


PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED  
FOR WASHINGTON SQUARE  
WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT

## comments for Wash West District

rabanth@aol.com <rabanth@aol.com>

Mon 4/8/2024 5:42 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Paul Steinke <psteinke@preservationalliance.com>

 2 attachments (211 KB)

Wash West Comment.docx; Chain of Title 410 S Iseminger(1).pdf;

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Please include the attached comments in the review of the proposed district.

Before the age of big bank development loans, a developer would often buy a piece of land and supply some of the materials or labor for example creating a brick shell for all the houses in the row.

Then the developer would transfer some of the row to the next tradesman and pay them by letting them keep a piece of the development. The Linnard Bros. also did this, allowing the carpenter to keep a house in payment. This pattern exists throughout the district. I include the chain of title for my old house showing this pattern.

Thank you

Randal Baron

## Wash West Comment

Please share these comments with the Committee on Historic Designation and the Historical Commission.

As a 42 year resident of Wash West, I am writing to thank the many people who have been involved in bringing this nomination to the fore and protecting this part of our City. Washington Square West has really exceptional merit even in a City that has so much of our country's greatest history. In terms of architecture, it is the place in the whole country where rowhouses really got started. It has the greatest collection of Federal and Greek Revival style houses in the country, our first real national styles. It is our only neighborhood in the whole country where this early style exists in such profusion.

Although Boston or New York or Baltimore certainly had this style, those neighborhoods have been wiped out by later development leaving only fragments. Other rowhouse neighborhoods in our City such as Rittenhouse or Spring Garden are later and predominated by the Italianate style, which is also found in the historic districts of much of the midwest. What many people may see as vernacular rowhouses are in fact Greek Revival in the details of their clamshell frame windows, the panel patterns of their doors and so many other ways. In general, I would like to see some of the better examples of smaller rowhouses on streets like Camac, Iseminger and Quince upgraded to Significant status, because they were individually designated in the past and because they are fine examples of their style, rare within the context of our City and indeed the country as a whole. These "Littlest Streets" also represent a unique development pattern that are essentially a district within a district.

In terms of social history, the neighborhood from the beginning contained the mix of classes and races within blocks and within houses that was a product of a walking City. This pattern of tiny houses on blocks next to big houses provides for diversity which is one of the things that makes Philadelphia so great. Wash West is also the real original neighborhood of Philadelphia's black community and the Gay community.

I include a list of specific recommendations for the inventory. I do not offer these as a criticism for the work that has been done, but rather to possibly make it even stronger. It of course will need double checking as I am going from memory.

323-325 Camac back up to form a part of Lantern Court accessible from Panama Street

318 Fawn should be listed as Significant because it is one of just a handful of half gable houses in the country. 322 Fawn should be listed as Significant as one of the very rare wood houses in the city.

1317 Irving and the other carriage houses on the block are attributed to Frank Furness in George Thomas's book about him and this is plausible as they are built behind and beside documented Furness townhouses.

410-416 Iseminger should be listed as Greek Revival as they were built with pilaster entries, corner blocks on the lintels and the marble stairs survive under the brick. Much of the block including Iseminger, Camac, and Lombard was built by the developer Thomas Linnard who owned a lumber yard and developed a number of rows at every size and price point. Please see the attached chain of title from 410 S. Iseminger. The inventory does not attribute any of these to him.

205-9 S. Jessup should be considered for Contributing.

The 300 block of S. Juniper has many houses that have the original 8 panel doors that are the original design for the block. Many of these doors are listed as non-historic.

Some on the even side also have unusual 3 over 3 windows in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor which are the original design.

At 325 and 327 Juniper there exist two otherwise identical houses, one with an 8 panel door and one with horizontal panels. I believe both are original doors and show that these door styles coexisted in the Greek Revival period though normally the developer picked one or the other for a given row.

The apartment building at 330-332 Juniper are in fact two Greek Revival townhouses that were combined and covered with stucco to hide the façade alterations, not a 1920s Colonial Revival building.

1225-33 Locust is listed as having a new storefront and the balcony removed in 1934. In fact the first floor has its original configuration for a fire station and the cornice was removed without a permit after designation.

At 1237-47 Lombard, the historic file photos show that the first floor windows were raised when the kitchens were installed in the front room, however the house at 1243 has been restored.

In the 1300 block of Lombard Street, the original door style is the 8 panel door. The corner store building at 1327 Lombard/Juniper has a very rare intact Greek Revival storefront and should be listed as Significant. It is an important model for restoring such storefronts. 1317, 1325 and 1327 have the sole remaining original 8 panel door design in the row

901-3 Pine Street was built as a Jewish Institution with the Jewish calendar year carved in the date stone.

1219-1221 Pine Street frame a charming courtyard called Lantern court entered through their rear at Panama St. This court is worthy of protection.



At 922 Spruce, a part of Portico Row, the windows are listed as non historic. In fact the cornice and the wood 1/1 windows were part of the alterations that were done by the founder of "Godey's Ladies Book" and were kept at the insistence of the Historical Commission because of that connection.

1101-1115 Spruce should be listed as Significant for architect and style.

1219 Spruce is a fabulous work of the architect Frank Miles Day and should be listed as Significant.

1223 Spruce Street is listed as having historic wood windows when in fact the windows are aluminum in the wrong configuration and have multiple violations.

1300 Spruce Street was lovingly restored and has correct historical wood windows, not vinyl.

1116 Walnut Street should be considered Significant both for its architect and as a very early and rare lesbian bar.

1219 Waverly should mention that it was the home of Black (Gay) pianist Andre Watts c 1954. He was already performing in major venues at the age of 10.

235 S. 10<sup>th</sup> restored their correct wood windows after a violation and years of enforcement. They are not vinyl as cited in the inventory.

240-244 S 12<sup>th</sup> should be considered as Significant as a very rare example of a Post Modern house. It has a fabulous courtyard.

254 S. 12<sup>th</sup> should be considered Significant as the home of Meta Fuller who was an important sculptor and who exemplifies not only Black but Lesbian history, two themes of this district.

411 S. 13<sup>th</sup> also had their windows restored to wood after violations, not vinyl.

412-26 S. 13<sup>th</sup>, I think is the factory where the Salk vaccine was made in bulk. I think I put an article about this in the file.

410 S. Iseminger St.

Plan 3s15, lot 116

m. erected

Grantor

Grantee

5/17/1830

Thomas M. Linnard,  
lumber merchant  
Adelaide T. h/w  
James M. Linnard,  
lumber merchant  
Anna h/w

Joseph Chew,  
ladies shoemaker

for \$3,200.00

a lot sit E s 13th St.  
between Pine & Lombard Sts.  
145' from S s Pine St.  
Front: 96'  
Depth: 90' to a 20' wide  
street called Orleans St.  
(i.e. Iseminger St.)  
Bounded N by ground granted  
to Daniel Thom E by  
Orleans St. S by ground  
granted to George Harmstead  
W by 13th St.

NOTE: the above lot includes  
what will be  
410 S. Iseminger St.

(AM 15 659)

11/16/1839

Daniel Fitler, Esq.  
High Sheriff  
from Joseph Chew

George R. Harmstead,  
carpenter

for \$100.00

a 3 story brick message  
and lot sit E s 13th St.  
beginning 41' N from N s  
Lombard St. then N 49'2-1/2"  
then E 62' then N 3'9-1/2"  
then E 28' to Orleans St.  
(i.e. Iseminger St.) then  
S along Orleans St. 53'  
then W 90' to 13th St. and  
place of beginning

NOTE: the above lot includes  
at the rear what will  
be 410, 412, 414 and  
416 S. Iseminger St.  
See the included diagram.

being the southernmost  
part of the above larger lot

(GS 9 515)

410 S. Iseminger St.

George R. Harmstead died. Fidelity Trust Co. was trustee of the estate.  
"Grantors appear to be a few heirs."\*

7/3/1926	Charles R. Hamilton Florence h/w C. Ross Hamilton Jr.	<u>Harry T. Stoddart*</u> trustee deed of trust
	W s Iseminger St. 41' N from Lombard St. 52' x 38' 410, 412, <del>414</del> and 416 S. Iseminger St.	
9/27/1937	C. Ross Hamilton Jr. Anna H. h/w	<u>Ralph S. Croskey*</u>
	410, 412, 414 and 416	
8/16/1938	Bertram I. De Young Master	<u>Jean Swartz*</u>
	Master's deed in partition 410, 412, 414 and 416	
11/12/1938	Frances C. Levick, trustee for Harry T. Stoddard under decree of C. P. No. <del>h</del> March Term 1929 No. 13838	<u>C. Rose Hamilton Jr.*</u> <u>Charles R. Hamilton</u>
	410, 412, 414 and 416	
12/30/1938	Jean Swartz	<u>Edward H. Gornish*</u>
	410, 412, 414, and 416	
4/14/1955	Edward H. Gornish Sylvia	<u>Rose L. Zecca*</u>
	410 and 412 S. Iseminger St. W S Iseminger St. 78' <del>h</del> from S s Waverly St. 26'6" x 28'	

\* Information obtained from records of transfer, Registry Unit,  
Department of Records, plan 3 S 15, lot 116.

Richard S. Fuller  
Research Assistant  
August 12, 1963

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Nygel Jones <nygelisjones@gmail.com>

Wed 4/17/2024 12:02 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Good morning, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

My name is Nygel Jones. I've been a resident of Washington Square West since 2021. I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in our neighborhood.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive, and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

Nationwide, we're already undergoing a severe housing crisis and shortage. Please don't stifle the growth and opportunity a diverse and distinct neighborhood like ours provides.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Philadelphia is a great city with much to offer. Let's continue to champion this notion.

Thank you,  
Nygel Jones

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Alex Clark <raditude28@gmail.com>

Wed 4/17/2024 12:08 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Alex Clark  
1109 N 3rd St  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

Sent from my iPhone

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Caleb Holtmeyer <cjholtme8@hotmail.com>

Wed 4/17/2024 12:12 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: info@washwestcivic.org <info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Caleb Holtmeyer

1001 Vine street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Nick Di Taranto <nditaranto@gmail.com>

Wed 4/17/2024 1:22 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>; info@washwestcivic.org <info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Sincerely,  
Nick Di Taranto

--

Nick Di Taranto (he/him/his)

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

A Mullin <ac.mullin@gmail.com>

Wed 4/17/2024 12:54 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Anna Mullin  
312 N 39th St  
Philadelphia PA  
19104



## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Makenna Renfro <makennalrenfro@gmail.com>

Wed 4/17/2024 12:16 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Makenna Renfro  
218 Arch St, APT 901  
Philadelphia, PA, 19106

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Alexander Milone <alexander.j.milone@gmail.com>

Thu 4/18/2024 8:16 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing. The proposed district also includes a comical number of parking lots, and new construction; the inclusion of which makes a mockery of the purpose of historic preservation. This district is being proposed by a small subset of property owners who are very blatantly trying to make the area exclusionary to anyone who isn't already in it or in the highest income brackets. There is no justification for this proposed district, it fails to properly preserve historic properties, it protects new construction properties and parking lots as historic, and blocks the construction of desperately needed housing in the city.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between historic preservation and new development.

Alexander Milone  
1347 S Bouvier ST  
Philadelphia PA, 19146

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Duncan Adkins <duncanadkins16@gmail.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 6:05 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

Center City is a vibrant and diverse neighborhood with a beautiful mix of old and new buildings. The great charm of it to me is in this mixing.

Clamping down on this vibrancy through an unnecessary historic *district* is a shortsighted decision that will only serve to push development to less well-connected and far-flung neighborhoods. It will enrich current property owners at the expense of future Philadelphians by introducing an artificial scarcity of housing within the district (which makes up half of Center City).

The correct solution to preservation desires is individual designation of truly noteworthy buildings, instead of an arbitrary designation that includes parking lots and new-build construction. Interesting future infill developments like 204 S 12th St will be unduly hamstrung by a historic designation that lies in direct opposition to the reality of the neighborhood as a thriving part of a central business district of a world city.

Look to the housing crisis in San Francisco as an omen of what can and will happen if this proposal goes through- obscene costs and barriers to home repair, skyrocketing rents and housing unaffordability pushing out people with families, service workers, and anyone who isn't rich or wasn't lucky enough to be able to inherit housing within the area.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Duncan Adkins  
1616 Walnut St, Apt 1809

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Everett Burns <everettb7@icloud.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 5:35 PM

To:Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Everett Burns  
9 North 9th St, Apt. 105  
Philadelphia PA 19107  
(215) 272-5275

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Sebastien Hardinger <bigseb312131@gmail.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 2:23 PM

To:Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Sebastien Hardinger

1141 N Hancock St, Philadelphia, PA 19123

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Karl Keat <karlkeat@gmail.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 2:45 PM

To:Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I strongly oppose the creation of a new historic district in the Washington Square West neighborhood and many surrounding areas which have never been considered part of Washington Square West. Blanket historic protection of broad swaths of the city serves no purpose except to allow unelected individuals to exert undue control over the ability of local residents and landowners to make repairs and improvements to their homes, while also restricting the rights of property owners to build much-needed housing in the district.

Based on the boundaries and scope of the proposed historic district, it is extremely transparent that the goal of this district is to block new housing construction. Many large surface parking lots are included within the proposed district, including along the edges of the proposed district where they could easily have been excluded. There is no such thing as a historic surface parking lot. It's as good as a vacant lot that contributes nothing to the local economy and exacerbates the housing crisis. As demand for housing continues to rise across the region and the country, wealthy areas like Washington Square must contribute their fair share of new housing to the city, otherwise we will see continued and disproportionate gentrification of poorer neighborhoods and displacement of residents in areas like West Powelton, where I live, as unmet demand pushes rents and home prices up. Constraints on housing construction and supply will also price existing middle-class residents of Washington Square out of their neighborhood.

Historic preservation is a virtuous ambition which is especially merited in Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation. However, proponents of the proposed district are invoking this noble goal to support selfish and harmful outcomes which would damage the city and the neighborhood. Philadelphia is a patchwork of old and new buildings reflecting the continued evolution of our city over centuries. Protecting exemplary examples of these different eras does not preclude the continued evolution of our city, and new development in Washington Square serves only to continue this great history. We can and must balance preservation with the evolving needs and growth of our city. There are common-sense ways to preserve historic buildings which don't require giving a small, unrepresentative body supreme control over the neighborhood. The nomination documents for the historic district show that over half of the properties in these boundaries are already registered historic buildings. I do not see why we need to add an additional layer of bureaucracy to a system that already works and provides more nuance and granularity than a blanket district ever could.

I hope you take these concerns into consideration and do not allow this devastating proposal to come to pass.

Best,  
Karl Keat  
415 N 40th St  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Kevin Fabrizio <kfabrizio77@gmail.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 3:06 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing. I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Kevin Fabrizio  
4141 Spruce St Apt 401  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Kevin Fabrizio  
267-614-4410

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kefabrizio>

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Daniel Swain <swaindaniel0@gmail.com>

Fri 4/19/2024 3:02 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

Building new housing in Washington Square West is crucial to the city's climate goals and sustainability and limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

A historic district will make home repairs more expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Swain

928 Christian

Philadelphia 19147



## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Alexander Roederer <alex.roederer@gmail.com>

Sat 4/20/2024 8:41 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

My name is Alexander Roederer, I live at 412 S Carlisle St in Philadelphia.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed massive historic district in Washington Square West.

I am a homeowner, and my block, the 400 block of Carlisle St, is Historically designated, so I come to you with experience. I live just across Broad St from the proposed historic district, so the district will have an impact on my neighborhood, the businesses I shop at and the neighbors I have.

Historic preservation absolutely makes home repairs more complicated, expensive and time consuming. (For example, replacing the damaged windows in my own home cost thousands of dollars more than it would have if the block were not historically designated, as we had to find a (more expensive) contractor who was willing to do the work here, and select windows that the historic committee approved of, which likely would have been out of reach for many less fortunate homeowners.)

On top of that, on our block, historic preservation has frozen in place an ahistoric eyesore of an asphalt covered, mechanicals-filled chain link protected parking lot, behind 1414 Pine Street, which will now will likely never be anything nicer. I have to look at it out my windows every day, and let me tell you, the five black Audi SUVs stored there are hardly adding to the historic charm of our block.

I have seen the plans for the historic district and it includes dozens of parking lots, dumpster storage plots, and blighted corners. Historically designating these will make it much more difficult and expensive for them to ever be developed. I need not remind you that Philadelphia is in a housing crisis. The proposed district will raise rents and home prices and by restricting the supply of new housing. We need more new neighbors in Wash West, not fewer! New neighbors means new life and more support for small businesses in the area, something we undoubtedly need.

I am not opposed to historic preservation, but I think it must be considered in a building by building or at least block by block fashion. Empty parking lots where demolished buildings once stood should NEVER be historically designated. We should not be preserving dilapidated one story buildings hastily constructed in the 90s either!

I implore you to instead support individual designation of buildings and few select blocks, which would achieve a more pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alexander Roederer

412 S Carlisle St

Philadelphia, PA

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Wenmouth Williams <wenmoutha@outlook.com>

Sat 4/20/2024 10:51 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Alan Williams  
wenmoutha@outlook.com

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

casey bechtel <cbechtel@bechtelbavarian.com>

Tue 4/23/2024 10:49 AM

To:Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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---

Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Casey Bechtel  
2830 w master st Philadelphia PA 19121

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Noah Rosenfeld <nrosenfeld99@gmail.com>

Tue 4/23/2024 11:45 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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---

Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

Our city has many more pressing issues that threaten our neighborhoods' characters. These include housing affordability, restrictive tax rates, and the opioid epidemic.

The historic district will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of badly needed new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Noah Rosenfeld  
233 S 6th St, Apt 508  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

## I Oppose the Spruce Hill Historic District, Southeastern Quadrant

Pruden, John R. <john.pruden@faegredrinker.com>

Tue 4/30/2024 2:32 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Jamie Gauthier <Jamie.Gauthier@phila.gov>

Cc: SHhistoricPreservation@gmail.com <SHhistoricPreservation@gmail.com>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Gauthier, and Spruce Hill Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Spruce Hill Historic District, Southeastern Quadrant.

With the ongoing housing crisis, and the number of repairable units in this district, there is no need for us to exacerbate the problem by making home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. At a time of record inflation, there is also no need for a policy that will raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

Additionally, with accelerating gentrification in Spruce Hill, we must improve and protect access for diverse families to stay in and/or relocate to the neighborhood. Studies show that improved diversity in schools lead to improved student outcomes, and the students at Penn Alexander school deserve to study with their peers from all walks of life.

Lastly, with the rising cost of doing business due to record inflation, there is no reason to burden small business owners and limit new retail from modifying buildings to fit their business. I understand and support preserving historic Philadelphia landmarks; these are some of the first places I bring visitors. But the proposed district includes parking lots, new developments, and many other features that no reasonable person would deem historical. I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

This is one of the most livable cities in the nation, with respect to cost-of-living versus quality-of-life. There is no reason to kneecap one of our most valuable districts from benefiting and supporting the growth of our city.

John Pruden


1520 Green St. Philadelphia, PA. 19130.

I Oppose the Washington Square West ...

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## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

 The digital signature on this message can't be verified. This message has a digital signature, but it wasn't verified because the S/MIME extension isn't installed. Please contact your IT administrator for help installing the extension.

**GS**

Gabriel Straus <gdstraus@gmail.com> 

To: Mark Squilla; preservation; president@washwestcivic.org

Tue 4/30/2024 3:50 PM

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org

Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing—something anathema to Mayor Parker's promise to build 30,000 units of new affordable housing in the next few years.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Thank you.

Best,  
Gabriel Straus

 Reply

 Reply all

 Forward

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Philip Alperson <philip.alperson@temple.edu>

Thu 5/16/2024 1:26 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Philip Alperson

Philadelphia

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Susan Babbitt <philad49@att.net>

Fri 5/17/2024 2:43 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to for proposed historic district in Washington Square West. It's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Sincerely,

Susan Babbitt

1010 Pine, Philadelphia 19107



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Annie Bennett <annieb0820@gmail.com>

Fri 5/17/2024 9:33 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Annie Bennett

221 Carpenter St.

Philadelphia, PA 19147

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

David Breiner <David.Breiner@jefferson.edu>

Thu 5/16/2024 4:00 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

As a Philadelphia resident and architectural historian, I strongly support the proposed historic district in Washington Square West, which recognizes the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, including social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries and the streetscapes are irreplaceable.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

David M. Breiner, 518 W. Ellet St., Philadelphia 19119

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## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Darrin Britting <d\_britting@yahoo.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 10:36 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Darrin Britting  
722 N 2nd St.

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Jack Butler <jackrb1@verizon.net>

Fri 5/17/2024 9:51 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;Jack Butler <jackrb1@verizon.net>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Sincerely,

Jack Butler  
Phila, PA

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Robert J Christian <robertjchristian241@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:16 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District. [NAME & ADDRESS]

Robert J. Christian  
127 Mifflin St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Nancy Davis <nancyjoyes@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:22 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Nancy Davis  
698 Welsh Rd  
Phila 19115

## Washington Square West Historic District is a gem

intlsrce@bellatlantic.net <intlsrce@bellatlantic.net>

Thu 5/16/2024 9:14 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Carolyn Dougherty  
170 S. 6th Street  
Phila., PA 19106

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Kate <katydidinmd@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 5:27 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

PS I love walking, dining, shopping, etc down there. Great little interesting stores. It's a Philly treasure!

Kate Duffy

2101 market street

Philadelphia 19103

Sent from my iPad



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Feher Email <dgefeher@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 7:50 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

My parents lived in Philly for almost 40 years. My family, friends and I still love going to galleries and restaurants in the Washington Square area and appreciating the open space and architecture.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Sincerely,

Gwen Feher  
12 Beechwood Way  
Briarcliff NY 10510

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Eleanor Gesensway <ellieges@yahoo.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 11:19 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Eleanor Gesensway  
626 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia PA 19106  
[NAME & ADDRESS]

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Gregory Grutman <gregorygrutman@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:16 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Greg

Lifelong Philadelphia Resident

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Nan Herson <hersonn7175@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:23 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District. [NAME & ADDRESS]

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Lonnie Hovey <hoveyl@aol.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 7:39 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories.

The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Hovey, AIA, FAPT  
Cell: 215.219.3755

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Holleh D Husseinzadeh <husseihd@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 7:56 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Holleh Husseinzadeh, MD  
1925 Rodman St  
Philadelphia PA 19146

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Peter Iannelli <peteriannelli1@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 11:20 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Peter A. Iannelli Jr.  
2323 South Percy Street  
Phila., PA 19148

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Jen Jasuta <urban.interiors1.0@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 6:32 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Thank you.

Jennifer Jasuta

**URBAN INTERIORS**

**1320 Frankford Avenue**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125**

**215.426.6000**

**urban.interiors1.0@gmail.com**



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Arthur Kaplan <arthurkap@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 11:47 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Arthur M Kaplan  
One South Broad Street, 23rd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Frances L <frances\_liao@hotmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 7:45 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Frances Liao  
2224 Greenwich St  
Philadelphia PA 19146

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

MARY MAMMARELLA <marycmamm@aol.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 10:50 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

Thanks for considering my views on this proposed district. I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Mary Mammarella 1900 JFK BLVD Philadelphia PA 19103]

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

MISSY MAXWELL <missymaxwell@verizon.net>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:19 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Missy Maxwell  
2420 Pine Street  
Philadelphia, PA. 19103

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Cathleen Merenda <cathleenalice@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:06 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

[NAME & ADDRESS]

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Amy Michael <amymic@me.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 9:01 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

[NAME & ADDRESS]

Amy Michael  
604 Washington Sq.So.  
Philadelphia,PA 19106  
Sent from my iPad

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Sandra Myers <smkmyers@yahoo.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 11:13 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District. Sandra Myers, 2101 Belmont Ave, Phila. Pa 19131

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Kevin Neal <kneal1951@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 3:14 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

[NAME & ADDRESS]

Sent from my iPhone



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Patrick O'Neil <patrickjoneil@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:58 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

-Patrick O'Neil

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Parker, Alison <aparker@udel.edu>

Thu 5/16/2024 7:48 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Cc:Parker, Alison <aparker@udel.edu>

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Dear Commissioners,

Hello! I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Best wishes,

Alison Parker

4610 Springfield Ave

Philadelphia, PA 19143

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Caroline Piven <caroline.piven@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 1:40 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Caroline Piven  
201 Queen Street  
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19147  
[NAME & ADDRESS]

Sent from my iPhone

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Lori Ann Reinhardt <loriannreinhardt4@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 8:29 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Lori Ann Reinhardt

407 Cann Rd, West Chester, PA 19382

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

emily smith <esmith@phillymagicgardens.org>

Thu 5/16/2024 9:29 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Mary Tracy <maryctracy@gmail.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 5:13 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District. [NAME & ADDRESS]

Mary Tracy  
215 983 7765

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

s.wetherill <s.wetherill@comcast.net>

Sat 5/18/2024 11:01 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Susan Wetherill  
130 Cuthbert St  
Phila 19106

## Washington Square West Historic District

Kenneth Ching <kennethching21@gmail.com>

Mon 5/20/2024 9:34 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I wanted to let you know that I oppose the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive, and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing. This is unacceptable at a time when our region is going through a housing unaffordable crisis.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Sincerely,  
Ken Ching  
918 S 19th St



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

yvonnenovak@yahoo.com <yvonnenovak@yahoo.com>

Mon 5/20/2024 12:31 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

S Yvonne Novak

335 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Arielle Harris <harris.ari@gmail.com>

Mon 5/20/2024 12:54 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Sincerely,

Arielle Harris

SOI-Qualified Architectural Historian and Philadelphia Resident

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Jaquan Collins <jaquan.collins@me.com>

Tue 5/21/2024 10:58 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to share my thoughts regarding the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. While I appreciate the importance of preserving the neighborhood's history, I have some concerns.

Firstly, I worry that the historic district designation could make home repairs more complicated and costly for homeowners. Additionally, restricting new housing supply may lead to higher rents and home prices, which could negatively impact affordability for residents.

Instead, I encourage you to consider individual designations that strike a balance between preservation and development. This approach could allow us to protect our community's character while still accommodating growth and progress.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I appreciate your dedication to our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

**Jaquan Collins**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19104**

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

sberisoty@aol.com <sberisoty@aol.com>

Mon 5/20/2024 7:28 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I would like to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it is past time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District. Philadelphia was the first World Heritage site in the USA. If we want to keep it worth visiting, we must protect the buildings that make it special. Stop putting developers, profits above what is good for our city and our neighborhoods.

Steven Erisoty  
71 Bethlehem Pike  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Joan Hauger <joanhauger@gmail.com>

Tue 5/21/2024 11:58 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joan D. Hauger

903 Knorr St.

Philadelphia, Pa. 19111

## Washington Square West Historic District

Nancy Pontone <npontone@gmail.com>

Mon 5/20/2024 6:32 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Philadelphia Historical Commission:

I am in support of the designation of the proposed Washington Square West Historic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Bordered by historic districts, the Washington Square West district would fill in the gap between the Society Hill Historic District to the east and the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District to the west. Designating historic districts is a way to protect not only individual historic buildings but the context in which they exist. As an historic city, Philadelphia needs districts like this that cover the breadth and depth of the built environment.

The Washington Square West neighborhood exemplifies not only architectural but social, cultural, and archeological significance deserving the protection of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Criteria A, C, E, F, I and J are satisfied by the nomination. The Washington Square West Civic Association and the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia should be commended for undertaking this large and overdue project.

Thank you for considering this district nomination,  
Nancy Pontone  
Philadelphia

## Washington Square West Historic District

David <davidstraub@verizon.net>

Mon 5/20/2024 4:09 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>

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May 20, 2024

*From:*

*Save Our Sites*

*2005 Cambridge Street*

*Philadelphia, PA 19130*

*[davidstraub@verizon.net](mailto:davidstraub@verizon.net)*

*215-915-6627*

*To: The Committee on Historic Designation of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, Attn. Laura Di Pasquale*

*Re: Designation of the Washington Square West Historic District*

Save Our Sites (501c/3) wholeheartedly supports the nomination for the designation of the Washington Square West Historic District.

Located in old and historic Philadelphia, stretching from the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River, from Lombard to Walnut Street, the Washington Square West Neighborhood is the only neighborhood within those boundaries that is not presently designated as a historic district. We have the Society Hill Historic District to the east and the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District to the west, but the Washington Square West Neighborhood, situated between them, remains an unfortunate gap in what could be a continuous run of protected old and historic buildings extending from river to river.

The Washington Square West Neighborhood is at the very heart of the city, near many hotels, the convention center, the cultural/theater district on Broad Street, shopping on Market, Chestnut and Walnut Streets. It is an area in very close proximity to where residents and tourists concentrate, people who want to see a neighborhood that, more than any other, is characteristic of legendary Philadelphia. As other city's throughout the United States, and the world, have protected such districts at their core, so must Philadelphia. That it did not happen long ago is an embarrassment.

For sure, the Washington Square West Neighborhood has major architectural landmarks such as St. Lukes and the Epiphany Church, and rows of stately townhouses lining Pine, Spruce and Clinton Streets, but as well, and most significantly, it has its labrynth of tiny, narrow streets that never fail to intrigue and delight visitors from afar, when they have the opportunity to see them. There is the maze of narrow lanes around the 200 block of S. Quince Street encompassing Jessup, Irving, Sartain and Latimer Streets. And then there is the tangle of constricted byways around the 300 block of S. Camac Street with Isemenger, Fawn, and Cypress Streets, including Panama Street with hidden Lantern Square opening off it. There are other such little enclaves such as around the 1200 block of Waverly

Street or the 200 block of S. Delhi Street. Considering the dynamic forces of development at play in large American cities, it is miraculous that these places have survived into the 21st century. Absolutely, they should be protected from possible demolition and inappropriate alteration, and remain for people to stroll through in future centuries. Creating the Historic District is the best way to accomplish this.

Save Our Sites maintains that Criteria A, C, E, F, I and J. are easily satisfied by the nomination. That the neighborhood has been in the past a home for immigrants, and African-Americans, and that at present is an important nucleus of the LGBTQ community, is undeniable.

The approval of the nomination by the Designation Committee, and the eventual approval by the full Historic Commission, will be a major step forward in Philadelphia preservation that will have been a long time in coming. With the enactment of the Washington Square West Historic District, residents and visitors alike will be able to saunter down Pine Street from 25th Street, on the west, to Front Street, on the east, a total of 24 blocks, and return back along Spruce Street, all the while walking through charming, historic neighborhoods, protected by our Philadelphia Historic Commission.

David S. Traub, AIA Emeritus  
Co-Founder, Save Our Sites



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Aaron Weindling <weindling@yahoo.com>

Tue 5/21/2024 9:47 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Aaron Weindling  
335 S. 7th St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Zed . <zed@kolk.me>

Tue 5/21/2024 11:06 AM

To:Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Zed Kolk  
2041 Chestnut St., Apt 1  
Philly, PA 19103

Sent from my iPhone

## Neighbor against the Washington Square West Historic District

Aaron Aleiner <aaleiner@gmail.com>

Thu 5/30/2024 2:34 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

The designation is much too broad - historically designating parking lots and one story buildings is absurd, ahistorical, and has no place in what should be the thriving core of a living city. Our city is in the midst of a housing crisis and on the edge of an environmental crisis, and this designation will make these crises worse. We need to be as invested in our future as our past, and over-designation preferences the desires of a tiny group of misguided preservationists with extremist historical preferences over a majority who need our city to support housing, business, and transit-oriented development.

Thanks,

Aaron Aleiner

417 W School House Ln

Philadelphia, PA 19144

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Molly Farrell <mef027@bucknell.edu>

Thu 5/30/2024 8:53 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Housing is a major issue in this city, and this proposal will restrict the supply of new housing and raise rents and home prices.

I ask you to support individual designation as a pragmatic approach between preservation and development.

Thank you,

Molly Farrell  
250 S 17th St Philadelphia, PA 19103

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Henry Hauptfuhrer <HenryHFour@outlook.com>

Wed 5/22/2024 9:51 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Henry and Gail Hauptfuhrer  
313 Gaskill Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Adrian Pietrzak <ap1296@princeton.edu>

Thu 5/30/2024 12:05 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West as currently proposed. My biggest concern is that the district covers **parking lots** and **one-story buildings** (for example, the laundromat on 10th and Spruce). I would welcome additional housing in my neighborhood on such lots.

The proposed historic district will prevent new development on these lots, or make such new development so expensive it will only be accessible to the wealthy. The Gayborhood and Washington Square West are great because they are still accessible to many income groups. I am concerned that I will be priced out of this neighborhood with the creation of the historic district, a fact supported by academic research.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development. There are many buildings in the neighborhood which are historic and worthy of designation, but a blanket district is not the right approach.

Adrian Pietrzak  
1137 Pine Street

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Olivia Walling <wallingplace@gmail.com>

Thu 5/30/2024 10:44 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing. I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Sincerely,

Olivia Walling

1919 Chestnut St, Apt 1914

Philadelphia, PA 19103

## Fw: I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Tue 6/4/2024 11:46 AM

To: Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>

---

**From:** Owen Sindler <owensindler@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2024 11:11 AM

**To:** Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;  
president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

**Cc:** Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

**Subject:** I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

[NAME & ADDRESS] Owen Sindler  
118 South 21 Street  
Philadelphia PA



## Washington Square West Historic District - Great Idea

Townsend Andrew <itdrew@yahoo.com>

Tue 6/4/2024 6:28 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

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Hello,

I am writing to provide my full support for the Washington Square Historic District. It will go a long way to preserving the neighborhood for future generations.

As a nearby resident who frequents Washington Square, I feel this will prevent unnecessary demolitions and preserve an era of architecture that is unlikely to ever return.

Washington Square is truly one of the city's best assets and it deserves to be protected.

Thank you kindly,

- Andrew Townsend

# I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Jacob Russell <ritz4emp@gmail.com>

Sat 6/8/2024 7:10 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I live along Spruce street just south of Washington Square Park, and I am writing to express my **opposition** to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

While I enjoy and want to protect the historic buildings in the neighborhood, I urge you to do this with targeted, individual building designations instead of a blunt, neighborhood wide designation. While there are some precious historic buildings that should be preserved, there are also many parking lots and very modern buildings that we should not be creating artificial barriers to redevelop as the needs of our community changes and grows.

To thrive in the long term, neighborhoods need the flexibility to change and adapt to the residents needs, adding new housing, new businesses, and new community services gradually and continuously over time. Attempting to freeze the neighborhood in time with overly broad regulations will result in a community that will inevitably fails to meet the needs of its residents. This frequently manifest in higher rents and higher housing costs for the members of the community as well as the displacement and exclusion of the lower income residents from the community. As someone how currently enjoys renting in the neighborhood and aspires to eventually own a home here, I worry that this historical designation will price me out of staying in a community that I love.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Russell

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Ilya S. <ilusha88@gmail.com>

Mon 6/10/2024 10:41 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

I moved to Philadelphia with my wife three years ago from New York City. There, I was radicalized on housing because my apartment's building was randomly included in a new historic district formed purely by older neighbors who resented development nearby--even though it was a perfect place to expand and meet demand and ease pressures off of more vulnerable areas. Let's not beat around the bush: historic districting has been increasingly weaponized as a pure anti-development measure. If institutions do not push back on these excesses, of which this is a glaring one, the whole project risks becoming illegitimate. Please, hold the line here and reject the district.

Ilya Schwartzburg

606 Christian St, Philadelphia, PA 19147

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Cris Hinkley <crishinkley@gmail.com>

Mon 6/10/2024 10:55 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear PHC and Councilmember Squilla,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Cris Hinkley  
1308 Pine St, Philadelphia, PA 19107

## Historic District?

Tim Heller <timheller94@gmail.com>

Mon 6/10/2024 12:19 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Hello,

I will not be able to attend the meeting on Friday at 9:00 since I will be at work, so I am just writing to voice my opposition to the proposed Wash West Historic District.

Cities should be able to change and develop over time to meet the needs of its residents and businesses. Setting aside an entire neighborhood in a central and convenient part of the city places an arbitrary restriction on the ability of homeowners and business owners to meet those needs. It also seems like we're saying "Philly USED to be a great city, look how charming these old houses are! Let's freeze it in amber!", but we are giving up on Wash West contributing to Philly being a great city in any meaningful way going forward.

It's a great neighborhood to live in and I'd really like to continue to live here and hopefully buy a home someday. Would really be bummed for me if I got priced out because of this blanket historic designation.

Thanks,

Tim Heller

484-643-3464

[timheller94@gmail.com](mailto:timheller94@gmail.com)

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Charlie <cbell1118@gmail.com>

Mon 6/10/2024 12:43 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing. We should be making it *easier* to build all types of housing, not more difficult and complicated. Parking lots are not historic no matter how you label them.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Thank you,  
Charlie Bell  
1213 Walnut St

**Charlie Bell**

June 11, 2024

Dear Commissioners:

We are a group of Black history and preservation organizations, advocates and activists who were not consulted about Black history for the Washington Square West historic designation. We consider certain areas of the city to be ‘cultural heritage’ areas in that they served as a city-within-a-city center for Black people in the 18th and 19th centuries. We see these areas as sacred ancestral homeland. For the 19th Century, they are between *3rd and 16th* and *Walnut and Bainbridge* in the South, and *Poplar to Spring Garden* and *2nd to 5th* in the North.

We would like to further the discussion of minimized or erased histories within the context of the Washington Square West historic designation application (‘the application’) through a few key points.

First, in any discussion of the historical and cultural significance of these areas in Philadelphia, all voices in this application process, whether in support of or in opposition to historical designation, should acknowledge the displacement and removal of Indigenous people and Black people from this geography.

Second, the application focuses on a temporal and economic analyses of the Black population that is primarily post-bellum and that emphasizes poverty. To the contrary, this district has a rich Black history dating to the 1830s. Prior to the Civil War, the district was home to many middle class and wealthy Black residents, many of whom are historical figures. At that time, at least 65 homes in the district were owned by Black people.<sup>1</sup> We would draw attention to Lombard and Rodman between 8th and 12th which were prosperous Black enclaves from the 1830s-1860s. Please reference the Douglass Monthly October 1860<sup>2</sup> article on *Rodman Street* and *Fashionable Colored Dwellings on South Street*.

“We passed with our guide up South Street to Ninth, and thence to Rodman Street. Several fine dwellings, of three and four stories, fronted with white marble, and having doors of carved stone, were exhibited upon those avenues. . . . *It is peopled almost entirely by colored families*. We gazed with curiosity at the rows of tall, beautiful houses, and saw, with some interest, the clean pavements and street. In some places, fine ornamental trees stood upon the sidewalks, and to the doorways, the families of colored men were seated.” (emphasis added)  
*Douglas Monthly, October 1860*

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<sup>1</sup> 1838 PAS Census data <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tUmG99Y-1sireJfh78pnpAppC0cnvdZbKIgsfQwnO5Y/edit#gid=0>

<sup>2</sup> Douglass Monthly article <https://www.newspapers.com/article/douglass-monthly-walk-through-philly-bl/148809094/>

Additionally, there is a need to understand both the context of oppression as well as community dynamics and resource sharing that occurred. For example, in the 1838 PAS census, many who appeared to be financially impoverished in earnings or occupation, were homeowners and most likely living a ‘prosperous’ life through sharing of resources.

Note that approximately 18,000-25,000 Black people lived in the 1.5-mile radius of the 6th and Lombard area<sup>3</sup>. Washington Square West was home to identifiable Black neighborhoods with notable historical figures, Black-built infrastructure such as homes and churches, historic institutions like the Banneker Institute, and Underground Railroad Safehouses.

You will see that reflected in the roster of the Social Civil and Statistical Association, provided in the *visual references* attachment, that shows the locations of many historically important Black civil rights and community leaders in 1860 in this district.

These Include:

### **Halls and Institutes**

Benezet Hall - still standing  
Banneker Institute - still standing  
Liberty Hall  
Phyllis Wheatley “Equity” Hall  
The Philadelphia Institute  
The Oddfellows building

### **Schools**

Site of Institute for Colored Youth- Waverly Street (Barley Street)  
Site of Institute for Colored Youth - Lombard Street  
Site of the Raspberry Street School  
Site of the Ohio Street School  
Site of Emeline Brown’s School

### **Churches**

Lombard Central  
St Peter Claver - historical marker  
Second Site of St. Thomas  
St. Paul's Lutheran - historical marker

### **Underground Railroad Sites**

Smith-Whipper Home - historical marker  
Site of Harriet Jacobs stay in Philadelphia  
Daniel Colly’s home

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<sup>3</sup> 1838 PAS Census data shows an official count of 18,768. See <https://www.1838blackmetropolis.com/population-statistics>. Note that many Black people were Freedom Seekers and would not provide name data to the census takers for their own safety. Because of this, census data prior to 1865 undercounts Black people. In 1837, Black leaders estimated 25,000. See AMRS.



### **Notable Historical Figures Who Lived in the District**

Carolyn LeCount - Second Black Principal in the Philly School District

Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield - Opera Singer

George Johnson - Caterer

Hetty Reckless - Underground Railroad leader

Jacob C. White Jr. – Educational and Civil Rights Leader – Historical Marker

Henry Minton - Caterer

Henry Jones - Caterer

Stephen Smith - Wealthy business leader and Underground Railroad leader

William Whipper - Wealthy business leader and Underground Railroad leader

Thomas Dorsey - Caterer

Locations are provided in the attached *visual references*.

Third, there is a need to acknowledge the harm caused to the Black community by multiple centuries of attempts to dislocate Black people from these areas, beginning with the mob attacks in the early 19th century, followed by “City Beautiful” in the late 19th century, and continued by “Urban Renewal” in the 20th century. The Phyllis Wheatley “Equity” Hall, which was in the district and used by the Black community until 1917, was destroyed in a municipal contest.<sup>4</sup> Please see our attached report on the 1842 Mob attack which highlights the allowed destruction of Black built infrastructure by the city’s mayor, fire and police authorities in the 19th Century, a pattern of first responders not responding due to race.

Fourth, this area was important for the Underground Railroad (UGRR). This was in fact ‘The North’ as it is colloquially referred to in many UGRR movies. This was where people landed after a long journey on the Eastern route. Underground Railroad leader Daniel Colly is noted in the Vigilance Committee notes.<sup>5</sup> In 1858 he lived on Quince.<sup>6</sup> Stephen Smith and William Whipper are well documented as UGRR leaders, and they lived on Lombard. While many UGRR records were destroyed after the 1850 Fugitive Slave Act, we do have a primary source that indicates that on one night in 1841, there were 12 UGRR safe houses providing shelter for 168 Freedom Seekers.<sup>7</sup> Harriet Jacobs wrote *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* where she notes 5 days spent in Philadelphia at the home of Jeremiah Durham. This home was on Waverly within the district. This means that this is a confirmed UGRR safe house. Please see our *visual references* attachment for research on this site and the 1838 Black Metropolis Arrivals walking tour guide.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup><https://blog.phillyhistory.org/index.php/2019/02/african-american-history-hijacked-the-rise-and-fall-of-phyllis-wheatley-on-lombard-street/>

<sup>5</sup> See the Vigilance Committee notes here <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/485219936/24-25/>

<sup>6</sup> See the 1858 data set here <https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/studies/3805>

<sup>7</sup> See *Smedley* page 348

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/History\\_of\\_the\\_Underground\\_Railroad\\_in\\_C/hzYOAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=reckelss&pg=PA348&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_Underground_Railroad_in_C/hzYOAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=reckelss&pg=PA348&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>8</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/03fb026e7cb24990afa47efbd90e6342>

Fifth, Black Civil Rights actions occurred in this district. St. Paul's Lutheran on Quince was home to one of the early planning meetings for the 1838 Civil Rights movement to prevent disenfranchisement.<sup>9</sup> Pennsylvania Equal Rights League leaders Jacob C. White Jr., who lived in the district on Lombard, and Octavius Catto held meetings at the Banneker institute and led the Trolley Car movement. The 'Rosa Parks of Philadelphia', Carolyn LeCount lived on Rodman (Bonsall) in the district.

In conclusion, we offer that the Washington Square West District is sitting within a Black Cultural Heritage area. This area was home to thousands of Black people of all classes. This population of people had impact regionally, nationally and internationally producing leaders in education, economics, social services, social sciences, civil rights, governance, press, literature, and religion whose impact was felt throughout the United States. It is irrefutable that this "Black Metropolis" has a place in the establishment of Philadelphia as a birthplace of American democracy.

*Signed*

Victoria Best, Executive Director, Victoria's Urban Outreach Tutoring Service

Deborah Gary, President, Society to Preserve Philadelphia African American Assets

Emma Lapsansky-Werner, Professor Emeritus of History and Visiting Professor in the Writing Program and Quaker Studies, Haverford College

Morgan Lloyd, President, 1838 Black Metropolis

Cornelia Swinson, Executive Director, Johnson House Historic Site

Richard White, President, Black Docents Collective

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.1838blackmetropolis.com/1838-civil-rights-movement> and see the Appeal of the 40,000 <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/121462397/6/>

## *Attachments*

[1842 Mob Attack and Finding Beneficial Hall](#)

[Visual References](#)

## *References*

AMRS. *The minutes and proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the American Moral Reform Society: held at Philadelphia, in the Presbyterian Church in Seventh Street, below Shippen, from the 14th to the 19th of August, 1837.* Page 6. Philadelphia. Merrihew & Gunn

Appeal of the 40,000 <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/121462397/6/>

Arrivals Walking Tour

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/03fb026e7cb24990afa47efbd90e6342>

Douglass Monthly article on a walk through Philadelphia (1860)

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/douglass-monthly-walk-through-philly-bl/148809094/>

Homeowner data from the 1838 PAS Census

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tUmG99Y-1sireJfh78pnpAppC0cnvdZbKIgsfQwnO5Y/edit#gid=0>

PhillyHistory Blog on the Phyllis Wheatley Hall

<https://blog.phillyhistory.org/index.php/2019/02/african-american-history-hijacked-the-rise-and-fall-of-phillis-wheatley-on-lombard-street/>

Smedley's History of the Underground Railroad page 348

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/History\\_of\\_the\\_Underground\\_Railroad\\_in\\_C/hzYOAAA-AIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=reckelss&pg=PA348&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_the_Underground_Railroad_in_C/hzYOAAA-AIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=reckelss&pg=PA348&printsec=frontcover)

1838 Vigilance Committee notes <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/485219936/24-25/>

1838 Civil Rights Movement <https://www.1838blackmetropolis.com/1838-civil-rights-movement>

1838 Pennsylvania Abolition Society Census Population Statistics

<https://www.1838blackmetropolis.com/population-statistics>

1847 Pennsylvania Abolition Society Census data <https://ds-pages.swarthmore.edu/paac/>

1858 Pennsylvania Abolition Society Census data

<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/ICPSR/studies/3805>

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

MANFRED WEIS <manfredweis@icloud.com>

Tue 6/11/2024 11:02 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Manfred Weis  
610 Queen St  
Philadelphia

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Anthony Faino <anthonyfaino@gmail.com>

Tue 6/11/2024 11:12 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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As a resident of Philadelphia who works in this proposed district and has friends and family who live in this proposed district, I want to express my opposition to this Historic District designation.

It is the full history of this neighborhood that makes it so interesting and important. The neighborhood bares to marks of every phase of this city's development, good and bad, up through the present. This historic district designation would stop that and keep this neighborhood largely frozen, unable to adapt and change as vibrant neighborhoods must. As a result it will hinder the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing properties and create obstacles to building new ones. As a centrally located neighborhood filled with both services and amenities, we should be trying to responsibly and sensitively maximize density, not forsake it. This district would ultimately undermine density and make housing and commercial space more expensive. In fact, it could lead to the deterioration of the the neighborhood as maintenance and upkeep are deferred. The inclusion of parking lots in the proposal (with only vague allusions to presumed significant archeological treasure beneath) speaks to the thoughtless with which this proposal was created.

Historic designations should be much more limited to properties or simply "rows", so the full impact can be thoughtfully considered and planned for. This is lazy and anti-urban nonsense.

Thanks you  
Anthony Faino  
1530 S Iseminger St

## In Opposition to the Washington Square West Historic District

Brigid Connell-Bryan <connellbrigid@gmail.com>

Tue 6/11/2024 3:24 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive, and time-intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

As someone who used to live at 258 S Alder St, in the area that is being proposed, I am familiar with these streets and neighbors. I know that preserving the entire area as proposed would not benefit the community, and I implore you to support individual designation instead to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Sincerely,

Brigid Connell

1146 Cross St

Philadelphia, PA 19147

## Opposition to Historic District

Brendan Novak <brendanrnovak@gmail.com>

Mon 6/10/2024 10:35 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear Councilmember Squilla, Members of the Historic Commission, and Members of the Civic Association,

As a resident of Washington Square West (736 Pine St.), I am firmly opposed to the historic district proposal in its current form. I believe the overlay is far too expansive and should be discarded. Any enacted plan should be more carefully designed to better balance the important goal of preserving important structures and spaces with the needs of a growing, desirable neighborhood. In particular, I worry about the designation of surface parking lots as "historic properties." Surely it is inappropriate to include these parcels, especially in a neighborhood beloved by many residents for its walkability and transit access. If anything, these surface lots *detract* from the neighborhood's historic character, and create a worse quality of life for many residents and visitors by disrupting the urban fabric and encouraging polluting, dangerous transportation modes. Additionally, I am concerned about the effect this plan will have on rents and home prices. I do not believe that the area would be well served by casting it in amber and de facto excluding so many vibrant individuals and families who want to contribute to and enjoy the neighborhood.

I urge you to reject the proposal in its current form, and more carefully consider the specific goals that a historic district designation is intended to achieve in any future iteration.

Best,

Brendan Novak, 736 Pine St



## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Jason Lempieri <jl@rethinktankdesign.com>

Tue 6/11/2024 11:47 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

[NAME & ADDRESS]

R E T H I N K T A N K LLC  
267.205.0244

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Kevin McCormick <kevin.patrick.mccormick@gmail.com>

Wed 6/12/2024 2:04 PM

To:Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org  
<president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Kevin McCormick

542A S 48th St, Philadelphia, PA 19143

## Washington Square West Historic District

Katie Low <washwestkatie@gmail.com>

Thu 6/13/2024 8:22 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

Cc:Wash West Civic Info <info@washwestcivic.org>;info@preservationalliance.com <info@preservationalliance.com>

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To The Commissioners and Staff of the Philadelphia Historic Commission,

As an elected representative of the Washington Square West Civic Association, its Community Engagement Coordinator, and a member of our Historic Preservation Committee, I function as both a representative for the best interest of our neighborhood but also as a thoughtful listener to our neighbors.

The resurrection of the Washington Square Historic District is a direct response to the loss of two groups of culturally important buildings in our neighborhood- first Jewelers Row, and then the 12th Street Gym (Henry Minton House/ Camac Baths). As a displaced tenant of the long-since demolished, and still currently a hole in the ground 704 Sansom Street on Jewelers Row, I get it.

Over and over, Philadelphians have watched their beloved places be taken down by developers from elsewhere for their own gain. The residents of Washington Square West chose to move here because of its historic charm, contemporary quirk, and relative affordability. We love our neighborhood for its colorful charm and characters that don't exist in either of our neighboring Historic Districts of Society Hill or Rittenhouse. In speaking with a group of neighbors who are opposed to the project, they share all these feelings. They want to continue to exist where they are and how they are, and also feel the anger and sadness about the loss of our historic buildings to development projects.

As I had suggested to our Preservation Committee and to the Committee on Designation at the last meeting, Wash West's unique enclave deserves a unique solution to both preserving its history and its affordability. The number 1 complaint among homeowners is the added cost burden of maintaining their homes to PHC standards. The number 2 complaint is the presentation of the letter sent by PHC to notify homeowners of the inclusion of their homes in the proposed district. This is something that I suggest the PHC staff take a serious look at, as it should be easily rectified.

I am asking on behalf of all of Washington Square West that the PHC and neighbors work together to form a new "light" historic district. This new type of district will need to be discussed and negotiated. Perhaps, essentially, a demolition delay plus plus. As it now stands, the only way to prevent the careless demolition of our history, because of the rights given to land owners in this country and the generous culture that Philadelphia has around development, is a historic district that NOT everyone wants. And that is a failing of this City. If this City, and this Commission as an office of the City really wanted to help get more of Philadelphia protected and preserved, they would work harder to make it easier and more appealing for Philadelphia building owners to have and keep their historic buildings.

The uniqueness of the neighborhood warrants a unique solution, and you have before you a group of building owners who are willing and ready to work WITH the PHC to find a unique solution. We have the time, patience, energy, and the incentive to work on this together. The district is now under the jurisdiction of the PHC and its protections, so there is no imminent crisis. Let's take this time to form a new policy solution that would benefit Washington Square West and possibly other communities across Philadelphia.

I support a continuance of this designation matter in order to take time to have productive conversations between the PHC, the Civic Association, and concerned neighbors.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request.

Katie Dillon Low

104 S. 8th Street (individually designated property)

Philadelphia, PA 19107

615 507 9216

[washwestkatie@gmail.com](mailto:washwestkatie@gmail.com)

## Washington Square West Historic District, June 14, 24 meeting

David <davidstraub@verizon.net>

Thu 6/13/2024 10:54 AM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; Laura Dipasquale <Laura.Dipasquale@Phila.gov>

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June 13, 2024 (revised)

*From:*

*Save Our Sites*

*2005 Cambridge Street*

*Philadelphia, PA 19130*

*[davidstraub@verizon.net](mailto:davidstraub@verizon.net)*

*215-915-6627*

*To: The Philadelphia Historical Commission, Attn. Laura Di Pasquale*

*Re: Designation of the Washington Square West Historic District, Meeting of Friday, June 14, 2024*

Save Our Sites (501c/3) wholeheartedly supports the nomination for the designation of the Washington Square West Historic District.

Located in old and historic Philadelphia, stretching from the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River, from Lombard to Walnut Street, the Washington Square West Neighborhood is the only neighborhood within those boundaries that is not presently designated as a historic district. We have the Society Hill Historic District to the east and the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District to the west, but the Washington Square West Neighborhood, situated between them, remains an unfortunate gap in what could be a continuous run of protected old and historic buildings extending from river to river.

The Washington Square West Neighborhood is at the very heart of the city, near many hotels, the convention center, the cultural/theater district on Broad Street, shopping on Market, Chestnut and Walnut Streets. It is an area in very close proximity to where residents and tourists concentrate and walk into. These are the people who want to see a neighborhood that, more than any other, is characteristic of legendary Philadelphia. As other city's throughout the United States, and the world, have protected such districts at their core, so must Philadelphia. That it did not happen long ago is an embarrassment.

Paragraph 14-1001.5 of Chapter 14-1000 of the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance states that one of its purposes is to "*Strengthen the economy of the City by enhancing the City's attractiveness to tourists and by stabilizing and improving property values:*"

The Washington Square West Neighborhood is a district that at present is "*attractive*" to tourists, and must be preserved, and further enhanced. If this is accomplished, the economy of Philadelphia can only be improved.

For sure, the Washington Square West Neighborhood has major architectural landmarks such as St. Lukes and the Epiphany Church, and rows of stately townhouses lining Pine, Spruce and Clinton Streets, but as well, and most significantly, it has its labryinths of tiny, narrow streets that never fail to intrigue and delight visitors from afar, when they have the opportunity to see them. There is the maze of narrow lanes around the 200 block of S. Quince Street encompassing Jessup, Irving, Sartain and Latimer Streets. And then there is the tangle of constricted byways around the 300 block of S. Camac Street with Isemenger, Fawn, and Cypress Streets, including Panama Street with hidden Lantern Square opening off it. There are other such little enclaves such as around the 1200 block of Waverly Street or the 200 block of S. Delhi Street. Considering the dynamic forces of development at play in large American cities, it is miraculous that these places have survived into the 21st century. Absolutely, they should be protected from possible demolition and inappropriate alteration, and remain for people to stroll through in future centuries. Creating the Historic District is the best way to accomplish this.

Save Our Sites maintains that Criteria A, C, E, F, I and J. are easily satisfied by the nomination. That the neighborhood has been in the past a home for immigrants, and African-Americans, and that at present is an important nucleus of the LGBTQ community, is undeniable.

The approval of the nomination by the Philadelphia Historic Commission, will be a major step forward in Philadelphia preservation that will have been a long time in coming. With the enactment of the Washington Square West Historic District, residents and visitors alike will be able to saunter down Pine Street from 25th Street, on the west, to Front Street, on the east, a total of 24 blocks, and return back along Spruce Street, all the while walking through charming, historic neighborhoods, protected by our Philadelphia Historic Commission.

David S. Traub, AIA Emeritus  
Co-Founder, Save Our Sites



## I Oppose a Gayborhood Historic District

Zachary Howe <howezf@gmail.com>

Fri 6/14/2024 6:50 PM

To:Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>;Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>;preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>;president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

Please do not turn my Gayborhood into a retirement community for rich people.

The city does not need any more expensive housing. We need affordable places for people to live.

I really value a beautiful, historic neighborhood as much as anybody. I want to have beautiful streets to walk around, I love that about Philly. I know there are many beautiful historic buildings in that neighborhood that deserve protection.

But why not designate specific buildings? We're going to end up preserving parking lots, which no one wants to see protected!

Thank you so much for listening to the people you are here to serve

Best,

Zach Howe  
1748 s Hicks  
Philly

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

scott paymer <scott.paymer@gmail.com>

Fri 6/14/2024 8:53 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Scott Paymer  
1320 Walnut St, LL  
215-939-2080

Sent from my iPhone

## I **\*oppose\*** the Washington Square West Historic District

Dave Liao <hello@daveliao.com>

Tue 6/18/2024 10:54 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and the Washington Square West Civic Association,

I'm writing to express my **opposition** to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

The district designation will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

Please instead support individual designation to achieve a balance between preservation and development.

Regards!

Dave Liao

1011 Chestnut St / Philadelphia, PA



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

John Andrew Gallery <jagphila@mac.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 7:39 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Historical Commission Members,

As a former resident of the Washington Square West neighborhood, I strongly support the designation of the neighborhood as an historic district. While executive director of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, I initiated the initial submission of the district nomination in 2009 and continue to feel that historic district designation is both necessary and appropriate.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The 26 blocks included in the proposed district illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Sincerely,

John Andrew Gallery  
2201 Pennsylvania Avenue, #805  
Philadelphia PA 19130

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Sheila Jones <sheiljones@aol.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 7:55 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District, including particular attention to the African American experience.

Sheila Jones  
5317 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Darrin Britting <d\_britting@yahoo.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 9:21 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners, I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks. The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries. I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Darrin Britting  
722 N. 2nd St.  
Phila., PA 19123

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Matero, Frank Gerard <fgmatero@design.upenn.edu>

Thu 6/20/2024 10:11 AM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Prof Frank Matero  
Gonick Family Professor of Historic Preservation and Architecture  
115 Meyerson Hall  
210 S 34th St  
University of Pennsylvania

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
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## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Eileen G. Lewis <societyhill@fastmail.fm>

Thu 6/20/2024 11:15 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

**EILEEN G. LEWIS**

Society Hill Communications Inc.

PO Box 39794

Philadelphia Pa 19106

**Societyhill@fastmail.fm**

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Patrice Jeppson <pljeppson@gmail.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 11:34 AM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Patrice L. Jeppson, Ph.D.  
1818 S Broad St  
Philadelphia, PA 19145  
267-639-9939

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

francesca.ammon@gmail.com <francesca.ammon@gmail.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 12:14 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

Of note... If the archaeological piece proves to be a sticking point, it might be worth further explaining what the designation means for the contributing parking lots. It seems like opponents of the district, like 5<sup>th</sup> Square, might think that the district would require these parking lots to remain as is if the designation went through. In reality, though, isn't there just a requirement that any potential development on those sites would first require some archaeological excavation before the lots were covered with new buildings? It would seem possible that something could be uncovered there that might forestall future development. But, much more likely, I'd think, is that the discovered items might be unearthed, interpreted, and archived somewhere. Then the development could proceed. 5<sup>th</sup> Square seems to be using the archaeological arguments to make the designation sound silly, but I think this may just be a case of misunderstanding what identifying a present-day parking lot as "contributing" really means. So, laying this all out may allay some concerns, while also providing better education about this dimension of historic preservation practice—which is really meant to make preservation more inclusive in its recognition of significance (i.e., not just limited to recognizing high-style architecture that managed to survive all these years, but also focused on illuminating past histories that have been previously covered up), rather than restrictive. These objectives may well be consistent with many of 5<sup>th</sup> Square's larger goals; but they're just not being fully understood right now.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Francesca Ammon  
332 Spruce St, Philadelphia, PA 19106  
Associate Professor of City & Regional Planning and Historic Preservation  
University of Pennsylvania

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Caroline Piven <caroline.piven@gmail.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 3:20 PM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Caroline C Piven  
201 Queen Street  
Philadelphia PA 19147



## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Jen Jasuta <urban.interiors1.0@gmail.com>

Thu 6/20/2024 6:05 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Thank you,

Jen Jasuta

**URBAN INTERIORS**

**1320 Frankford Avenue**

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19125**

**215.426.6000**

**urban.interiors1.0@gmail.com**

## Support for the Washington Square West Historic District

Hovey, Lonnie <lhovey@wrallp.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 1:23 PM

To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. Originally proposed in 2009, it's high time to recognize the significance of approximately 26 city blocks.

The district satisfies Criteria for Designation A, C, E, F, I, and J, which include social, architectural, cultural, and archaeological histories. The Washington Square West Historic District illustrates the development of Philadelphia's residential and commercial core over more than two centuries.

I urge the Historical Commission to approve the Washington Square West Historic District.

Talk with you soon,

Lonnie

Lonnie J. Hovey, AIA, FAPT, NCARB | *Associate Vice President*

**Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP**

(Cell) 215.219.3755

[lhovey@wrallp.com](mailto:lhovey@wrallp.com)

[www.wrallp.com](http://www.wrallp.com)

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## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Nicole DeMarco <nicole.e.demarco@gmail.com>

Tue 7/2/2024 11:28 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West. The proposal itself makes a mockery of true preservation efforts, as it's hard to see the historical value of a surface-level parking lot that impedes the vibrancy of a walkable city that encourages pedestrian foot traffic.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing. As a renter myself, this places a unique disadvantage on those who are trying to rent at an affordable rate in hope of one day owning a home and making Philly home on a more permanent basis.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nicole DeMarco, 2127 Moore Street

## Opposing Wash West Historic District

Christopher Maloof <cjmaloof@gmail.com>

Wed 7/3/2024 12:15 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I oppose the proposed giant historic district in Washington Square West. I lived in Wash West for over ten years, having fun and growing my career, and I would like as many others as possible to share that opportunity! Only a little of the district is actually historic; this seems like a backdoor way to discourage growth and change.

Sincerely,

Christopher Maloof  
735 Earp St  
Philadelphia, PA 19147

## Approval of historic district

Gmail <cosm819@gmail.com>

Sun 7/7/2024 10:00 AM

To:preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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I am Mary Costello and I live in 19103 I am a native Philadelphian. I just read the article in the Inquirer and I wanted to write to you in support of the approval for the historic district in Washington Square in spruce Hill. I have lived or worked in both of those areas and feel that they are architectural gems that need to be preserved as they reflect the character of our city. Many thanks

Sent from my iPad

## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

Mary Morell <2mamorell@gmail.com>

Tue 7/9/2024 10:11 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

[NAME & ADDRESS] Mary More, Flourtown, PA 19031

## Don't Make Philly More Expensive - Opposing Historic District

Stephen Perrotti <swperrotti@gmail.com>

Wed 7/10/2024 10:26 AM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Good morning,

I'm sending this email to voice my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

Philly is a city rich in history and worthy of preservation; however, not in a way that will harm its poorest residents and the middle class. A gigantic overlay like this is only going to raise rents and the cost of homeownership.

When my wife and I were buying a home in the city, we looked in Washington Square West as we love the area but on two nonprofit salaries we simply couldn't afford it. We were fortunate to be able to afford a place nearby though. I worry this historic designation will only make things worse for those that come next.

Thank you for your time reading and considering this.

Sincerely,  
Steve Perrotti  
746 Catharine Street

## Washington Square West Historic District, June 12, 2024 meeting

David <davidstraub@verizon.net>

Wed 7/10/2024 2:12 PM

To: Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>

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July 10, 2024

*From:*

*Save Our Sites*

*2005 Cambridge Street*

*Philadelphia, PA 19130*

*[davidstraub@verizon.net](mailto:davidstraub@verizon.net)*

*215-915-6627*

*To: The Philadelphia Historical Commission, Attn. Kim Chantry*

*Re: Designation of the Washington Square West Historic District, Meeting of Friday, June 12, 2024*

Save Our Sites (501c/3) wholeheartedly supports the nomination for the designation of the Washington Square West Historic District.

Located in old and historic Philadelphia, stretching from the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River, from Lombard to Walnut Street, the Washington Square West Neighborhood is the only neighborhood within those boundaries that is not presently designated as a historic district. We have the Society Hill Historic District to the east and the Rittenhouse-Fitler Historic District to the west, but the Washington Square West Neighborhood, situated between them, remains an unfortunate gap in what could be a continuous run of protected old and historic buildings extending from river to river.

The Washington Square West Neighborhood is at the very heart of the city, at the very "Center of Center City," near many hotels, the convention center, the cultural/theater district on Broad Street, shopping on Market, Chestnut and Walnut Streets. It is an area in very close proximity to where residents and tourists concentrate and walk around. These are the people who want to see a neighborhood that, more than any other, is characteristic of legendary Philadelphia. As other city's throughout the United States, and the world, have protected such districts at their core, so must Philadelphia. That it did not happen long ago is an embarrassment.

Though sometimes forgotten, it is a fact that the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance underscores the point just made. In Paragraph 14-1001.5 of Chapter 14-1000, the Ordinance states that one of its purposes is to "*strengthen the economy of the City by enhancing the City's attractiveness to tourists and by stabilizing and improving property values:*" The Washington Square West neighborhood is a district that at present is "*attractive*" to tourists, and must be preserved, and further enhanced. If this is accomplished, the economy of Philadelphia can only be improved.



For sure, the Washington Square West Neighborhood has major architectural landmarks such as St. Lukes and the Epiphany Church, and rows of stately townhouses lining Pine, Spruce and Clinton Streets, but as well, and most significantly, it has its labryinths of tiny, narrow streets that never fail to intrigue and delight visitors from afar, when they have the opportunity to see them. There is the maze of narrow lanes around the 200 block of S. Quince Street encompassing Jessup, Irving, Sartain and Latimer Streets. And then there is the tangle of constricted byways around the 300 block of S. Camac Street with Isemenger, Fawn, and Cypress Streets, including Panama Street with hidden Lantern Square opening off it. There are other such little enclaves such as around the 1200 block of Waverly Street or the 200 block of S. Delhi Street. Washington Square West has more of these webs of narrow streets than any other neighborhood in the city.

Considering the dynamic forces of development at play in large American cities, it is miraculous that these places have survived into the 21st century. Absolutely, they should be protected from possible demolition and inappropriate alteration, and remain for people to stroll through in future centuries. Creating the Historic District is the best way to accomplish that.

Philadelphia has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Washington Square West with its intense, dense mix of celebrated architectural landmarks, stately townhouse-lined east-west streets, and warrens of tiny back streets, stands among similar neighborhoods of the great historic cities of the world, such as Paris, London and Amsterdam which have the same UNESCO status. If the Washington Square West neighborhood were *not* to be designated a historical district, the title UNESCO World Heritage Site will be rendered utter sham.

Save Our Sites maintains that Criteria A, C, E, F, I and J. are easily satisfied by the nomination. That the neighborhood has been in the past a home for immigrants, and African-Americans, and that at present is an important nucleus of the LGBTQ community, is undeniable.

The approval of the nomination by the Philadelphia Historic Commission, will be a major step forward in Philadelphia preservation that will have been a long time in coming. With the enactment of the Washington Square West Historic District, residents and visitors alike will be able to saunter down Pine Street from 25th Street, on the west, to Front Street, on the east, a total of 24 blocks, and return back along Spruce Street, all the while walking through charming, historic neighborhoods, protected by our Philadelphia Historic Commission.

David S. Traub, AIA Emeritus  
Co-Founder, Save Our Sites



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## I Oppose the Washington Square West Historic District

John Walker <johnnyrobwalker@gmail.com>

Wed 7/10/2024 2:55 PM

To: Mark Squilla <Mark.Squilla@Phila.gov>; preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>; president@washwestcivic.org <president@washwestcivic.org>

Cc: Info@washwestcivic.org <Info@washwestcivic.org>

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Dear PHC, Councilmember Squilla, and Washington Square West Civic Association,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed historic district in Washington Square West.

It will make home repairs more complicated, expensive and time intensive. It will also raise rents and home prices by restricting the supply of new housing.

I implore you to instead support individual designation to achieve a pragmatic balance between preservation and development.

John Walker  
1631 S 10th St Philadelphia, PA 19148



# PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

*for greater philadelphia*

July 11, 2024

Philadelphia Historical Commission  
1515 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Members of the Historical Commission,

I am writing to urge the Historical Commission to avoid unnecessary additional continuances for the Spruce Hill or Washington Square West historic district nominations at tomorrow's meeting of the Historical Commission. While the contentions of those requesting continuances deserve to be considered, we respectfully suggest the Historical Commission bring these districts to a vote before the end of this summer.

- Each district nomination has been properly noticed to affected property owners under the provisions of the Commission's Rules and Regulations - in February for Spruce Hill and March for Washington Square West.
- Both district nominations have been unanimously recommended for approval by Commission staff and by the Committee on Historic Designation.
- Each nomination has already been continued once due to procedural issues.
- Respectfully, we would contend that the Commission has had ample time to consider public arguments for and against the nominations. Unless new information is offered, a voluminous number of arguments for and against designation have been shared with the Commission in writing dating back as far as March -- five months ago.
- Many property owners spoke in favor of the nominations at their respective Committee on Historic Designation meetings. Equal weight should be given to the many property owners who welcome and support historic district designation, not just loud voices of opposition.
- Given the above, further continuances would serve no discernable purpose except to unnecessarily lengthen the Commission's crowded agenda and deepen unfortunate intra-community tensions if this consideration is drawn out even further.

Since 1986, more than 40 historic districts across the city have been added to the Philadelphia Register, including W. Diamond Street, Rittenhouse-Fitler, Society Hill, Old City, Spring Garden, Girard Estate, Tudor East Falls, Wayne Junction, Overbrook Farms, Black Doctors Row, Victorian Roxborough, and Powelton Village, to name a few.

I hope you will consider the nominations of the Spruce Hill or Washington Square West historic districts this summer rather than agree to unnecessary additional continuances that would extend this process into the fall and beyond.

Sincerely,

Paul Steinke, Executive Director  
[paul@preservationalliance.com](mailto:paul@preservationalliance.com)