

COMMENT ON NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

ADDRESS: 2421 Martha Street and 2423-39 Amber Street, Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

OVERVIEW: The Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC) has requested comments from the Philadelphia Historical Commission on the National Register nomination of 2421 Martha Street and 2423-39 Amber Street located in the Kensington neighborhood of North Philadelphia and historically known as Weisbrod & Hess Brewery. PHMC is charged with implementing federal historic preservation regulations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including overseeing the National Register of Historic Places in the state. PHMC reviews all such nominations before forwarding them to the National Park Service for action. As part of the process, PHMC must solicit comments on every National Register nomination from the appropriate local government. The Philadelphia Historical Commission speaks on behalf of the City of Philadelphia in historic preservation matters including the review of National Register nominations. Under federal regulation, the local government not only must provide comments, but must also provide a forum for public comment on nominations. Such a forum is provided during the Philadelphia Historical Commission's meetings.

Founded in 1882, the history of Weisbrod & Hess Brewery reflects the evolution of beer brewing in Philadelphia from the late nineteenth century through the early years of prohibition in the 1920s. The nomination proposes significance under Criterion A in the areas of industry and social history as one of Philadelphia's most prominent beer breweries of this era. The nomination also contends that it is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a fine example of Philadelphia architect and engineer Adam C. Wagner's work. Wagner was nationally recognized for designing breweries in the *Rundbogenstil* style, reflecting the German origins of the brewing industry. Weisbrod & Hess Brewery is the best and most complete example of the architect's work in Philadelphia. Wagner is credited with designing at least 15 breweries in the city, most of which are not extant. The brewery originally included ten buildings, seven of which survive and are proposed for designation in this nomination. The period of significance is 1885-1940, beginning with the construction of the oldest extant building and ends with the company's closure following years of decline that began with Prohibition. A portion of this site, 2421 Martha Street, was individually listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 2017. The local nomination includes the Boiler House and Storage House buildings.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: **Weisbrod & Hess Brewery**

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: **2421 Martha Street; 2423-39 Amber Street**

City or town: **Philadelphia** State: **PA** County: **Philadelphia**

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____	_____
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
-

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property
Site

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION - Brewery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION - Brewery

COMMERCE/TRADE - Business

7. Description

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Romanesque Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Weisbrod & Hess Brewery is a complex of historic late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century brick brewery buildings along Martha, East Hagert, and Amber Streets in the Kensington neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Designed by architects Adam C. Wagner and Charles T. Biswanger, the complex was built between 1885 and 1912. Seven of the ten buildings, some of which were designed in the distinctive *Rundbogenstil* variant of the Romanesque Revival style, remain standing today and are described in chronological order below. Since the early 2000s, several of the buildings have been occupied by the Philadelphia Brewing Company.

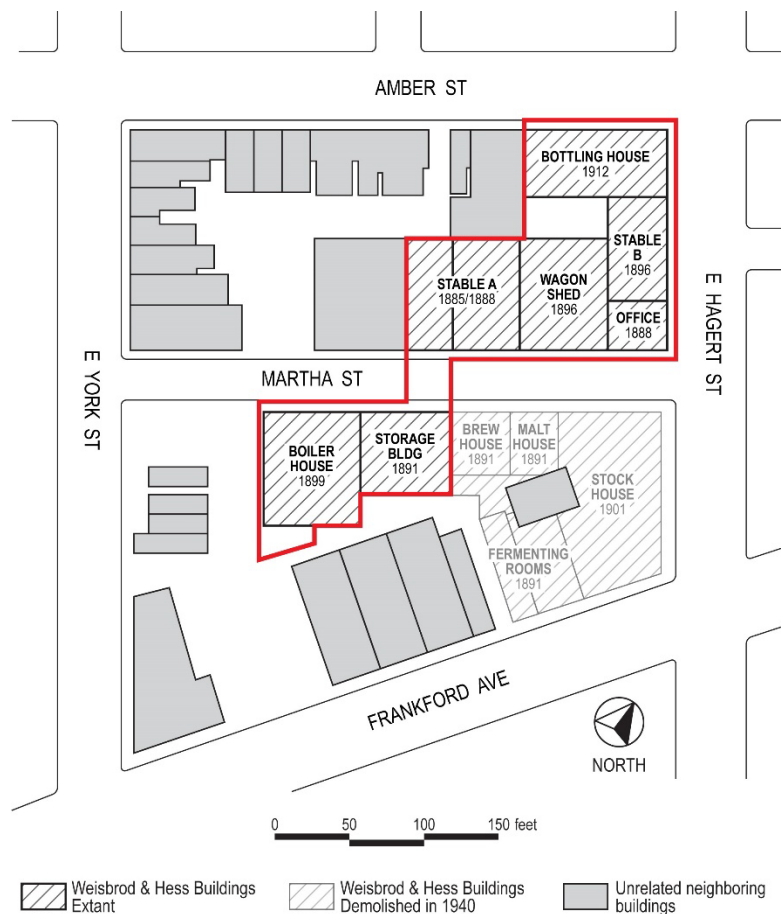


Figure 1: Site plan with the National Register boundary. The former locations of the Brew House, Malt House, Stock House, and Fermenting Rooms are shown in light gray.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Site: The Weisbrod & Hess Brewery complex currently occupies two parcels. Stable A, the Wagon Shed, Office, Stable B, and the Bottling House are located on a single parcel with the current address of 2423-39 Amber Street. Historically, this part of the complex consisted of numerous separate parcels that were acquired over time. The Storage Building and Boiler House are on a parcel across Martha Street that currently has the address of 2421 Martha Street. The site is located in the dense urban environment of Kensington, where there is a mixture of late-nineteenth century brick rowhouses interspersed with large industrial buildings – primarily textile mills – as well as more recent residential construction that has primarily taken place on vacant lots.



Figure 2: Current aerial view (Pictometry).

Stable A (1885, 1888)

The first part of Stable A, which was designed by Adam C. Wagner and built in 1885, is a two-story brick building on the north side of Martha Street, the southernmost of a row of Weisbrod & Hess buildings that stretches east to Hager Street (**Photo 1**).

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Photo 1: Stable A, south elevation of the original 1885 section, looking north.

The building, which sits on an exposed granite foundation, is three bays wide, with the bays separated by projecting brick piers. On the first story, there is a large, roll-down metal garage door within an original opening supported at the top by a painted iron lintel. The garage door appears to be 20-30 years old. Directly above the garage door, there is a small marble plaque carved with “1886 W&H Stable.” To the right of the garage door, there is a tall, segmental arched opening with a painted hollow metal door surrounding by painted beadboard paneling. To the left of the garage door, there is a segmental arched window opening, however the painted wood shutters, which appear historic, are currently in the closed position. The segmental lintels above both openings consist of pressed brick voussoirs accented by marble corner blocks and a keystone. On the second story, there are historic cross braced, painted wood loft doors in the center bay with two-over-two, double-hung wood windows with segmental arched heads. The lintels above the side windows match those on the first story. The brickwork at the top of each bay is corbelled. Above, there is a gabled roofline with a historic painted metal cornice. The roof historically contained a cupola but this was removed sometime in the mid- to late-twentieth century (**Figures 2b and 4**). In the wall between the loft doors and the roofline, there is a circular window opening that is currently infilled with brick.

In 1888, a four-bay wide addition was built on the east side of Stable A (**Photo 2**). Like the original building, the bays are separated by projecting brick piers and the segmental window lintels consist of pressed brick voussoirs with marble corner blocks and keystones. On the first story, the first and third bays from the west (left side) contain roll-down metal garage doors within historic openings featuring painted iron lintels at the top. The garage doors themselves appear to be only 20-30 years old. The bay between the garage doors contains tall opening with a painted hollow metal door surrounding by painted beadboard paneling. The easternmost bay on the first story contains a window, which is currently concealed by the historic painted wood shutters. On the second story, there are four double-hung wood windows. The westernmost bay has a replacement one-over-one window, while the other three have historic two-over-two units. The top of this part of the stable has flat stone coping but no cornice. The interior of Stable A consists of several large, open spaces with wood floors, exposed brick walls, and exposed heavy timber columns, beams,

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

and roof trusses (**Photo 3**).



Photo 2: Stable A, south elevation, showing the 1888 addition (at center) and the original 1885 section (at far left).

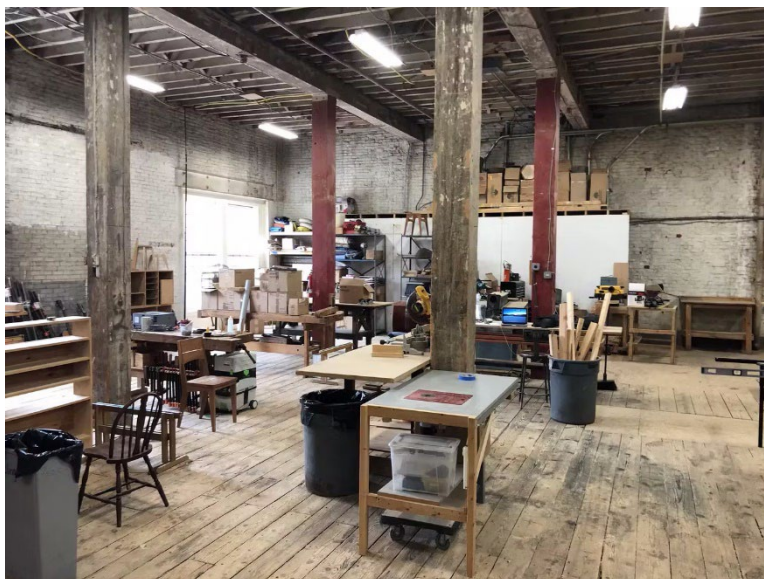


Photo 3: Second floor interior space of Stable A (1888 addition), looking northwest.

Office (1888)

The Office is a two-story building at the northwest corner of Martha and Hagert Streets (**Photo 4**). Designed by architect Adam C. Wagner and built in 1888, the building has a rusticated brownstone water table on both sides. The south elevation, facing Martha Street, is five bays wide. The two end bays on the first story feature historic painted wood doors with single-light transoms. The three openings in between contain historic one-over-one, double-hung wood windows with single-light transoms and iron security grates. The first-story windows and doors are topped by a brownstone string course, which incorporates individual lintels above each window and door. The second story contains five two-over-two, double-hung wood windows with brownstone sills and segmental arched heads with rusticated brownstone lintels. Above the second-story windows, there is

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

decorative brick corbelling and a historic copper cornice. The east elevation, which is also five bays wide, is treated very similarly to the south elevation, except that there is only one entrance on the first story, in the center bay. Additionally, two of the first-story windows are infilled with stucco.



Photo 4: Office, south elevation, looking north.

The interior of the Office Building is open in plan on both levels, featuring original, diagonally laid wood floors painted brick perimeter walls, pressed metal ceilings on the first floor, and exposed heavy timber roof trusses on the second floor (**Photo 5**). The first floor currently operates as a bar, which is open to the public.



Photo 5: Office, interior, first floor, looking northeast.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Storage Building (1891)

The Storage Building is a two-story brick building on the south side of Martha Street, directly across from Stable A (**Photo 6**). Designed by architect Adam C. Wagner in the *Rundbogenstil* style, a German derived version of the Romanesque Revival, the building is three bays wide and has a rusticated granite water table. In 2024, the building was rehabilitated as a restaurant along with the adjacent Boiler House to the west. All of the windows and doors described below were installed during this recent project. On the first story, there are three large arched openings. Those in the first and second bays from the east contain glazed aluminum doors with large, multi-light arched aluminum transoms. The transoms match the fragments of the historic transoms that existed in these openings before 2024. In the third or westernmost bay, there is a trio of one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows above brick infill that was installed in this opening sometime in the late twentieth century. The arches are lined by pressed brick voussoirs and have granite keystones. At the second story, there is a band of decorative pressed bricks with floral motifs and a granite sill course. All three bays on the second story contain pairs of small arched openings, all of which contain one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows with single-light transoms, matching fragments of the historic windows that existed in these openings before 2024. Above the second-story windows, there is a thin brick string course and the flat roofline has stone coping.



Photo 6: Storage Building, north elevation, looking south.

The interior of the Storage Building contains a retail space and all back-of-house spaces associated with the new restaurant (the dining room is located in the adjacent Boiler House). The retail space is a double-height volume with polished concrete and terrazzo floors, which were installed in 2024; historic exposed brick perimeter walls, and historic painted wood roof beams at the ceiling (**Photo 7**). South of the retail space is a commercial kitchen with tile floors and drywall walls and ceilings that were installed in 2024. A straight-run wood stair is found along the east elevation, rising to a second-floor level that wraps around the retail space (the building did historically have a second floor). The second floor contains a storage room, management office, and a mechanical room. A portion of the second floor acts as a balcony that overlooks the retail space below.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

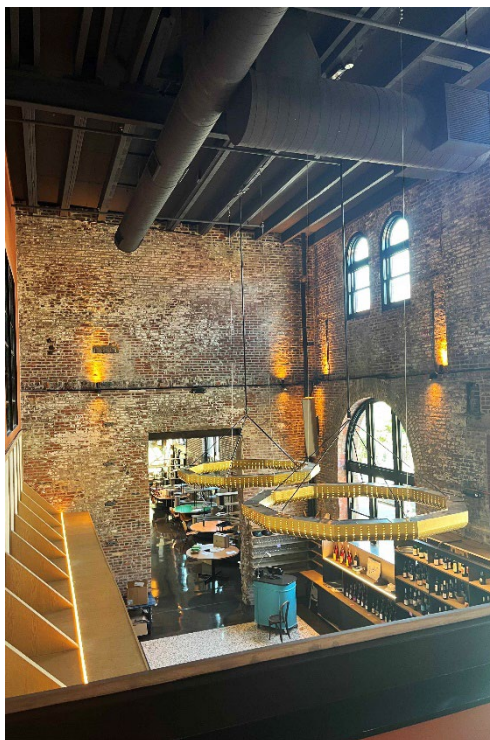


Photo 7: Storage Building, interior, looking west over the main space from the second-floor balcony.

Stable B (1896)

Stable B and the Wagon Shed were built as a two-story extension of Stable A in 1896 (**Photo 8**). Both designed by Adam C. Wagner, Stable B fronts on Hagert Street and the Wagon Shed fronts on Martha Street. The buildings form an L-shape around the Office Building.

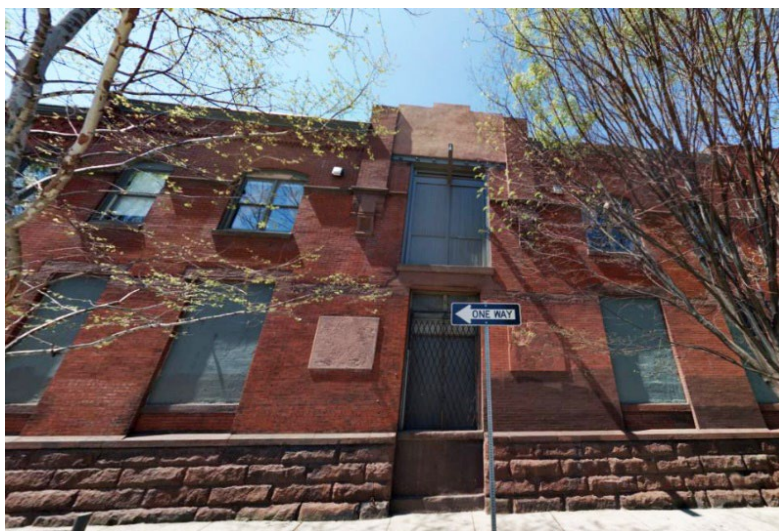


Photo 8: Stable B, east elevation, looking west.

Stable B, which is five bays wide, rests on a rusticated brownstone foundation. On the first story, the center bay has a raised painted metal door that is probably 30-40 years old. The bays to the left

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

and right – two on each side – have brownstone sills and lintels but are infilled with painted stucco. On the second story, the center bay contains a pair of historic painted wood loft doors, which are framed by imposing corbelled brick piers. Above the doors, there is a historic painted iron lintel and a stucco panel. The first bays on either side of the loft doors contain pairs of historic one-over-one, double-hung wood windows with brownstone sills and segmental arched brick lintels. The outermost bays on the second story are similar, but they exist as single units rather than pairs. Above the second-story windows, there is decorative brick corbelling and a historic copper cornice on both sides of the piers that frame the loft doors.

The interior of Stable B contains the Philadelphia Brewing Company's tasting rooms, which are open to the public during tours and used for private events. The first floor, which is open in plan, has concrete floors, painted brick walls, exposed steel columns, and exposed heavy timber floor joists at the ceiling. The second floor, which is also open in plan, has original, diagonally laid wood floors, painted brick perimeter walls, and exposed heavy timber roof trusses. On the first floor, there are exposed heavy timber joists at the ceilings (**Photo 9**).



Photo 9: Stable B, interior, second floor, looking northeast.

The Wagon Shed (1896)

The Wagon Shed is a two-story brick building fronting on Martha Street, adjoining the west elevation of the Office Building (**Photo 10**). Designed by Adam C. Wagner and built in 1896, the south elevation, facing Martha Street, is three bays wide and rests on a partially exposed granite foundation. On the first story, the center bay contains a large roll-down metal garage door, which is about 20-30 years old but exists within a historic opening that is topped by two painted iron lintels. To the left and right, the other two bays have original window openings with granite sills and segmental arched brick and stone lintels matching those on the front of Stable A. These openings are currently concealed by the historic painted wood shutters, which are closed. On the second story, the center bay, which is framed by two projecting brick piers, has a lunette window opening that is currently missing a window. To the left and right, there are window openings aligned with and matching those on the first story, but they too are currently missing windows.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Photo 10: Wagon Shed, south elevation, looking northeast.

Currently, the Wagon Shed does not have a roof. Rather, the interior space behind the south elevation consists of an open courtyard that contains the Philadelphia Brewing Company's beer garden, which is open to the public. The space contains several large metal tanks used in the operation of the brewery.

Boiler House (1899)

The Boiler House is a one-story brick building fronting on Martha Street, adjoining the west elevation of the Storage Building (**Photo 11**). In 2024, the building was rehabilitated as a restaurant along with the adjacent Boiler House to the west. All of the windows and doors described below were installed during this recent project. The Boiler House is defined by its strong gabled profile. Designed by Adam C. Wagner in the *Rundbogenstil* style and built in 1899, the north elevation, facing Martha Street, is three bays wide and has a rusticated granite water table. On the lower portion of the north elevation, there are three large arched openings, with the arched portion of each arch lined by decorative brick voussoirs with keystones at the top. The easternmost and center openings each have a pair of one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows with a two-light arched transom. Although only fragments of the historic windows existed in these openings before 2024, this configuration was known to have existed in the arched opening in the upper part of the north elevation, in the center bay. In the westernmost bay, which historically contained some kind of large door, there is a pair of aluminum-framed glass doors with a sidelight and a multi-light arched transom, the latter matching the transoms in the adjacent Storage Building because the original configuration here is unknown. In the upper part of the north elevation, in the center bay just below the peak of the gabled roof, is a Palladian-like arrangement of windows. The center arched opening, which has a pair of one-over-one, double-hung aluminum windows with a two-light arched transom, is flanked by shorter, rectangular one-over-one, double-hung windows. This configuration matches the historic wood windows that existed here before 2024. The gabled roofline has corbeled brickwork and a new painted sheet metal cornice that was installed in 2024.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

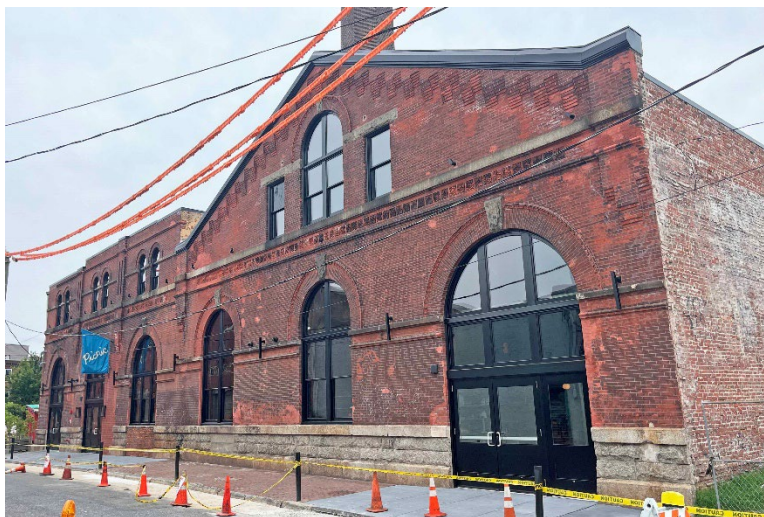


Photo 11: Boiler House, north elevation, looking southeast. The Storage Building is shown at far left.

The south elevation of the Boiler House echoes the arrangement of the north elevation except that there are four rather than three windows in the lower portion of the wall and no decorative pressed brickwork or corbelled brickwork. These window openings are infilled with concrete block. In the upper part of the south elevation, however, just below the peak of the gabled roof, there is a Palladian-like arrangement of new aluminum windows matching those in the same location on the north elevation.

The Boiler House's historic brick smokestack, which is hexagonal, survives largely intact and is visible from Martha Street.

The interior of the Boiler House consists of a single large volume, which was converted into a restaurant in 2024. The space has concrete and terrazzo floors, which were installed in 2024; historic exposed brick perimeter walls; and historic exposed steel roof trusses (**Photos 12 and 13**). New wood roof decking, which is exposed at the ceiling, was installed on top of the historic roof trusses in 2024. Along the back wall, parallel to the south elevation, is a mezzanine level for additional seating. The mezzanine, which was built in 2024, is accessed via a wood stair with a simple metal railing parallel to the party wall between the Boiler House and Storage Building.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

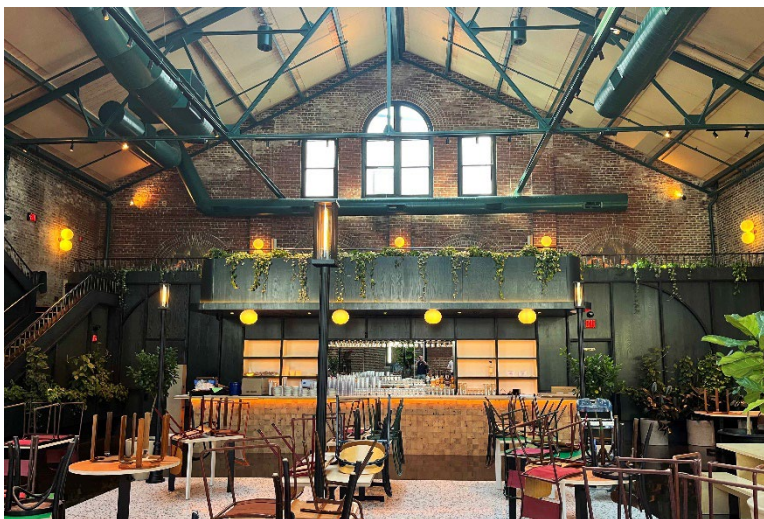


Photo 12: Boiler House, interior, looking south.

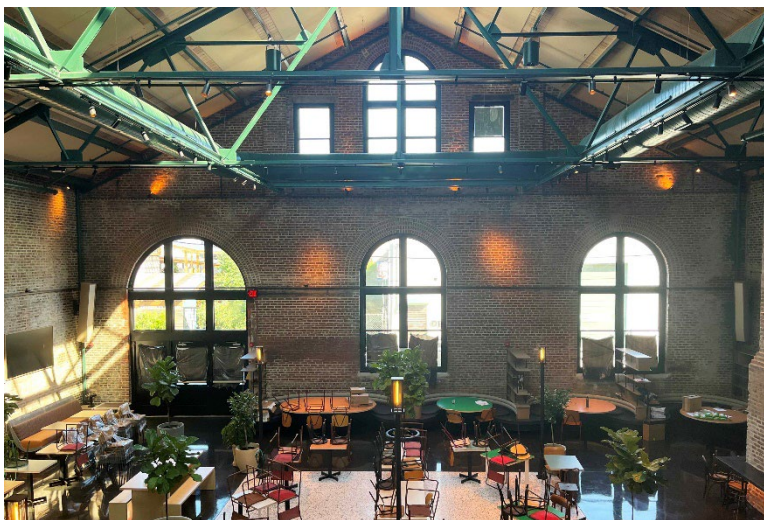


Photo 13: Boiler House, interior, looking north and south, respectively.

Bottling House (1912)

The Bottling House is a two-story building at the southwest corner of Hagert and Amber Streets, partially adjoining the north elevation of Stable B (Photo 14). The building has a rusticated brownstone water table. The north elevation, facing Amber Street, is five bays wide and contains five large window openings on the first story that are currently infilled with stucco. The first-story windows do remain behind the stucco, however, as seen from the interior side (Photo 15). Each of these bays contains a tripartite arrangement of double-hung wood windows, with an eight-over-eight unit and eight-light transom flanked by four-over-four units and four-light transoms.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

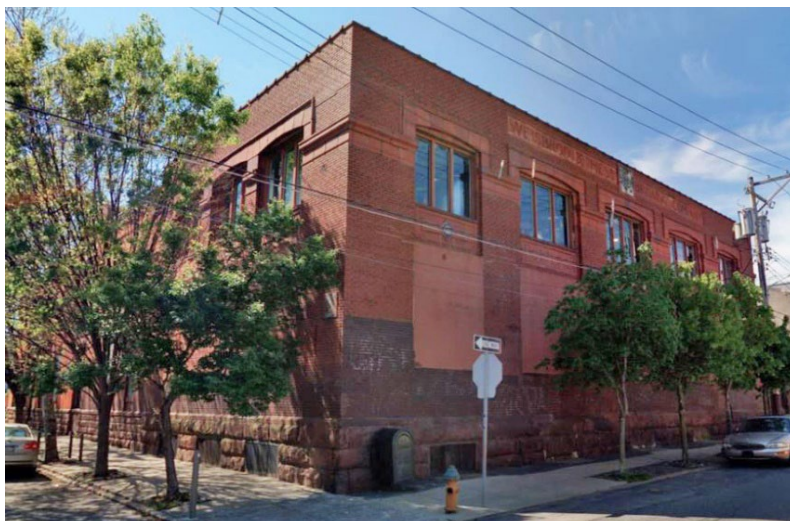


Photo 14: Bottling House, east and north elevations, looking southwest.

On the second story, there are five three- and four-light wood replacement windows, which align with the infilled openings below. There are decorative terra cotta spandrel panels below each of the second story windows. The center panel appears to have been altered and currently does not contain a design. The panels immediately to the left and right of the center panel are inscribed with “BOTTLING” and “DEPARTMENT,” respectively. The two outermost panels contain diamond shaped, polychrome mosaic tile plaques displaying the Weisbrod & Hess insignia. Above the second story, windows, there are terra cotta lintels, which rest on terra cotta capitals on the piers between the windows. In the parapet above the second story windows, there is a long, inscribed terra cotta panel reading “WEISBROD & HESS BREWING COMPANY” (**Photo 15**). At the center of the inscription, there is a polychrome mosaic tile panel displaying a peacock, a symbol used by Weisbrod & Hess throughout the company’s history. The top of the parapet, which is flat, has terra cotta coping. The east elevation of the Bottling House is essentially a narrower, three bay wide version of the north elevation but does not contain inscribed terra cotta panels. Rather, the spandrels below the second-story windows only contain polychrome insignia.

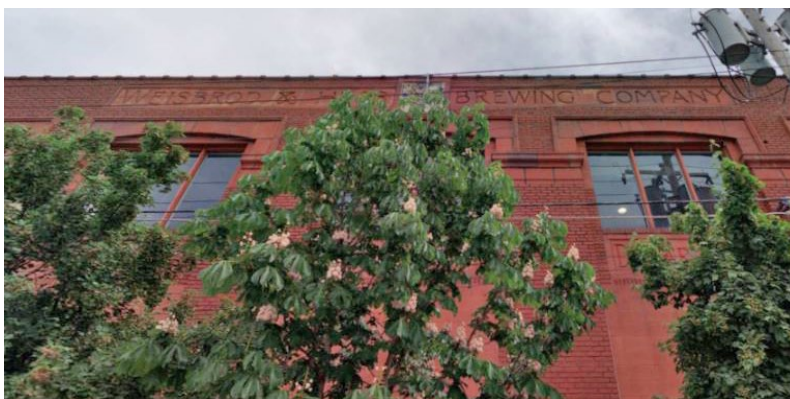


Photo 15: Bottling House, showing the company name in the parapet on the north elevation.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

The interior of the Bottling House consists of large open space on each floor that are currently used by the Philadelphia Brewing Company as their brewing facility. Finishes include concrete floors and painted concrete walls and ceilings, the latter containing exposed beams (**Photo 16**).



Photo 16: Bottling House, interior, 1st floor, looking northwest. The windows seen here are on the north elevation, but are currently covered by stucco on the exterior side.

Integrity: The Weisbrod & Hess Brewery retains integrity, particularly in the *design, materials, workmanship, and feeling* conveyed by the surviving portion of the complex. The overall form and defining industrial characteristics of the buildings remain largely intact, helping to convey the site's history as one of the largest brewers in Philadelphia during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As explained in greater detail in the statement of significance, the historic Weisbrod & Hess Stock House, Malt House, and Brew House, which were located in a group at the southwest corner of Martha and Hagert Streets, were demolished by the company in 1940, shortly before the property changed hands in 1941. Despite the loss of these buildings, the distinctive architectural language of the nineteenth-century American brewery remains intact throughout the large surviving portion of the Weisbrod & Hess complex. Characteristic features of this German style, called the *Rundbogenstil*, such as the strongly defined round arch, heavy brick and stone walls, ornamental pressed brickwork, projecting brick piers between window bays, and brick corbelling, are present in several different combinations in all seven buildings in the complex, even to some degree in the 1912 Bottling House. Additionally, the still sprawling Weisbrod & Hess complex features multiple buildings representing several of the numerous functions found in a typical nineteenth-century brewery, providing a strong impression of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery's evolution over time.

The Weisbrod & Hess Brewery also retains integrity through the property's *location and setting*. The buildings remain on their original sites and are still surrounded by many of the same buildings – primarily brick rowhouses and other industrial buildings – that existed in the area when Weisbrod & Hess first opened in 1885.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1885-1940

Significant Dates

1885
1888
1891
1896
1899
1912

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Adam C. Wagner, architect
Charles T. Biswanger, architect

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Weisbrod & Hess Brewery is significant under Criterion A in the areas of industry and social history as one of Philadelphia's most prominent lager beer breweries of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including during Prohibition when the brewery played a major role in the city's illicit liquor trade. Founded in 1882, the history of Weisbrod & Hess illustrates the evolution of beer brewing in Philadelphia from its emergence as a major industry through its decline following the beginning of Prohibition in 1920, which forced breweries to either close or to shift production to non-alcoholic beverages. The Weisbrod & Hess Brewery is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a highly characteristic example of the work of Adam C. Wagner, the nationally known, Philadelphia-based architect and engineer who made a career designing breweries in the distinctive *Rundbogenstil* style, reflecting the German origins of the brewing industry. Although Wagner designed at least fifteen breweries in Philadelphia – the most in any single locality – the vast majority no longer survive, leaving the Weisbrod & Hess complex as the best and most complete example of Wagner's work in the city. The period of significance of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery is 1885-1940, beginning with the year the oldest remaining building in the complex was completed and ending with the closure of the company following years of decline caused by Prohibition.

A Brief History of Brewing in Philadelphia

The brewing of beer began in Philadelphia around 1685, with William Penn being one of its earliest proponents.¹ Although beer consumption remained a far second to that of spirits over the next 150 years, Philadelphia was “the great brewing center of the country” at this time.²

In the beginning, most brewing in Philadelphia occurred on a very small scale in private homes. As beer consumption became more popular, operations were moved to the backs of bars or stores, which then directly sold individual bottles or kegs to local customers. The final stage in the development of breweries in Philadelphia followed the Civil War when the “rise of factory-scale breweries... led to the eclipse of the small, saloon-based production model.”³ Most of the earliest purpose-built, industrial scale breweries were located near the Delaware River and included operations run by William Frampton on Front Street between Walnut and Spruce Streets and William Gray at South 6th and Carpenter Streets. The shift from cottage industry to production on an industrial scale characterized most sectors of the manufacturing economy in post-Civil War Philadelphia. By the 1880s, when “the quantity of beer produced in Philadelphia surpassed that of all other ports in the United States,” the city was home to over 302 breweries, a dramatic increase over the 14 found there in 1823.⁴

¹ “One Hundred Years of Brewing.” *The Western Brewer* 26:8 (August 1901): 133.

² “One Hundred Years of Brewing,” 135; Hermann Schluter, *The Brewing Industry and the Brewery Workers' Movement in America* (Cincinnati, OH: International Union of United Brewery Workmen of America, 1910): 87. Ales and porters were brewed at warmer temperatures than that of lager.

³ “Henry F. Ortlieb Company Bottling House.” *National Register Nomination* (2014): 8:14.

⁴ Schluter, 48.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

In 1896, for their annual convention in Philadelphia, the United States Brewers Association published a booklet entitled “Souvenir of Philadelphia,” which illustrated the city’s 57 largest breweries. While thirteen were found in Brewerytown, in the area northwest of Center City, all of the remaining 44 breweries were located east of Broad Street, with the vast majority, including Weisbrod & Hess, situated in Northern Liberties and Kensington. In addition to providing an understanding of the larger landscape of Philadelphia’s brewing industry, the “Souvenir of Philadelphia” clearly shows that the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery was located in the heart of the city’s brewing district, with such prominent neighbors as C. Schmidt & Sons, Henry F. Ortlieb, Rieger & Gretz, Theodore Finkenauer, and George Esslinger & Son, who were among Kensington’s and the city’s best-known brewers.⁵

Philadelphia’s brewing industry thrived well into the twentieth century, even as the total number of breweries was decreasing. By 1902, the city was home to only 44 large brewing operations. Due to consolidation, virtually all of the city’s smallest brewers were either bought up by the large breweries, or closed because they could no longer compete, virtually eliminating independent production. Between 1902 and 1913, no new breweries were established in Philadelphia. By 1914, four more breweries had closed and, by 1918, there were only 33 breweries in the city.⁶ Although these numbers might suggest that the brewing industry was on the decline, they provide a skewed perspective. Although there were fewer establishments, the remaining ones were much larger and more economically viable, productive, and technologically advanced than many of their shuttered counterparts.⁷ In Kensington, for example, there were 21 breweries producing 30,000 barrels annually in 1878.⁸ In 1902, this number had shrunk to only nine breweries, likely a result of consolidation, but those breweries were producing 412,000 barrels annually, over ten times the figure reported in 1878. This trend continued well into the twentieth century. In 1941, the four remaining breweries in Northern Liberties and Kensington were producing 745,000 barrels per year.⁹

Lager Brewing in Philadelphia

From the beginning, the focus of beer brewing in Philadelphia and nationally was on English-style ales and porters. During the 1830s and 1840s, however, two major developments began to shift beer brewing activity and the consumption of beer in the United States forever. The first was technological advances in maritime travel, which allowed ingredients to be transported between Europe and the United States much more quickly. The second was the tremendous influx of German immigrants into the United States, especially Philadelphia. These German newcomers brought their brewing traditions and preferences with them, and the preference was

⁵ “Heimgartner Brewery, 1243-1247 Leopard Street.” *United States Brewer’s Association*, 1896 catalog.

⁶ “Class and Nachod Brewery,” 8:4; Schluter, 84.

⁷ “Class and Nachod Brewery,” 8:4.

⁸ John MacGregor, *Commercial Statistics, Vol. III* (London: Wittaker and Co., 1850): 201; Rich Wagner, *The Breweries of Kensington and Beyond* (Philadelphia: R. Wagner, 2003), 49. Of these Christian Schmidt’s was the largest with an output of 14,000 barrels.

⁹ Wagner, 50. These breweries were Schmidt’s, Gretz, Gruenwald and Otterbach. In total, Kensington was home to seventy breweries over the years. See Rich Wagner, *Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty* (Charleston, SC: History Press, 2012), 64.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Name of Property

overwhelmingly for lager.

Philadelphia County, PA

County and State

Lager required very specific ingredients and methods of preparation. It was made with a slow-acting yeast that is fermented at low temperatures. Initially, these temperatures were achieved through the use of naturally cool cellars or underground vaults that were supplemented by large quantities of ice.¹⁰ The yeast itself was a highly perishable ingredient that was initially only available in Europe; the journey across the Atlantic Ocean took so long that it was not until the rate of travel caught up to the rate of deterioration – an event that took place in the 1840s after faster steamships had become commonplace – that yeast importation finally became possible.¹¹ John Wagner, a German immigrant who arrived in Philadelphia in 1840, is credited with introducing bottom fermenting lager beer yeast to the United States and with opening, in 1844, the first lager beer brewery in the city and country.¹²

Before 1860, virtually all lager beer breweries in Philadelphia were small operations attached to the brewer's home and typically employed only a few people. John Wagner's eight-gallon kettle was located behind his home at 455 St. John Street, on what is now the 900 block of North American Street (north of Poplar Street) in the Northern Liberties neighborhood.¹³ Wagner brewed lager "for friends and neighbors, [offering] a taste of home for other German immigrants" the large concentration of which in Northern Liberties' provided a "ready market."¹⁴ Within a few years, lager started to become more widely available in Northern Liberties as other German immigrants began their own cottage breweries, located in the backs of their shops or even their homes.¹⁵

According to historian Edwin T. Freedley, writing in 1859, the reception of lager beer outside the German community "was not a very cordial or welcome one; and about twelve years elapsed before its use became at all general. Within the last few years, however, the consumption has increased so enormously, not merely among the German population, but among the natives, that is manufacture forms an important item of productive industry."¹⁶ Because of its less bitter flavor and lower alcohol content, lager soon became the brew of choice among beer drinkers in Philadelphia and nationally. For its lower alcohol content, in particular, lager beer was sometimes held up by temperance movement reformers as an alternative to distilled liquors.¹⁷ With so many German lager brewers, Philadelphia soon became known as "the lager capital of America"¹⁸

¹⁰ The cold cellars were typically located in basements or cut into the sides of hills.

¹¹ Mark Benbow, "German Immigrants in the United States Brewing Industry," Immigrant Entrepreneurship. German Historical Institute. February 1, 2017, <https://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entries/german-immigrants-in-the-united-states-brewing-industry/>. Accessed August 8, 2023.

¹² Rich Wagner and Rich Dochter, "Brewerytown, USA," *Pennsylvania Heritage* (Summer 1991). Accessed 7/21/21 at <http://paheritage.wpengine.com/article/brewerytown-usa/>.

¹³ A Pennsylvania historical marker, installed in 2001, commemorates the former Wagner brewery on North American Street. See: <https://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-31C>

¹⁴ Benbow.

¹⁵ Benbow.

¹⁶ Edwin T. Freedley, *Philadelphia and Its Manufacturers* (Philadelphia: Edward Young, 1859): 195.

¹⁷ Benbow.

¹⁸ Rich Wagner, *Philadelphia Beer: A Heady History of Brewing in the Cradle of Liberty*, 123.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

History of Weisbrod & Hess and the Oriental Brewery

The Weisbrod & Hess Brewing Company was founded by German immigrants George Weisbrod (1851-1912) and Christian Hess (1848-1912) in Philadelphia in 1882. The pair's small lager brewing operation was initially located in the back of their saloon at 2107 Germantown Avenue in the city's Kensington neighborhood, reflecting how many German brewers got their start. With the growing popularity of German-style lager, which Weisbrod & Hess specialized in, the business prospered and soon needed more space. In 1883, Weisbrod & Hess acquired the property on the west side of Adams (now Hagert) Street between Frankford Avenue and Holman (now Martha) Street, still within Kensington. Here, Wiesbrod & Hess remodeled an existing two-story market house into a new brewery, transformed the adjacent three-story brick building into a saloon and office, and built a four-story refrigerating house to the south of the existing buildings. By 1885, the pair had also acquired property to the north, across Holman (now Martha) Street, where they built a two-story brick stable and a two-story wood-framed cooper shop for barrel making. The extent of the complex at this stage is illustrated in an 1886 fire insurance survey by Ernest Hexamer (**Figure 3**). Of these early buildings, only the stable remains standing today. The gradual expansion of the Weisbrod & Hess operation, through the acquisition of land and construction of new buildings every few years, was typical of large Philadelphia breweries during this period.

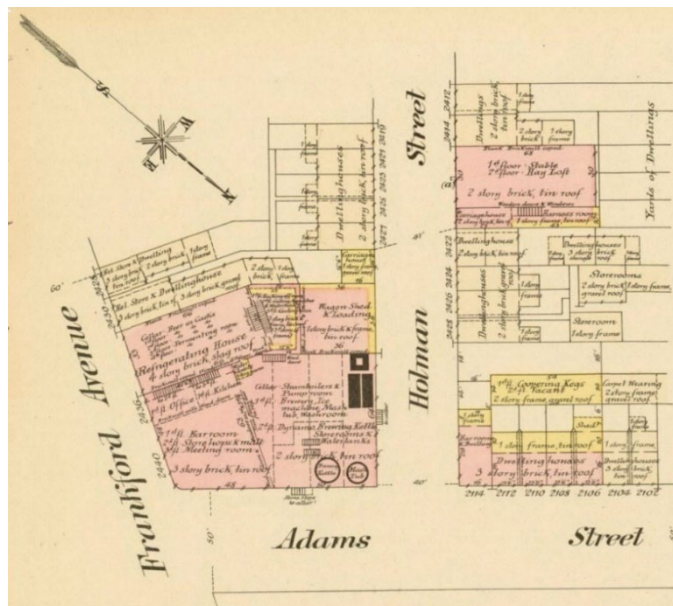


Figure 3a: Hexamer survey 1886, no. 1997 (plan view). Buildings #3 and #4 are those that existed on the site when it was acquired by Weisbrod & Hess in 1884. These buildings were replaced by the Stock House in 1901.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

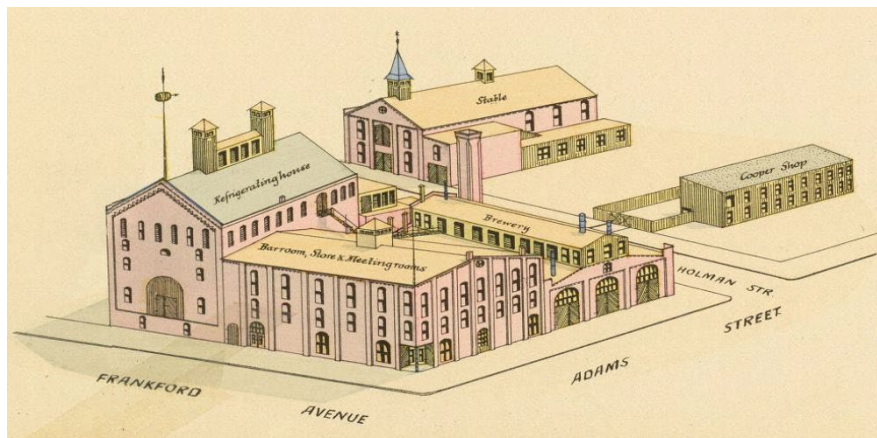


Figure 3b: Hexamer survey 1886, no. 1997 (axonometric view). Buildings #3 and #4 are those that existed on the site when it was acquired by Weisbrod & Hess in 1884. These buildings were replaced by the Stock House in 1901.

Weisbrod & Hess called their brewery the Oriental Brewery, which became well-known in Philadelphia for its Rheingold pale and Shakespeare dark lagers (**Figure 4**). Although initially brewed for sale in their own barroom, Weisbrod & Hess were soon selling Rheingold and Shakespeare to bars and saloons across Philadelphia. Statistics regarding production capacity and sales during the brewery's early years are not available, but all evidence suggests that Weisbrod & Hess were extremely successful. Over the late 1880s and 1890s, the pair acquired additional properties along both sides of Holman (now Martha Street) and expanded the brewery numerous times, doubling the size of the stable and building a two-story office in 1888, five-story malt and brew houses and a two-story storage building in 1891, a new stable and wagon shed in 1896, a new boiler house in 1899, and a new stock house in 1901, the latter replacing the two buildings that existed on the original Adams (now Hagert) Street site that Weisbrod & Hess occupied in 1883 (**Figure 5**). By 1889, Weisbrod & Hess' beer was apparently so highly regarded that at least one bottler in South Philadelphia was prosecuted for using Weisbrod & Hess bottles to pass off cheaper beer as the superior product of the Oriental Brewery.¹⁹

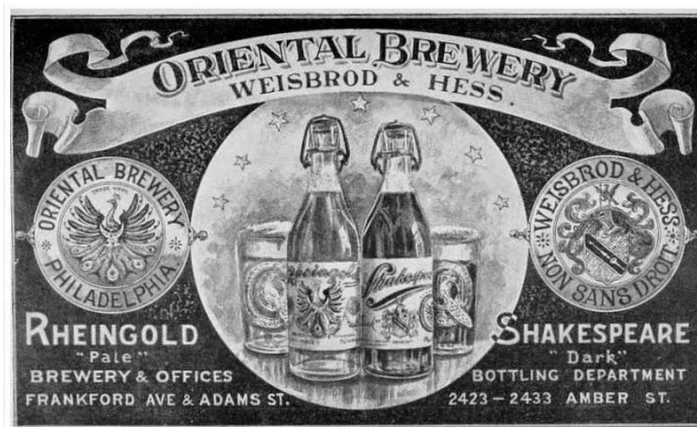


Figure 4: Early Weisbrod & Hess advertisement.

According to data compiled by brewery historians in *American Breweries II*, one of the standard

¹⁹ "He Used Registered Bottles," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 17, 1889.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

reference guides in the research of old breweries, Weisbrod & Hess were among the largest Philadelphia brewers by the turn of the century. In 1902, Weisbrod & Hess reportedly produced 87,560 barrels or the equivalent of nearly 29 million bottles of beer, figures that were surpassed by only six breweries out of a total of 42 operating in the city that year. The other six, which were the Christian Schmidt Brewing Company, the J & P Baltz Brewery, the Louis Bergdoll Brewing Company, the Bergner & Engel Brewing Company, and the John F. Betz & Son Brewery, averaged about 160,000 barrels in 1902.²⁰

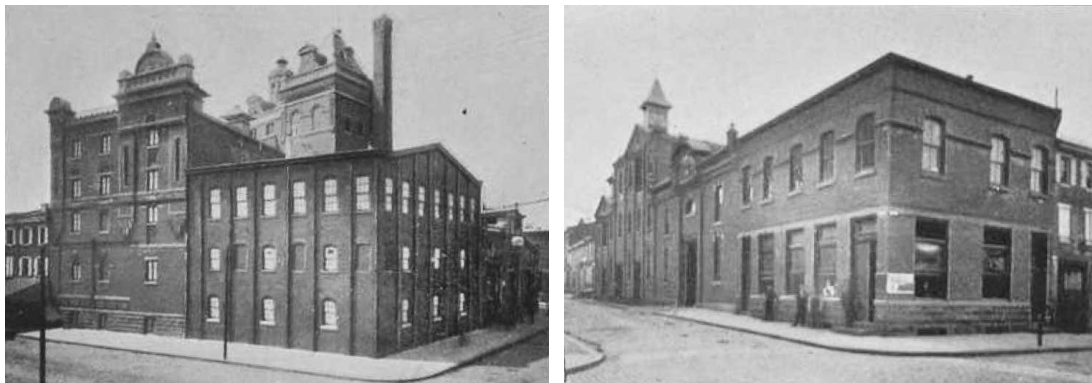


Figure 5: Circa 1896 views of the Weisbrod & Hess complex showing, at left, the northwest corner of Hagert Street and Frankford Avenue with the pre-1884 buildings and the rear elevations of the 1891 Malt House and Brew House; and, at right, the northwest corner of Hagert Street and Holman (now Martha) Street with the 1888 Office Building in the foreground and the stables trailing off in the background (from *Souvenir of Philadelphia*, published by the United States Brewers' Association in 1896, and found in the collection of the Hagley Museum and Library).

The growth of Weisbrod & Hess continued through the first decade of the twentieth century, and the company's brews even became popular in nearby cities like Trenton, New Jersey, where Weisbrod & Hess built a saloon and hotel in 1904. Part of the company's strategy during this period was also to exploit the increasing popularity of seaside destinations among Philadelphians. To that end, Weisbrod & Hess opened a beer "depot" with a refrigeration plant, bottling house, and sales office in Atlantic City before 1906, followed by a similar facility in Wildwood, New Jersey in 1914. These satellite depots handled the bottling, sale, and distribution of Weisbrod & Hess beer to saloons and shops in both towns, so that traveling Philadelphians would not be without their preferred beer. Physical expansion also continued at home in Philadelphia, where Weisbrod & Hess built their first Bottling House – a function that was previously outsourced – in 1912, at the southwest corner of Hagert and Amber Streets (**Figure 6**). With the addition of the Bottling House, the physical plant of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery was finally complete (**Figure 7**). Unfortunately, this milestone was tinged by tragedy, as both George Weisbrod and Christian Hess died in 1912, leaving Weisbrod's son, George, Jr., as president and general manager of the brewery. After George, Jr. himself died in 1919, John H. Ragatz, Jr., who had been serving as vice-president, became president of the brewery.²¹

²⁰ Dale P. Van Wieren and Donald Bull, *American Breweries II* (West Point, PA: Eastern Coast Breweriana Association, 1995), 38-40.

²¹ "George Weisbrod, Jr., Leading Brewer, Dies," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 24, 1919.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 6: Circa 1925 view showing the corner of Hagert and Amber Street, looking southwest to the 1912 Bottling House and, off to the left, the 1896 Stable, 1888 Office Building, and 1901 Stock House (private collection).

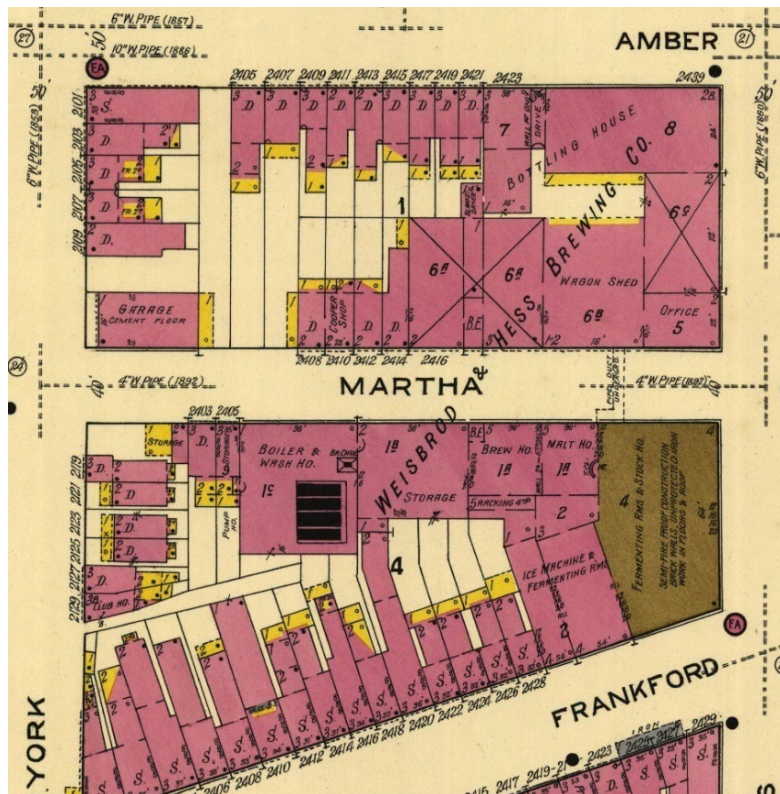


Figure 7: 1919 Sanborn fire insurance map, Philadelphia Volume 9, Sheet 835, showing the Weisbrod & Hess Brewing Company complex as it appeared following the completion of the Bottling House in 1912.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Weisbrod & Hess during Prohibition

The heyday of Philadelphia's brewing industry came to an abrupt end when the Volstead Act, also known as Prohibition, took effect in January 1920, making the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages illegal across the country. While many breweries simply closed, others, including Weisbrod & Hess, attempted to transition to other products, such as non-alcoholic beverages. As early as summer 1920, Weisbrod & Hess began advertising their new Peacock brand ginger ale, soon expanding the line with root beer, birch beer, sarsaparilla, and lemon, lime, and vanilla sodas (**Figure 8**). Little is known about the new beverages, but whether they were successful may have been irrelevant. To some extent, the soft beverages provided cover for what appeared to be Weisbrod & Hess's true strategy for weathering Prohibition, which was to continue to make and sell beer. In fact, between 1920 and 1933 when Prohibition was repealed, Weisbrod & Hess was a central participant in a vast ring of illegal beer production and distribution in Philadelphia that became a defining feature of the city's Prohibition legacy. This network relied on an army of corrupt policemen and politicians at almost every level of government to continue operating despite periodic raids and seizures by local police and federal prohibition agents, and legal action by the District Attorney and Department of Justice. When the full depth of the scandal was revealed in 1928, it made front-page headlines across the country, and to many served as evidence of the municipal corruption, moral decay and decadence of major urban centers like Philadelphia, which by one account was "among the wettest of many cities remaining ostentatiously wet after the passage of the Volstead Act."²²



Figure 8: Advertisement for Peacock Ginger Ale from the *Evening Public Ledger*, August 19, 1920.

Philadelphians routinely and brazenly flouted the liquor laws throughout Prohibition, giving the

²² Fred D. Baldwin, "Smedley D. Butler and Prohibition Enforcement in Philadelphia, 1924-1925, *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 84, no. 3 (Jul 1960), 352.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

city a reputation as a “bootlegger’s Elysium” where “there are far more wide-open saloons than ever flourished in pre-prohibition days.”²³ After returning from the city in late 1923, a New York reporter wrote that “If Philadelphia is not at this moment actually submerged by a liquor deluge, the engulfing torrent, from all appearances, must be pressing the Quaker City hard.”²⁴ At the time, the Philadelphia Police counted at least eight thousand establishments selling illegal liquor – both openly and in secret – a number some believe was only about half of the actual number.²⁵

Although Philadelphia was consistently defiant of Prohibition, during two periods, in particular – 1924-25 and 1928-29 – the city’s bootleggers and speakeasies faced widespread crackdowns by government officials and became the focus of national media attention. Weisbrod & Hess figured prominently in both campaigns. Even before 1924, in fact, Weisbrod & Hess had been the target of prohibition agents and federal prosecutors. In one case in 1922, Weisbrod & Hess management pleaded guilty to and were fined \$1000 for manufacturing beer with alcohol content over the 0.5% limit, known as “near beer,” but apparently continued to make and sell it.²⁶ And in November 1923, Weisbrod & Hess was one of twenty-five breweries in Pennsylvania seized by federal prohibition agents, with the breweries returned to their owners only after a months-long legal battle with the federal government.²⁷ It was during the 1923 episode that the “deplorable” condition of Prohibition enforcement in Philadelphia was first laid bare. The events led Mayor W. Freeland Kendrick, recently elected in part on promises of law and order, to create a cabinet position of Director of Public Safety whose primary responsibility would be liquor enforcement.²⁸

Seeking a strong hand to reign in Philadelphia’s bootleggers, Kendrick gave the public safety position to Brigadier General Smedley D. Butler (1881-1940) of the U.S. Marines Corps. Butler was a veteran of fourteen military campaigns and brought to the city a “reputation for total honesty, insistence on discipline, and the ability to capture the imagination and loyalty of his men.”²⁹ Kendrick promised Butler “absolute control over the department without interference from any source whatsoever.” Almost immediately, Butler went about his first “blitzkrieg on vice,” raiding and shutting down nearly a thousand speakeasies, dismissing police officers for corruption and neglect of duty, and arresting regular citizens for public drunkenness, all within his first month.³⁰ Butler repeated his 48-hour drives many times over the coming months, drawing both the ire and praise of Philadelphians depending on their views on Prohibition. Although Butler’s charges against bootleggers and speakeasies were often not upheld in court, the militancy of his efforts captured the attention of the public nationwide. Throughout 1924, newspapers in hundreds of cities published sensational reports of Butler’s exploits – both successes and failures – and framed him as David fighting an unstoppable Goliath. One New York reporter wrote that Butler “has the best wishes – and sympathy – of the entire nation” for taking on “a demoralized police force, banditry, promiscuous sale of poison liquor, the sale of dope, viciousness and lawlessness of all kinds,” not

²³ “How Wet Is Pennsylvania?” *Literary Digest*, LXXXIX (10 Nov. 1923), 38-44.

²⁴ “How Wet Is Pennsylvania?”

²⁵ Baldwin, 352.

²⁶ “Beer With ‘Kick’ Costs Brewing Company \$1000,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 7, 1922.

²⁷ “Brewery Raids End in Three Seizures,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 18, 1923;

²⁸ “Pinchot Also Asks Coolidge for Butler,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 10, 1923.

²⁹ Baldwin, 353.

³⁰ Baldwin, 354-355.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

to mention “unscrupulous political bosses, corrupt magistrates, lenient judges, debased juries, joker laws and an indifferent public.”³¹

Although Butler tenaciously pursued those making, selling, and drinking illegal liquor, the city’s many breweries, Weisbrod & Hess still prominent among them, did not escape the attention of the authorities during his tenure. Not to be outdone by Butler, federal Prohibition agents, who viewed breweries as their “own special province,” repeatedly targeted large brewing operations in Philadelphia and across Pennsylvania in 1924 and 1925.³² Toward the end of August 1924, Weisbrod & Hess was one of several breweries seized, yet again, by federal agents. Unlike the earlier incidents in 1922 and 1923, this time top Weisbrod & Hess management, including John H. Ragatz, Jr., president; Gustav G. Roehm, vice-president; William F. Fiedler, secretary; and Frank Weisbrod, a nephew of the founder whose position at the company is unknown – were arrested by U.S. Marshalls for their alleged role in the production and distribution of “high-powered” beer.³³ The men were among forty officials from ten Philadelphia breweries who faced arrest that month. After remaining in jail for nearly two weeks, the men were released on bail while their case made it through the courts. The U.S. Attorney in Philadelphia soon petitioned the judge handling the case for permission to confiscate and destroy the machinery and equipment at the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery and five other breweries.³⁴ Weisbrod & Hess was saved from this enormous loss, reported to be as high as \$100,000, when a police officer testified in early November that beer confiscated from a truck parked outside the brewery – the incident that initially triggered the arrests – was actually “near beer,” which had an alcohol level below 0.5% and therefore was legal.³⁵ Whether the officer had been paid off is not known, but the resolution of this case mirrored so many others in Philadelphia where charges were eventually dropped. There was little appetite among local courts to impose any but the most lenient sanctions on those violating the Volstead Act.³⁶ This culture of permissiveness ultimately thwarted Butler, who “failed miserably” at drying out Philadelphia and was fired by Mayor Kendrick after two years of service.³⁷ The city remained ostentatiously wet.

Until the 1924-25 episode, the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery functioned more or less independently as a bootlegging operation, although the company presumably relied on other lawbreakers to distribute their product. Perhaps scared off by the near loss of their plant, Weisbrod & Hess management appear to have abandoned beer production sometime in 1925 even as the Weisbrod & Hess company legally remained in business. The brewery did not stay idle for long. In June of 1926, the company conveyed the entire brewery property and transferred their liquor license to Harry P. Mosebach who, less than two months later, conveyed the property again to Harry

³¹ Max Lief, “Quaker City Burlesque of Law,” *Daily News* (New York, NY), January 4, 1924.

³² Baldwin, 358.

³³ “Brewery Officials Face Arrest While Police Raid Bars,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, August 30, 1924.

³⁴ “Right to Destroy 6 Breweries Asked,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 12, 1924.

³⁵ “3 Penna. Breweries Under Court Quiz,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 8, 1924.

³⁶ Arthur P. Dudden, “The City Embraces Normalcy: 1919-1929,” in *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History*, ed. Russell F. Weigley (New York: W.W. Norton, 1982), 577.

³⁷ Daniel Okrent, *Last Call: The Rise and Fall of Prohibition* (New York: Scribner, 2010), 203.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Sturgeon.³⁸ The precise nature of Mosebach's and Sturgeon's role in this change in ownership is unknown. Both men were involved in the illicit liquor trade, Mosebach as owner of a popular café and speakeasy in Atlantic City, and Sturgeon as an associate of Pasquale Criscuolo, owner of the Venetian Café at 12th and Filbert Streets in Philadelphia, the city's most infamous speakeasy and a personal target of Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot. The pair were relatively minor figures, however, and were likely acting as front men for a syndicate of more notable bootleggers who became interested in the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery sometime in early 1926 (In both cases the entire brewery was conveyed for just \$1). According to one report, the syndicate numbered among its members "a prominent and powerful ward leader, who is a City Hall official, two city magistrates and a notorious central city café owner."³⁹ While the men were never named in the press, the café owner was almost certainly Criscuolo. One of the most flagrant violators of the Volstead Act in Philadelphia, Criscuolo had also paid Sturgeon to be a "dummy tenant" for the Venetian Café when that establishment was targeted by police.⁴⁰ After six months of negotiations with Weisbrod & Hess, the syndicate had taken control of the plant with plans to restart brewing operations.⁴¹

By September 1926, the transfer of the Weisbrod & Hess property to the syndicate had caught the attention of Public Safety Director George W. Elliot, who had succeeded Smedley Butler the year before. That month, police raided the brewery but found only ten bottles of beer, suggesting either that the operation was not yet fully up and running or, more likely, that members of the syndicate had been tipped off. The beer was sent for testing to determine if it was near beer or full-strength beer, but the results are not known.⁴² While this incident was not reported on again, and the city does not appear on this occasion to have taken legal action against the brewery, there was enough evidence of illicit beer production at Weisbrod & Hess that, in December 1926, the U.S. Attorney in Philadelphia filed suit against the brewery in federal court, seeking to impose heavy financial penalties related to unpaid taxes on the beer they allegedly had sold. In total, the fines amounted to \$19,372.⁴³ The U.S. Attorney was successful in this suit, but the penalty was not enough to curtail the syndicate's operation at the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery, all but ensuring another run-in with the law.

Following the 1926 raid, the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery was able to avoid publicity for some time but recaptured the attention of law enforcement and the press in August 1928. That month, following an escalation in violence between rival bootleggers that led to gunfights and killings on city streets, the public was outraged and demanded action from elected officials. In response, Judge Edwin O. Lewis of the Court of Common Pleas convened an investigative grand jury to probe the illicit liquor trade and reveal its inner workings. Directed by District Attorney John Monaghan, the grand jury spent seven months issuing subpoenas, conducting interviews with bootleggers,

³⁸ Philadelphia Deed Book JMH: 2423:1-9, Weisbrod & Hess to Harry P. Mosebach, 19 June 1926, Philadelphia Department of Records; "Liquor Licenses," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 9, 1926; Philadelphia Deed Book JMH: 2358:524-531, Harry P. Mosebach to Harry Sturgeon, 5 August 1926, Philadelphia Department of Records;

³⁹ "Politician-Owned Brewery Raided, Following Boasts," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 2, 1926.

⁴⁰ "Venetian Café Gets Padlock For Year; Owner Rebuked," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 30, 1928.

⁴¹ "Politician-Owned Brewery Raided, Following Boasts," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 2, 1926.

⁴² "Politician-Owned Brewery Raided."

⁴³ "U.S. Sues Brewers for Taxes on Beer," *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 24, 1926.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

bankers, and the police, and examining bank records. What the investigators uncovered was a sprawling network of graft that “was amazing in its character and almost unbelievable in its significance.”⁴⁴ This systemic corruption made dozens if not hundreds of policemen rich and even benefitted elected officials, many of whom looked the other way as the illicit liquor trade flourished and the city descended into lawlessness and violence.⁴⁵ As revealed by the grand jury early on in its investigation, Weisbrod & Hess was a key player in this criminal underworld.

In one of the many sensational headlines coming out of the grand jury’s investigation, newspapers both local and national reported that District Attorney Monaghan had seized the records of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery in late September 1928.⁴⁶ Monaghan had taken this step only a few times since the grand jury had convened. Among those targeted in August and September were Marks, Weinberg & Company, the Quaker Industrial Alcohol Company, and the Glenwood Industrial Distilling Company. The former was a major financial clearinghouse for Philadelphia bootleggers, and the other two were allegedly the source of millions of gallons of industrial alcohol that had been diverted for beverage purposes. All three operations were believed to be under the control of Max “Boo Boo” Hoff (1892-1941), the city’s most powerful bootlegger, and were among the most significant players in Philadelphia’s illicit liquor trade.⁴⁷ In pursuing Weisbrod & Hess alongside this rarefied group, Monaghan and the grand jury clearly had reason to suspect the brewery’s deep involvement in the system of police graft they had uncovered. In fact, shortly before Monaghan seized the Weisbrod & Hess records, he ordered the arrests of a police captain, three detectives, and one patrolman, all from a police station just two blocks from the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery, for suspected graft. These arrests apparently led Monaghan to Weisbrod & Hess.⁴⁸

The precise findings of Monaghan’s probe into the Weisbrod & Hess account books were never publicly revealed, but the district attorney strongly implied that they provided crucial evidence to his investigation into police graft. Just as significant, the Weisbrod & Hess records appear to have led to major action by Monaghan against another illicit brewery known as the Foch Cereal Company. Located less than a mile to the southwest of Weisbrod & Hess, Foch had acquired the former Theodor Finkenauer Brewery at 5th Street and Columbia Avenue in 1926, just weeks after the Weisbrod & Hess syndicate had acquired that brewery. Although permitted only to manufacture cereal beverages, Foch went all-in on the production of high-powered beer and became part of a large regional distribution network. The proximity of the Foch and Weisbrod & Hess breweries to each other, the close timing of their sales, and the similar methods by which the properties were conveyed – in both cases, the breweries appear to have been sold to front men for one dollar, and then conveyed again just days or weeks later to different names for the same amount – suggest the two sites may have been part of the same operation. In early October 1928, Monaghan seized the Foch account books, which revealed payments to numerous police figures as well as to

⁴⁴ “Grand Jury Amazed by Liquor Grafting,” *Washington Post*, September 1, 1928.

⁴⁵ Mark H. Haller, “Philadelphia Bootlegging and The Report of the Special August Grand Jury,” *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 109, no. 2 (April 1985), 215-219.

⁴⁶ “Monaghan Seizes Weisbrod-Hess Brewery Records,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 21, 1928; “‘Big Break’ Due in Graft Quiz, Monaghan Says,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 24, 1928.

⁴⁷ Haller, 218-219.

⁴⁸ “4 More Police Arrested in Drive on Graft,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 19, 1928; “Seizes Records of Weisbrod Brewery,” *Press of Atlantic City* (NJ), September 21, 1928.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

someone named “Max – for connection,” damning evidence that the brewery had paid Max Hoff for introductions to potential business partners, as was common.⁴⁹ Monaghan’s office subsequently indicted the president of the Foch Cereal Company, William Fisher, for numerous violations of the Volstead Act, and, in late December 1928, Fisher became the first brewery head in Philadelphia to be convicted of this crime.⁵⁰ As various witnesses at Fisher’s trial had testified, however, former Hoff associates Herman Feuerstein and Sidney Stern were the real owners and masterminds behind the Foch operation. With this new information, Monaghan and the grand jury believed they were closing in on Hoff, who had near total control over the city’s illicit liquor trade and who Monaghan had called the “king” of Philadelphia bootleggers.⁵¹

While some evidence suggests a link between the Foch Cereal Company and Weisbrod & Hess – and, by extension, between Weisbrod & Hess and Max “Boo Boo” Hoff – it is not possible to prove these connections at this time. At the very least, even if not part of a broader conspiracy, Weisbrod & Hess clearly played a role in the widespread graft uncovered during the grand jury investigation. The efforts of the district attorney and grand jury did little to curtail the availability of alcohol in Philadelphia, and despite mountains of circumstantial evidence, they were never able to secure an indictment against Hoff. Nonetheless, the grand jury succeeded in revealing the inner workings of Philadelphia’s illicit liquor trade, and its findings continue to define the city’s Prohibition legacy today. By the time of its final report in March 1929, the grand jury exposed systemic police corruption, which resulted in the dismissal of dozens of officers, and in shining a light on the operations of Hoff and his partners, which led to the shutdown of numerous distilleries and breweries and made it more difficult for bootleggers to do business in the final years of prohibition.⁵² Among the breweries closed by Monaghan based on the grand jury’s investigation were those of the Foch Cereal Company and Weisbrod & Hess. Around the same time that the two breweries were under investigation in late 1928, both were conveyed back to their corporate owners, the Theodor Finkenauer Brewing Company and the Weisbrod & Hess Brewing Company, respectively, and neither was used again until after the end of Prohibition in 1933. The Finkenauer brewery was demolished before the end of the twentieth century.

Weisbrod & Hess after Prohibition

Following the repeal of Prohibition in December 1933, Weisbrod & Hess returned to the legal production and sale of beer, bringing their well-known Rheingold and Shakespeare brews back to the market. The relatively small number of Philadelphia breweries that survived Prohibition, a group that included Christian Schmidt & Sons, Henry F. Ortlieb, and George Esslinger & Son, expanded dramatically after 1933, and Weisbrod & Hess was no exception. Weisbrod & Hess invested \$200,000 in new equipment and increased production to 700 barrels per day or about 180,000 per year, about double their capacity before Prohibition.⁵³ While Schmidt, Ortlieb, and Esslinger were larger, producing between 200,000 and 600,000 barrels, Weisbrod & Hess remained among the top five breweries in the city in terms of capacity.⁵⁴

⁴⁹ “Beckman Paid \$1220, ‘Cops-Chief’ \$12,500, Brewery Books Show,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, October 4, 1928.

⁵⁰ “Politicians Grilled in Probe of 36th Ward Lottery Ring,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 20, 1928.

⁵¹ “Max Hoff’s Arrest Seen as Warrants Issue for Two Aides,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 28, 1928.

⁵² “‘Racket’ Inquest Ends With Hoff Untouched; Slayings Not Solved,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 29, 1929.

⁵³ Dale Van Wieren, *American Breweries III* (Van Wieren, 2016), 88-90.

⁵⁴ *American Breweries II*, 37-40.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

In addition to improving their facilities, Weisbrod & Hess devoted considerable resources to product development and marketing during the 1930s. In 1934, the company hired one of the best-known brew masters in Philadelphia, Herman Dambacher, to manage the operation and reinvigorate the brand with new products, such as “Certified Beer,” which the brewery claimed was “subjected to the most rigid tests ever given a beer. The raw materials for this beer will be tested and approved by one of the leading brewery laboratories and then the finished product is to be tested by a nationally known medical laboratory. Ageing vats for this beer will bear the laboratory analyses and the brewing date.”⁵⁵ Weisbrod & Hess began to produce Certified Beer, along with the old standbys Rheingold and Shakespeare, for an increasingly nationwide audience. By 1934, the company had opened distribution facilities in both Texas and California. To increase brand presence in these and other markets, Weisbrod & Hess hired a New York firm to lead an advertising campaign, which included radio spots for the first time.

Despite its efforts to adapt to the post-Prohibition world through significant investments in new equipment, product development, and marketing campaigns, Weisbrod & Hess found it difficult to compete with the much larger breweries of St. Louis and Milwaukee – names such as Anheuser-Busch, Pabst, and Schlitz, among others – leading to mounting financial losses by the end of the 1930s. Weisbrod & Hess filed for bankruptcy in 1938, and the brewery closed down and was put up for sale in 1940. Many of the city’s dwindling number of breweries shared the same fate, although two, Schmidt and Ortlieb, survived into the 1980s. Prior to selling off their various properties, which happened piecemeal over the course of 1941, what remained of the Weisbrod & Hess corporation demolished the Brew House, Malt House, and Stock House, perhaps in an effort to make the original parcel on Adams (now Hagert) Street between Frankford Avenue and Martha Street easier to sell.⁵⁶

Between 1940 and 2000, the buildings were used by a variety of companies, including an iron smelter, a hardware company, and an industrial warehousing business. During the early 2000s, the Office, Stable B, Wagon Shed, and the Bottling House were occupied by the Philadelphia Brewing Company, which continues the tradition of brewing beer on this part of the property and has preserved Kensington’s significant brewing legacy. For several decades, however, the Storage Building and the Boiler House have been vacant.

Adam C. Wagner, Brewery Architect and the Runbogenstil Style

All but one of the Weisbrod & Hess buildings – the Bottling House, built in 1912 – were designed by Philadelphia-based architect and engineer Adam C. Wagner. Born in 1860 near Frankfurt in what is today Germany, Wagner emigrated to the United States in 1880, settling in Philadelphia. Little is known about Wagner’s educational history or the early years of his career. By 1883, Wagner started to appear in Philadelphia directories both as an architect and engineer, with his office located in his home at 474 North 4th Street and later at 514 Walnut Street (**Figure 9**). It is unclear how he became connected to the brewing industry, but Wagner almost immediately started to win commissions to design large brewery buildings in Philadelphia, throughout the northeastern

⁵⁵ “‘Certified’ Name of New Weisbrod & Hess Beer,” *The American Brewer* (Dec 1935), pp. 54.

⁵⁶ Philadelphia Zoning Permit #184449, issued December 23, 1940.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

United States, and in Washington, D.C., becoming one of the best known and most prolific brewery architects in the country during the late nineteenth century. Over the next twenty years, Wagner would design as many as 50 breweries, helping to establish the distinctive *Rundbogenstil* style, a specific German variant of the Romanesque Revival, as the defining architectural expression of the German brewery in the United States. In the Northeast, Wagner's vast portfolio of projects and the authority he earned as an expert in brewery buildings are matched only by Otto C. Wolf (1856-1916), another Philadelphia-based and nationally known architect who was pivotal in the development of American brewery architecture during this period.

A. C. WAGNER,
ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT

DESIGNING AND ERECTION
OF
BREWERIES,
MALT HOUSES,
WAREHOUSES, ETC.

The Louis Bergdoll Brewing Co's New Boiler House, Phila. Erected 1887.

The Prospect Brewing Co's New Bottling Establishment, Phila. Erected 1887.

Plans, Specifications and Estimates prepared for entire Breweries, Malt Houses, Bottling Establishments, Grain Storage Houses and Warehouses, Engine and Boiler Rooms, etc. Remodeling of old establishments carefully attended to and construction superintended.

BEST OF REFERENCES GIVEN.

474 North Fourth Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Figure 9: A.C. Wagner advertisement from the Western Brewer, April 1887.

Weisbrod & Hess were among Wagner's earliest and most enduring clients in Philadelphia. After the brewery moved into the existing buildings on Adams (now Hagert) Street in 1883, Weisbrod & Hess hired Wagner to design a two-story Stable (1885, expanded in 1888) and a two-story Office (1888), both of which still stand on the north side of Martha Street. Over the following decade, Wagner designed several more buildings for the brewery, including a five-story combined Malt House and Brew House (1891), which fronted on the south side of Martha Street and featured rear Ice Machine and Fermenting Rooms that extended through to Frankford Avenue (all demolished in 1940); a two-story Storage Building (1891), which remains standing on the south side of Martha Street, just south of where the Brew House was; a new two-story Stable and Wagon Shed (1896), which remains standing, forming an L-shaped building around the Office at the northwest corner of Adams (now Hagerty) and Holman (now Martha) Streets; and a one-story Boiler House (1899), which also remains standing just south of the Storage Building. Wagner's work for Weisbrod & Hess culminated with a new four-story Stock House on Hagert Street between Martha Street and Frankford Avenue, replacing the pre-existing buildings the brewery had occupied since 1883. Like the Brew House and Malt House, the Stock House was demolished in 1940. The only existing Weisbrod & Hess building not designed by Wagner was the Bottling House (1912) at the southwest

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

corner of Hagert and Amber Streets, which was the work of architect C.T. Biswanger, who is discussed at the end of this section.

The surviving Weisbrod & Hess Buildings – the Stables, Office, Storage Building, Wagon Shed, and Boiler House – are highly characteristic of the work of Adam C. Wagner, displaying key characteristics of the *Rundbogenstil* style that defined brewery architecture in Philadelphia and nationally during the late nineteenth century. The *Rundbogenstil* was a peculiarly German outgrowth of the Romanesque Revival that emerged in the German states during the early- to mid-nineteenth century, serving as an intentional, nationalist response to the English and French Gothic Revivals of the same period. Defined by its use of the round arch, heavy brick and stone walls with strongly defined pilasters, and brick corbelling to further emphasize mass, the eclectic *Rundbogenstil* was also influenced by Renaissance-era architectural principles, often showing a concern for symmetry and balance that is absent from the original Romanesque buildings of the Middle Ages. This eye catching and distinctly German form of architecture soon became popular in the United States, especially among German immigrant brewers who sought to make their breweries architectural symbols of the German culture that had given rise to their brews. As architectural historian Betsey Hunter Bradley writes:

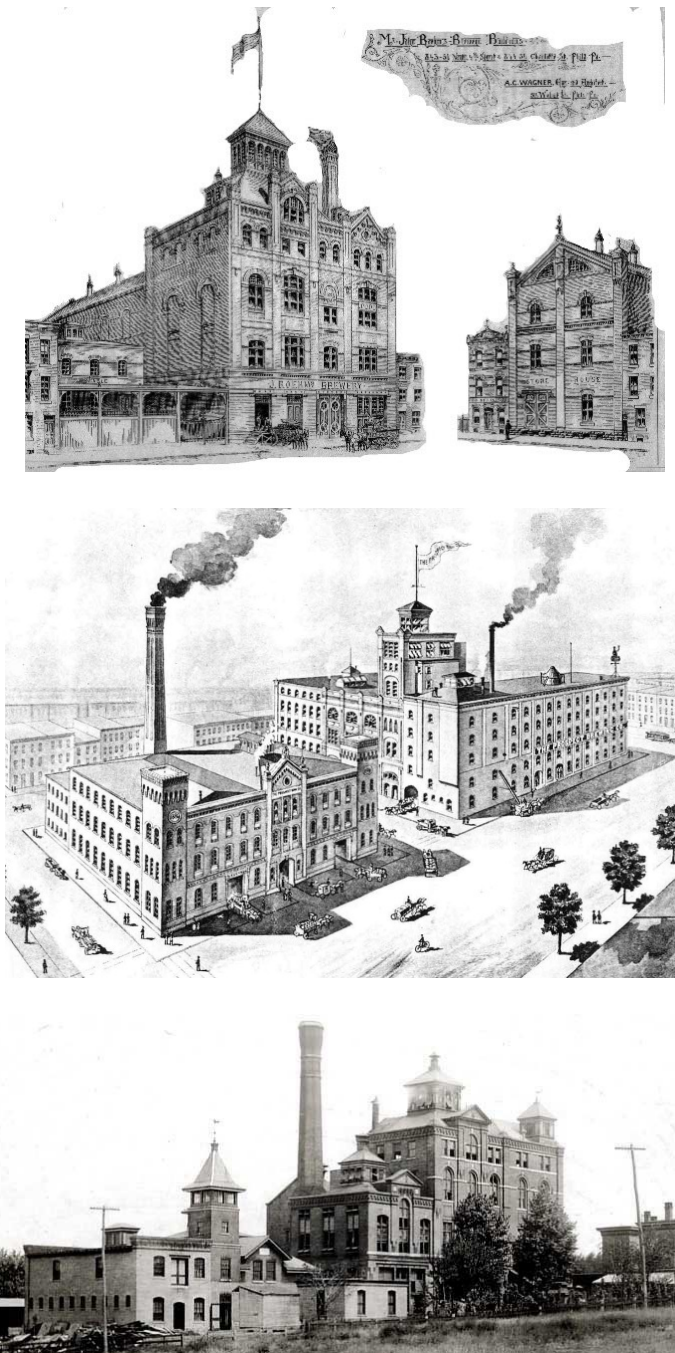
German brewmasters who dominated the American industry took great pride in their buildings and often incorporated their insignia into the elaborate ornamentation of breweries. This detailing reflected their desire to present an architectural presence that corresponded with the magnitude of their businesses, as well as their good taste and wealth. In fact, the breweries' exteriors emphasized these considerations rather than technically advances aspects of the facilities. The brewmasters' intentions were perhaps quite obvious, but other industrialists no doubt also equated the architectural presence of their works with prosperity and good taste.⁵⁷

At a time when most industrial buildings were strikingly utilitarian in form, as in the ubiquitous brick textile mills of Philadelphia, the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery, along with dozens of other Wagner-designed breweries in Philadelphia, across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C., served as an architectural counterpoints, enriching the urban landscape and calling attention to the German ethnic origins of their owners and the beer they brewed. In Philadelphia, Wagner designed at least fifteen breweries between 1883 and 1901, some of the best examples being John Roehm's Brewery at 845-51 North 4th Street, the Prospect Brewing Company at 11th and Oxford Streets, and Andrew Erdrich & Sons' Bridesburg Brewery at Bridge and Walker Streets (**Figures 10-12**). Although none of the three survive today – they were all eventually demolished during the twentieth century – these breweries showcase Wagner's skill in translating German character and pride into architecture.

⁵⁷ Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 204.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figures 10-12: From top to bottom: John Roehm's Brewery at 845-51 North 4th Street (image from *Western Brewer*, April 1891), the Prospect Brewing Company at 11th and Oxford Streets (from an ad appearing in *Western Brewer* during the 1890s), and Andrew Erdrich & Sons' Bridesburg Brewery at Bridge and Walker Streets (from a private collection), all designed by Adam C. Wagner during the 1880s and 1890s.

Two Wagner-designed breweries, the Stegmaier Brewing Company in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and the American Brewing Company in Providence, Rhode Island have been

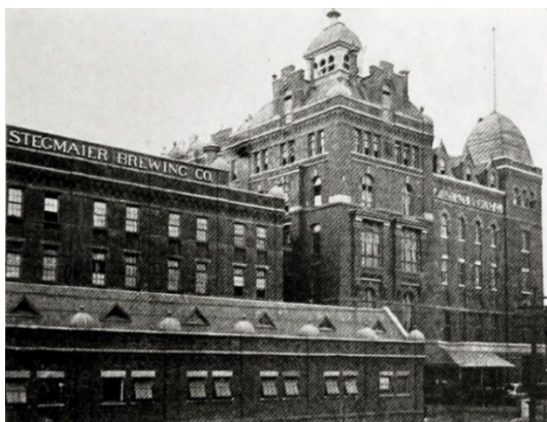
Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Figures 13 and 14).⁵⁸



Figures 13 and 14: The Stegmaier Brewing Company in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (from *Wilkes-Barre, The Diamond City*, 1911) and the American Brewing Company in Providence, Rhode Island (from *Western Brewer*, April 15, 1892), both designed by Adam C. Miller in the 1890s and both individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

By the end of the 1890s, Wagner himself became involved in the brewing business, becoming president of the New England Brewery in Hartford, Connecticut in 1897. Despite moving to Hartford, Wagner maintained an office in Philadelphia for several more years as he continued to design breweries across northeastern United States. Although the New England Brewery closed down during Prohibition, following the repeal of the 18th Amendment in 1933, Wagner was founder of the new Yale Brewing Company in New London, Connecticut. Wagner died in Hartford in 1935.⁵⁹

Although a portion of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery complex was demolished in 1940, it nonetheless is the most complete example of Wagner's work in Philadelphia today. Of the fifteen breweries Wagner is known to have designed in the city, twelve no longer survive, having been demolished during the twentieth century, a fate shared by the vast majority of nineteenth-century Philadelphia breweries. Aside from the Weisbrod & Hess complex, Wagner's only remaining brewery work in Philadelphia is a three-story stock house he designed in 1897 for the Frederick A. Poth & Sons Brewing Company at 31st and Master Streets in Brewerytown, this building being only one in a large complex otherwise designed by Otto C. Wolf; and the five-story brewhouse at the George Esslinger & Sons Brewery at 10th and Callowhill Streets, which again is just one building in a large complex that today is primarily defined by later buildings in the Art Deco and Moderne styles by other architects. Because the remaining portion of the Weisbrod & Hess complex features multiple buildings representing several of the numerous functions found in a typical nineteenth-century brewery, it is by far the best record of the work of Adam C. Wagner in Philadelphia, the city that historically contained the largest number of Wagner-designed breweries

⁵⁸ Thomas J. Sinavage, "Stegmaier Brewery," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1979), NRHP Ref. No. 79002292; Edward Connors, "American Brewing Company Plant," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2016), NRHP Ref. No. 16000395.

⁵⁹ "Adam C. Wagner," obituary, *The American Brewer* (Feb 1935), pp. 73.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

of any locality in the United States. The still sprawling nature of the complex, too – with buildings added gradually over time on newly acquired parcels, even spanning across multiple blocks – provides a strong impression of the architectural and spatial evolution that defined most Philadelphia’s non-surviving breweries. Even in its altered state, the Weisbrod & Hess complex is a rare reminder of Kensington’s once vast brewing industry.

Charles T. Biswanger, Architect

The Bottling House of the Weisbrod & Hess Brewery was designed by the architect Charles T. Biswanger and built in 1912. Biswanger, the son of a German immigrant, was born in Philadelphia in 1879. After graduating from Philadelphia's Northeast Manual Training School in 1897, Biswanger enrolled in the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art and then the University of Pennsylvania, from which he received his Certificate of Proficiency in Architecture in 1904. During school and after graduation, Biswanger worked for the well-known Catholic church architect Henry D. Dagit. In 1906, Biswanger left for Europe, entering the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris in 1907 and remaining there until 1909. On his return to Philadelphia that year, Biswanger reentered Dagit’s office. There, Biswanger is known to have designed the interiors of the St. Francis de Sales Church at 4623 Springfield Avenue in West Philadelphia (1909; extant). Little else is known about his accomplishments in the Dagit office. Although Biswanger remained with Dagit until 1914, he appears to have completed a small number of independent projects during this period, one of which was the Weisbrod & Hess Bottling House, for the local German community of which he was a part. During the 1920s, Biswanger worked as an engineer for the Philadelphia Department of City Transit where he designed a number of stations on the Frankford Elevated line. In 1924, Biswanger joined the Ballinger Company, one of the best-known firms in the city, and again became involved in the design of church interiors. Biswanger remained with Ballinger until the early 1930s, when he appears to have retired. Despite his impressive educational achievement as an École des Beaux-Arts graduate, Biswanger always remained a minor figure in the Philadelphia architectural community.⁶⁰

While Biswanger did not, like Adam C. Wagner or Otto C. Wolf, specialize in the design of breweries, with the Weisbrod & Hess Bottling House he successfully adapted key aspects of the *Rundbogenstil* style for a new century. The Bottling House, built in 1912, conveys the ethnic German influence, vigorous massing, and materiality of the *Rundbogenstil* without the exuberant, additive detailing that characterizes the work of Wagner and Wolf. In fact, in this later example of brewery architecture, Biswanger demonstrates the influence of his Beaux Arts training through the building’s more balanced and simplified composition. Biswanger is not known to have completed any other brewery buildings during his career.

⁶⁰ Sandra L. Tatman and Roger W. Moss, *Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects, 1700-1930* (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1985), 74.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA

County and State

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Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Acreege of Property ~0.67 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 39.982416 Longitude: -75.127550

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the property is shown as a red line on the accompanying map entitled “**Figure 1: Site Plan with the National Register Boundary.**” The sidewalks are not included in the boundary because they did not play a direct role in the operation of the brewery.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed National Register Boundary corresponds to the historic parcels on which the remaining buildings sit. As explained above, the Brew House, Malt House, Stock House, and Fermenting Rooms, which were located in a group at the southeast corner of the historic property, were demolished by Weisbrod & Hess in 1940, shortly before the company sold the brewery in 1941. Because there are no traces of the historic buildings on this part of the property, which since 1941 has been a separate parcel under separate ownership, the boundary excludes this area.

Form Prepared By

name/title: Kevin McMahon, Senior Associate
organization: Powers & Company, Inc.
street & number: 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717
city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107
e-mail: kevin@powersco.net
telephone: (215) 636-0192
date: May 29, 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
 Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
 County and State

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

City or Vicinity: Philadelphia

County: Philadelphia State: PA

Photographer: Kevin McMahon

Date Photographed: July 21, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

<i>Photograph #</i>	<i>Description of Photograph</i>
1.	Stable A, south elevation of the original 1885 section, looking north.
2.	Stable A, south elevation, showing both the 1885 section (at left) and the 1888 addition (at right).
3.	Second floor interior space of Stable A (1888 addition), looking northwest.
4.	Office, south elevation, looking north.
5.	Office, interior, first floor, looking northeast.
6.	Storage Building, north elevation, looking south.
7.	Storage Building, interior, looking east.
8.	Stable B, east elevation, looking west.
9.	Stable B, interior, second floor, looking northeast.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

10.	Wagon Shed, south elevation, looking northeast.
11.	Boiler House, north elevation, looking southeast. The Storage Building is shown at far left.
12.	Boiler House, interior, looking north.
13.	Boiler House, interior, looking south.
14.	Bottling House, east and north elevations, looking southwest.
15.	Bottling House, showing the company name in the parapet on the north elevation.
16.	Bottling House, interior, 1 st floor, looking northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
 Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
 County and State

Index of Figures – Section 7

<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description of Figure</i>
1.	Site plan with National Register Boundary.
2.	Current aerial view.

Index of Figures – Section 8

<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description of Figure</i>
3.	Hexamer survey 1886, no. 1997, plan and axonometric views.
4.	Early Weisbrod & Hess advertisement.
5.	Circa 1896 views of the Weisbrod & Hess complex.
6.	Circa 1925 view showing the corner of Hagert and Amber Street.
7.	1919 Sanborn fire insurance map, Philadelphia Volume 9, Sheet 835.
8.	Advertisement for Peacock Ginger Ale from the <i>Evening Public Ledger</i> , August 19, 1920.
9.	A.C. Wagner advertisement from the <i>Western Brewer</i> , April 1887.
10.	John Roehm's Brewery at 845-51 North 4 th Street,
11.	Prospect Brewing Company at 11 th and Oxford Streets.
12.	Andrew Erdrich & Sons' Bridesburg Brewery at Bridge and Walker Streets,
13.	Stegmaier Brewing Company in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania,
14.	American Brewing Company in Providence, Rhode Island.
15.	USGS Map.
16.	Photo Key – Site and 1st floor.
17.	Photo Key – 2nd floor.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



USGS Map - Philadelphia Quadrangle - PA, NJ (2019)

Latitude, Longitude
39.982416, -75.1527550

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
2117 E. York Street and 2423-39 Amber Street
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA

Figure 15: USGS Map.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

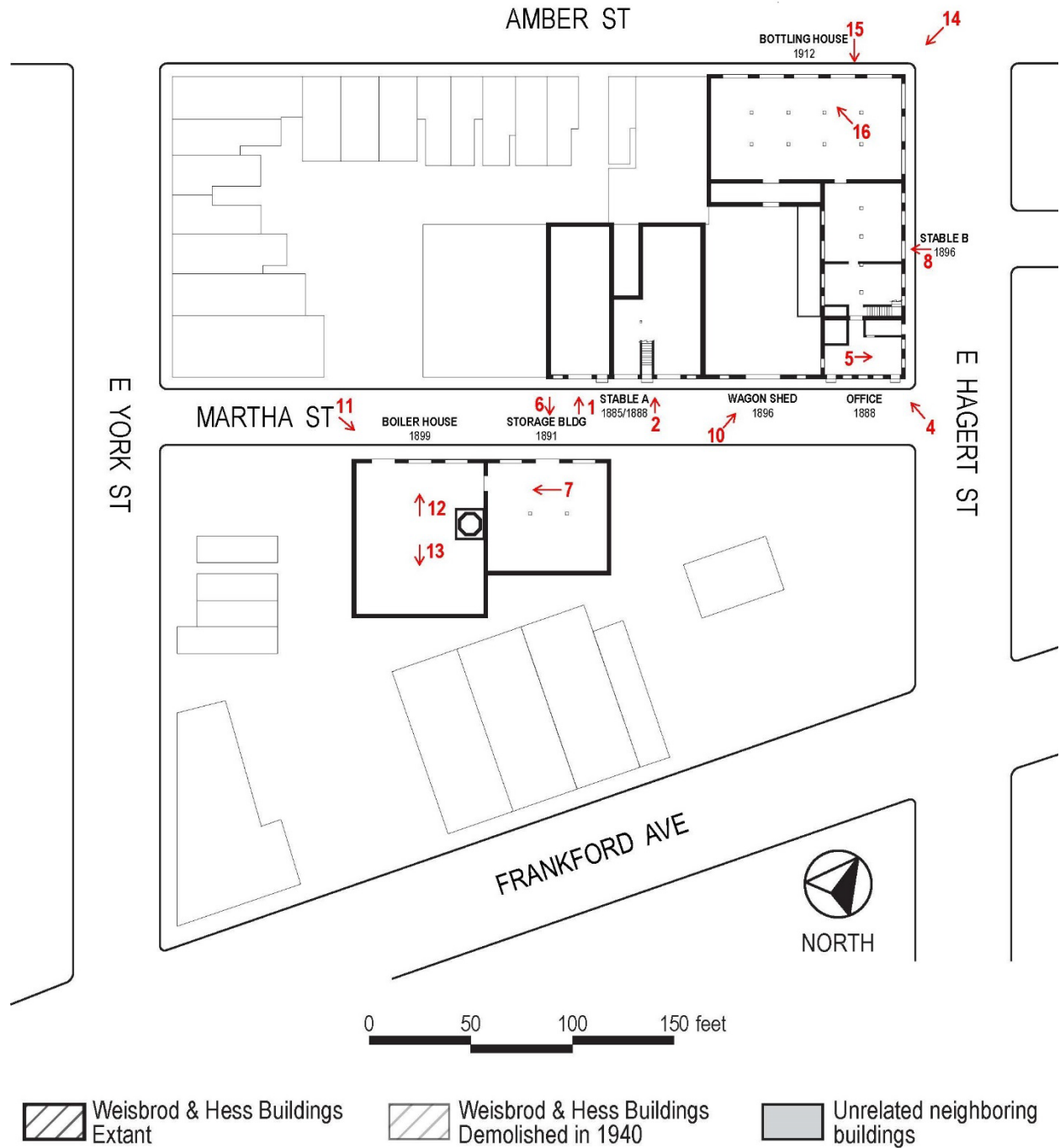


Figure 16: Photo Key: Site and 1st floor.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
 Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
 County and State

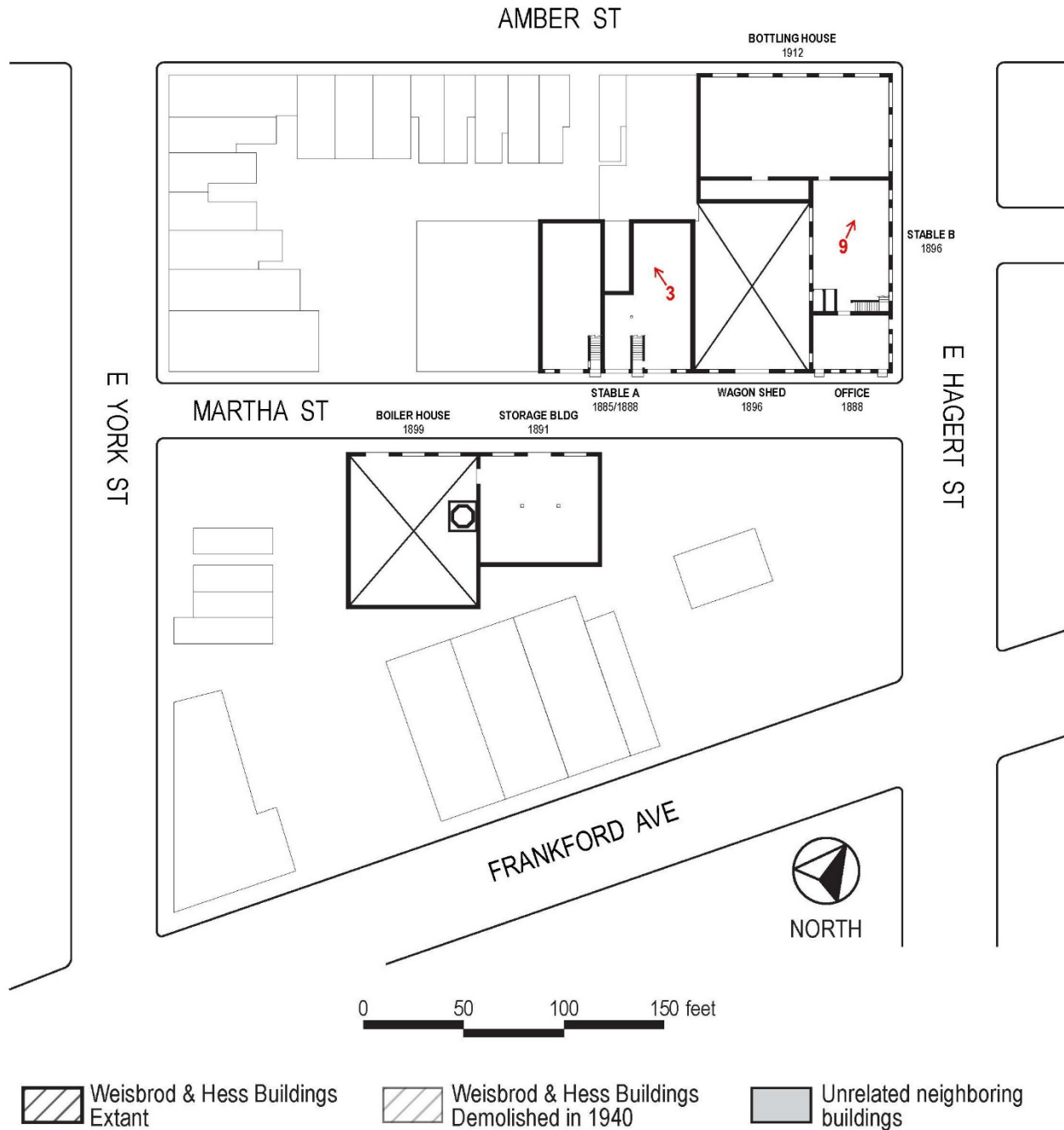


Figure 17: Photo Key: 2nd floor.

Weisbrod & Hess Brewery
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State