boyd & Boyd, with offices in the Harrison

³¹ Jefferson M. Moak, Inventory, 6620–6624 and 6632 Germantown Avenue, Colonial Germantown Historic Landmark District Boundary Increase, National Register of Historic Places, 1987.

Building. It appears that the first commissions which the brothers received were for houses being built on speculation by Wendell & Smith in Wayne, Radnor, and St. Davids, suburbs of Philadelphia. When Wendell & Smith expanded their operations to include Overbrook Farms, Narberth, and Pelham, the brothers continued to provide designs for their houses. Often these houses were illustrated in the Scientific American, Builders Edition so that the stable of young architects working for Wendell & Smith actually received credit for their work.

By 1898 the Boyds had decided to operate independently of each other. D.K. Boyd remained in an individual practice until approximately 1914, when the names of younger architects Victor Abel, John Coneys, and Francis A. Gugert begin to appear in the title block of drawings. By 1920 the relationship with Abel and Gugert had been formalized under the name Boyd, Abel, & Gugert. This firm, with various names, lasted until 1935, when Boyd returned to individual practice. By 1931 Boyd could state in his resume that over a period of 35 years in the profession, he had designed, supervised or directed nearly 3,000 buildings, including industrial establishments, office buildings, libraries, churches, schools, residences and housing developments. Throughout his career Boyd maintained a broad range of activities for various community action groups, including the Philadelphia Fire Prevention Commission, the Housing Corporation of the U.S. Department of Labor, and the War Industries Board in Washington, DC, to name only a few. Beginning in 1920, he also served as consultant to the commission preparing the building code for the State of Pennsylvania, and by 1923 he had become a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Housing Association.

Service to his professional organizations was also part of Boyd's life. He was a longtime member of the T-Square Club, gaining new membership in 1891 and subsequently serving as treasurer (1893-95) and president (1896/97), later serving on the executive committee (1899/1900) and chairing the membership committee (1904/05). He became a member of the AIA in 1897 and was awarded fellowship status in 1908. He served as secretary for the national AIA in 1914 and vice-president in 1915. As a member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AIA, he also served as vice-president from 1901 to 1902. Other memberships included: Public Art League, Historical Pageant Association, Sons of the Revolution, Netherlands Society, Merion Cricket Club and the Independence Hall Association.

Boyd's impact on the profession obviously extended beyond Philadelphia, but perhaps his most controversial exchange occurred in the meetings, lectures and publications which led to the City of New York adopting a zoning ordinance to govern the height and massing of the new skyscrapers which were being developed. He, along with Ernest Flagg, was influential in the shaping of that ordinance and was pivotal in the emphasis on limiting the size and controlling the upward shape of the skyscraper. In his New York Times obituary he is credited

with "being one of the first to propound the set-back principle in the design of tall buildings . . ."

In 1912 American Stone Trade published a brief biographical sketch of Boyd: "D. Knickerbacker Boyd...is one of the best known and most progressive architects...in the East...none has contributed more largely and more effectively to the development of a high standard of the art which he has chosen for his vocation, in its various phases of beauty, utility and scientific requirement." Although his early architectural practice, like that of many others in Philadelphia, was chiefly limited to residences and residential development, Boyd expanded his field of interest by working tirelessly in the profession and in cultural, historical, and city organizations. Few meetings regarding any sort of building in Philadelphia would not have been graced by his presence; few important decisions were made in the Philadelphia architectural world without his advice being sought. When he collapsed in his offices in the Harrison Building in February, 1944, he was 72 and still working; he had never retired from his profession.³²

CONCLUSION

The Pelham Pharmacy, Clement B. Lowe's Drug Store and Dwelling, at 6626 Germantown Avenue is a significant historic resource that merits designation by the Philadelphia Historical Commission and inclusion on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Located in the Mt. Airy neighborhood of the larger German Township, the subject building satisfies the following Criteria for Designation, as enumerated in Section 14-1004 of the Philadelphia Code:

- (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; and
- (j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.

³² Sandra L. Tatman, Biography of David Knickerbacker Boyd, *American Architects and Buildings* database. https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm?ArchitectId=A0125

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Credits: Prepared by the Keeping Society of Philadelphia, this nomination was authored by volunteers Oscar Beisert, Architectural Historian and Historic Preservationist, and J.M. Duffin, Archivist and Historian, for the Keeping Society of Philadelphia.

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