ADDRESS: 8001 VERREE RD

Name of Resource: Knowlton Mansion

Proposed Action: Amendment

Property Owner: 8001 Verree CRCP LLC Applicant: Michael McIlhenney, Esq.

Staff Contact: Allyson Mehley, allyson.mehley@phila.gov

OVERVIEW: The owner of the designated property at 8001 Verree Road requests that the Historical Commission define the boundary of the designation, which was not defined when the property was designated without a nomination in 1973. The proposed boundary would exclude a small section of the current parcel from the designated area. The owner plans to reconfigure the lot lines of the current parcel and four abutting parcels to create new parcels for the development of single-family homes.

Knowlton Mansion, a 12-acre property, was the former residence of William H. Rhawn and includes a house, carriage house, and caretaker cottage. Designed by Frank Furness in 1879 and completed in 1881, the historic buildings continue to reflect the architect's original design despite additions and alterations. The property at 8001 Verree Road was added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1973 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The Historical Commission's meeting minutes of 7 May 1973 record the designation of the property by address and do not indicate that a boundary for the designated area was established. The designation predates the Historical Commission's use of nominations and the establishment of criteria for designation. The National Register nomination for the property was prepared in 1973 and was likely the basis and catalyst for the local designation. Although the National Register nomination recognized legal boundary of the 8001 Verree Road parcel, the nomination's statement of significance focused solely on the architect Furness and the buildings' architecture. It did not call out the landscape or any landscape features.

The proposed boundary for the designation largely follows the lot lines for the property that were in place in 1973 but would remove a small section of the historic lot at the northwest corner. The section proposed for removal is open land more than 100 feet from the nearest historic building. It includes a small segment of a driveway that would be protected by an easement.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends approval of the proposed boundary as this change would not alter or negatively impact the interpretation of the property's historical significance.



Image 1: Aerial view of 8001 Verree Rd showing the location of the Main House, Carriage House, and Caretaker Cottage. The current legal boundary is shown in blue. The approximate area proposed for removal is indicated by the yellow rectangle. The proposed amended boundary is set back from all historic buildings.



Image 2: The 1895 G.W. Bromley atlas shows the property boundary of the property around the time of the construction. The current legal boundary matches the 1895 boundary.

MINUTES OF THE 176th STATED MEETING OF THE PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

7 May 1973

Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Present: Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman

Mrs. James C. Crumliah, Jr.

Edward Pinkowski

Walter A. Browne, Administrative Analyst, Department of Public Proper Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian

Patricia Siemiontkowski, Executive Assistant to the Chairman

David Rosenblum, Esq., Assistant City Solicitor

Mrs. Sydney Patton, Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority

Unless otherwise noted, all action taken herein is the result of motions correctly made, seconded and carried.

THE MINUTES of the Stated Meeting, 5 April 1973, were approved and directed to be filed. Mr. Pinkowski asked that a copy of the Commission's proposed Fiscal 1973 Operating Budget be attached to the May Minutes and circulated.

REPORTS

The Report of the Architectural Committee for 24 April 1973 was approved and directed to be filled with the official copy of the Minutes.

Recommendations by the Staff for the Certification of Buildings, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The following buildings were approved for certification:

264 W. Walnut Lene

260 W. Walnut Lane

7921 Germantown Avenue

120 Federal Street

314 Fulton Street

438 Fulton Street (also 418-20; 432-40; 411-23; 429-31 Fulton Street)

825 Walnut Street

1119 Bainbridge Street

1114 Kater Street

8001 Veree Road

2100-2116 Pine Street

A suggestion was made to certify the entire 200 block of W. Walnut Lane. The staff was asked to photograph the buildings in this block and to inquire of the owners whether or not they would like their houses certified.

REPORTS (Contid)

Commission Activities, Report on, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeom, Historian.
Dr. Tinkoom's report for the month of April was approved and directed to be filed with the official copy of the Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

- Historic American Engineering Record, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkeem, Historian. Dr. Tinkeem reported on her receipt of a letter from HAER reporting that federal funds must be matched by local money before a study of Philadelphia's engineering accomplishments could be undertaken. The HAER expressed a hope that this money might be available next year.
- Cannon Ball farm house, Dr. F. Otto Hams, Chairman. Dr. Hams reported that no word had as yet been received from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the moving of Cannon Ball farm. If no action has been taken within two weeks, letters will be sent to Commissioner Guarino and to Commissioner Crawford requesting the immediate removal of the house to city owned land, part of the Pt. Mifflin complex.
- Old City Historic District, 33-37 South Fourth Street, Mrs. Sydney Patton. Mrs. Patton presented the Redevelopment Authority's request to demolish 33-37 South Fourth Street to the Commission. The Authority will agree to save the iron fronts of these three buildings and store them for later use. The Commission agreed to these demolitions and will send a letter to the Authority confirming this action.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.I.A. Preservation Committee proposal to the Department of Licenses and Inspections, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Historical Commission has been asked by the A.I.A. Preservation Committee to draft a letter to the Department of Licenses and Inspections suggesting that that department require a photograph to accompany any request for a demolition permit. Such a photograph would serve as a record when a building is demolished.
- Proposal from the Historical Commission to the A.I.A., Philadelphia Chapter, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The Historical Commission will suggest to the Philadelphia Chapter of the A.I.A. that all architectural firms in the City be asked to submit to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania a list of those buildings currently being constructed in Philadelphia with the name of the architect responsible for the design.
- Mask and Wig Club Request, Dr. F. Otto Haas, Chairman. The Commission voted to approve the club's request to build an addition to house the kitchen facilities presently in their historically certified property at 310 South Quince Street.

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd)

National Trust request for letter to Philadelphia TV Stations, Dr. Margaret B. Tinkcom, Historian. The request of the National Trust for Historia Preservation urging the Philadelphia Historical Commission to ask Philadelphia TV stations to broadcast a public service announcement as part of the observance of the first National Historic Preservation Week, was approved. Telegrams will be sent to KYW, WPVI, and WCAU.

700-14 Spruce Street, Mr. Henry J. Magaziner, A.I.A., Architectural Advisor to the Commission. Mr. Magaziner brought the Board up to date on recent happenings concerning these Spruce Street properties. At a meeting of the Society Hill Civic Association, called for S.P. M. on Wednesday, May 9, 1973, Mr. Magaziner, representing the protestants, and a representative of the Pennsylvania Hospital, will appear to discuss the matter at issue and to answer any questions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Siemicntkowski Executive Assistant to the Chairman Furm 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY:

PHILADELPHIA

FOR NPS USE ONLY

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 1. NAME COMMON: "KNO WL TO N" AND/OR HISTORICE WILLIAM H. RHAWN HOUSE AND STABLE 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: 8001 VERREE ROAD CITY OR TOWN: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: FOX CHASE, PHILADELPHIA FOURTH STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA 042 101 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY ACCESSIBLE OWNERSHIP STATUS (Check One) TO THE PUBLIC District Public | Public Acquisition: Yes: X \Building Decupied 📉 Restricted ☐ Site Private In Process Structure Unoccupied Both Unrestricted Being Considered Object T Preservation work No No in progress PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural ☐ Government Pork Comments □ Transportation Commercial Industrial X Private Residence Other (Specify) ☐ Educational Military Religious Entertainment Museum Scientific 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY JOHN P. GREEN & JOHN P. GREEN JR. TRUSTEES STREET AND NUMBER: 8001 VERREE ROAD CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE FOX CHASE, PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 042 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS, CITY HALL STREET AND NUMBER: BROAD 7 MARKET STREETS CITY OR TOWN: CODE PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA 042 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS ENTRY NUMBER PENNSYLVANIA INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES AND LANDMARKS FOR NPS USE DATE OF SURVEY: JULY 1973 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Federal X State Local WILLIAM PENN MUSEUM HISTORIC SITES SURVEY STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1026 ONLY CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE HARRISBURG PENNSYLVANIA DATE

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

THE WILLIAM RHAWN HOUSE, DESIGNED BY FRANK FURNESS IN 1879, STANDS ON A
TWELVE-ACRE HILLTOP SITE WHICH INCLUDES THE HOUSE, CARRIAGE HOUSE AND A CARETAKERS COTTAGE.

FROM THE EXTERIOR THE HOUSE APPEARS TO BE A FUSION OF TWO CONFLICTING MASSES, A THREE-STORY BLOCK TO THE SOUTH AND A HALF-PYRAMIDAL ROOF WHICH SLOPES TO EXTEND OVER A CENTRAL HALL, NORTH ROOMS, AND PORCH. THESE MASSES DEFINE THE SPACE WITHIN; THE VERTICAL STACK OF FAMILY LIVING, EATING, AND SLEEPING ROOMS ON THE SOUTHEAST SIDE, THE EXPANSE OF PORCH ON THE NORTH-WEST SIDE, AND THE ENTRY AND HALL BETWEEN THEM. THE MAIN WALL FABRIC IS LOCAL FIELDSTONE WITH A SLATE ROOF AND SLATE SHINGLING.

THE GEOMETRY OF THE PLAN IS A SQUARE CROSSED BY CRUCIFORM AXES. IN THE CENTER OF THE HALL THE CIRCULATION AXIS, PUNCTUATED BY WINDOWS, INTERSECTS THE AXIS FROM THE PARLOR FIREPLACE TO DINING ROOM BAY. THE CENTRAL HALL SERVES ALL MAJOR SPACES, AS IN OTHER FURNESS BUILDINGS.

THE RICH AND COMPLEX INTERIOR DETAILING INCLUDES ABSTRACT GEOMETRIC WOOD FORMS FOR MANTELS, BALUSTRADE, AND NEWEL. A BRILLIANT STAINED GLASS WINDOW CONTAINS THE NAME AND DATE OF THE HOUSE. HEARTHS AND VESTIBULE FLOORS ARE CONSTRUCTED OF MINTON TILE(OFTEN USED BY FURNESS BUT SELDOM SO WELL PRESERVED). CHANDELIERS ARE BRASS IN AN ABSTRACT FLORAL PATTERN. THE INTERLOCKING AND OVERLAPPING FORMS OF VESTIBULE WAINSCOTING, DOORS, AND PORCH SUPPORTS SUGGESTS THAT FURNESS WAS INFLUENCED BY THE JAPANESE HOUSE IN THE 1876 CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION IN PHILADELPHIA.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE, ALSO OF LOCAL FIELDSTONE, CONSISTS OF A HALF BASEMENT, A HANDSOMELY DETAILED CARRIAGE AND HORSE FLOOR, AND A VAST HAY LOFT ABOVE, COMPLETE WITH GRAIN CHUTES.

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE HOUSE AND CARRIAGE HOUSE IS ESSENTIALLY COMPLETE. MINOR CHANGES INCLUDE ADDITION OF A ONE-ROOM 21-STORY BLOCK AT THE REAR OF THE HOUSE, ENCLOSURE OF A SECTION OF THE PORCH, CREATION OF A BATH-ROOM IN PLACE OF TWO SECOND-FLOOR FIREPLACES, REMOVAL OF THE NORTH CHIMNEY, AND REPLACEMENT OF THE TILE SURROUNDING ONE OF THE FIREPLACES. THE ONLY CHANGES TO MAJOR SPACES ARE NEW WALLPAPER AND A NEW COAT OF VARNISH FORTY YEARS AGO.

PERIOD (Check One or More se	Appropriate)		
Pre-Calumbian;	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	(X) 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	ole and Known) 1879-18		i .
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2. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL ERENCES					
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AMERICAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDING NEWS, VII, FEB. 28, 1880, P.88.					
KING, Moses, KING'S VIEWS OF PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK: Moses KING, 1902					
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 12 ACRES					
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES					
STATE: CODE COUNTY	CODE				
STATE: CODE COUNTY:	CODE				
STATE: CODE COUNTY:	CODE				
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1. FORM PREPARED BY					
NAME AND TITLE:					
GEORGE E. THOMAS, VICE-PRESIDENT					
Puris Curana A					
STREET AND NUMBER: JUNE 12,	19/3				
3920 PINE STREET	1				
CITY OR TOWN: STATE	CODE				
PHILADELPHIA	042				
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION					
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.				
in the National Register and certify that it has been					
evaluated according to the c-iteria and procedures set					
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended	Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation				
level of significance of this nomination is: Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preserve					
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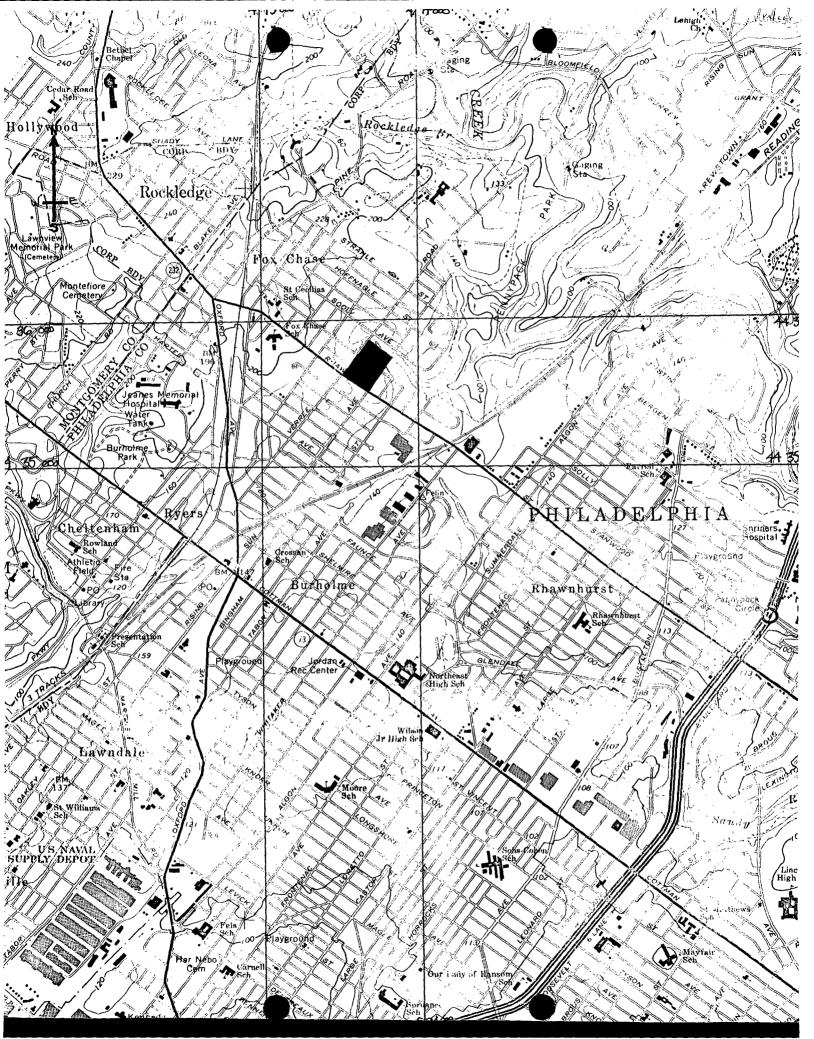
Pa. Historical & Museum Commis-

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12.

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Keeper of The National Register





TWO PENN CENTER
SUITE 800
1500 JFK BOULEVARD
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

PH: 267,236,7500 FX: 267.236,7501 E: MMCILHINNEY@OTLLP.COM

DIR: 267.236.7506

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

W: OTLLP_COM

September 24, 2024

VIA: EMAIL (Jon.Farnham@phila.gov)

Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director Philadelphia Historical Commission 1515 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Request to Amend Historically Designated Boundary 8001 Verree Road Avenue (Knowlton Mansion)

Dear Dr. Farnham:

My firm is counsel to 8001 Verree CRCP LLC, which owns the historic Knowlton Mansion at 8001 Verree Road (the "Historic Parcel"), as well as the abutting parcels at 8101 Verree Road, 8121 Verree Road, 8111 Verree Road, and 1000 Solly Avenue (the "Abutting Parcels"). A copy of my client's deed is attached hereto at **Exhibit "1**". My client is seeking approval from the Philadelphia Historic Commission to amend the historically designated boundary of the Historic Parcel to remove certain land from the historic designation.

I am attaching at **Exhibit "2"** sheet 1 of 2 of a site plan dated 10/24/2023 and approved by the Surveyor and Regulator of the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets 4th Survey District on January 11, 2024 (the "Existing Site Plan") and prepared by Ambric Technology Corporation ("Ambric") depicting the existing lot lines of the Historic Parcel and Abutting Parcels.

My client is seeking approval from the Commission to amend the historically designated boundary to match the proposed redrawn lot line for the Historic Parcel and the Abutting Parcels pursuant to a subdivision plan to create nine (9) new parcels from four (4) existing parcels (*i.e.*, the Historic Parcel and Abutting Parcels sans 1000 Solly Avenue). Attached at **Exhibit "3"** is a sheet 2 of 2 of the site plan dated 10/24/2023 and approved by the Surveyor and Regulator of the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets 4th Survey District on January 11, 2024 (the "Proposed Subdivision Plan") depicting the new lot lines of the Historic Parcel and the proposed nine (9) new parcels identified as Parcel A through Parcel I.

To show the impact on, and changes to, the Historic Parcel, Ambric prepared a plan overlaying the Proposed Subdivision Plan on the Existing Site Plan and detailing the requesting changes to the historic boundary. A copy of the Historic Designation Plan dated 4/4/2024 is attached at **Exhibit "4".** Here, my client is seeking Commission approval to slightly alter the



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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

W: OTLLP.COM

historically designated boundary of the Historic Parcel by removing proposed Parcel A and half of proposed Parcel B from the historic boundary designation of the Historic Parcel. As detailed on the Historic Designation Plan, 16,719 sq. ft. of land consisting of proposed Parcel A and half of proposed Parcel B would be removed from the historic boundary designation.

My client's request is a reasonable adjustment to the historically designated boundary of the Historic Parcel that will allow for responsible development on the Abutting Parcels. The requested amendment will have negligible impact on the Historic Parcel.

We respectfully request that the Historical Commission approve the request to amend the historic boundary designation of the Historic Parcel as detailed in the Proposed Subdivision Plan.

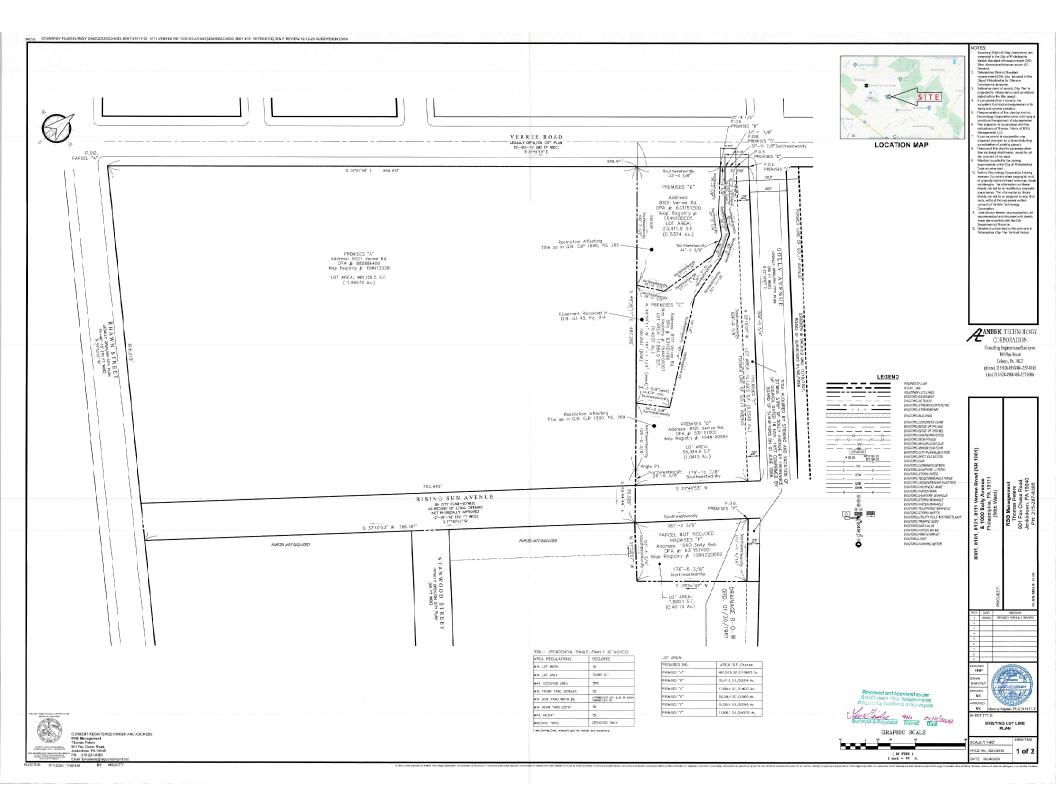
Very truly yours,

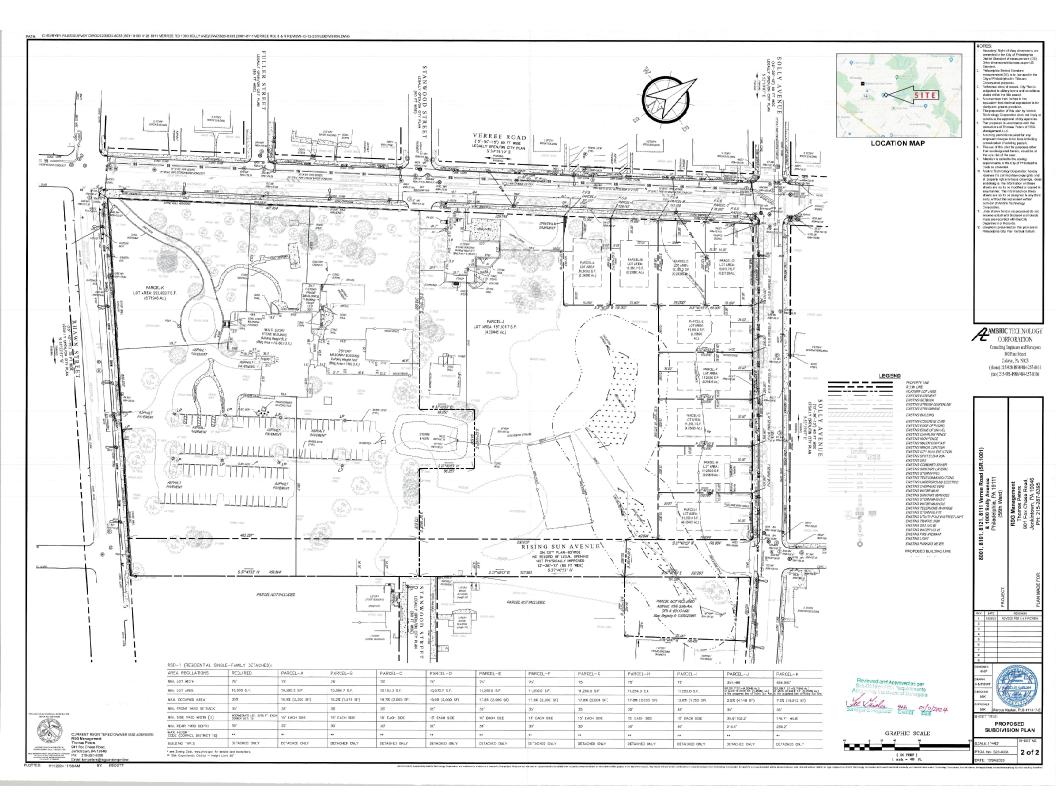
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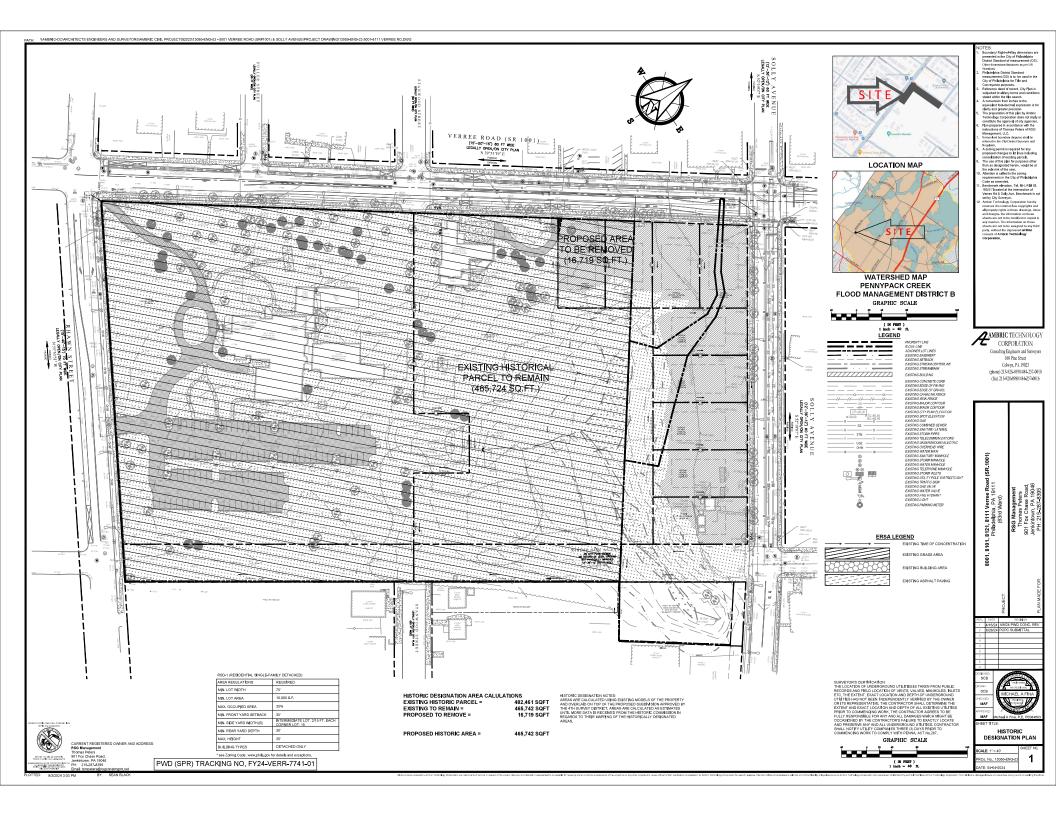
Michael P. McIlhinney, Esquire

Enclosures

cc: Client (via email)
Ambric (via email)









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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

W: OTLLP.COM

October 1, 2024

VIA: EMAIL (Jon.Farnham@phila.gov)

Dr. Jon Farnham, Executive Director Philadelphia Historical Commission 1515 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Supplemental Materials for Request to Amend Historically Designated

Boundary

8001 Verree Road Avenue (Knowlton Mansion)

Dear Dr. Farnham:

My firm is counsel to 8001 Verree CRCP LLC, which owns the historic Knowlton Mansion at 8001 Verree Road. I write in follow-up to my original correspondence dated September 24, 2024 to provide supplemental materials for review as part of my client's request to amend the historically designated boundary of the Property. To that end, I am attaching a document identified as **Exhibit "5"** showing aerial photos of the Property and maps from the Atlas.Phila.Gov website, and **Exhibit "6"** consisting of current photographs depicting the Property in context with adjacent properties.

We respectfully request that the Historical Commission consider these additional materials as part of the review of my client's request to amend the historic boundary designation of 8001 Verree Road.

Very truly yours,

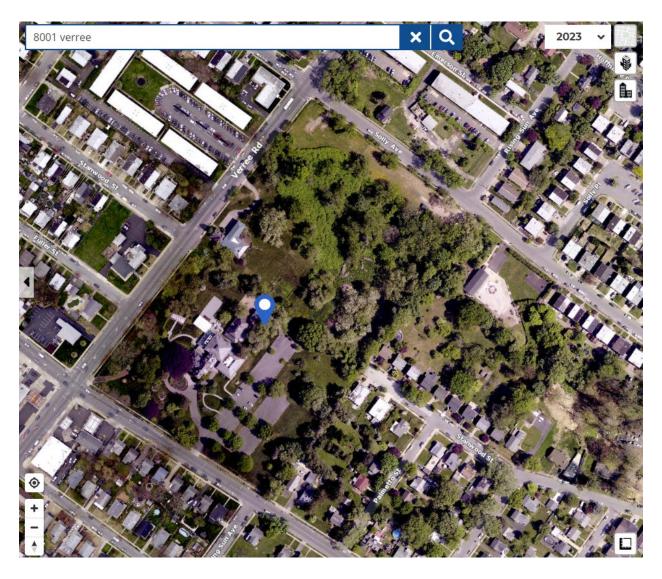
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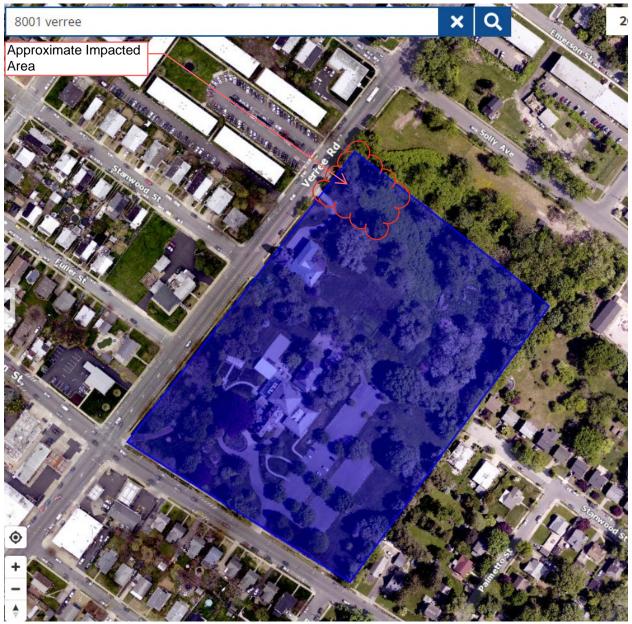
Enclosures

cc: Client (via email) Ambric (via email)

EXHIBIT 5



Aerial View of 8001 Verree Road and Adjacent Properties.



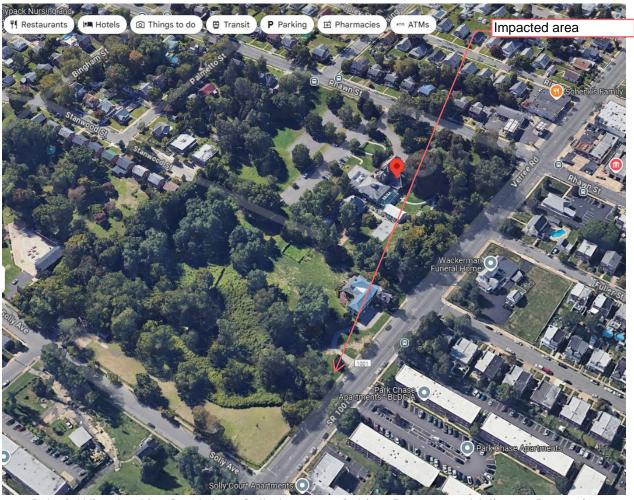
Aerial View of 8001 Verree Road and Adjacent Properties.



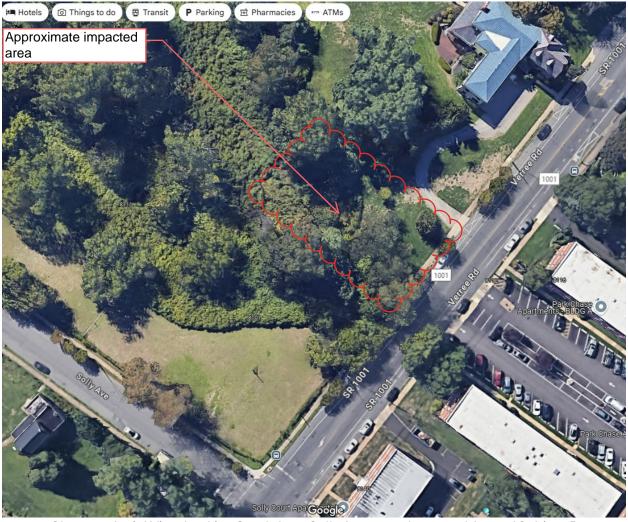
Map View of 8001 Verree Road and Adjacent Properties.



3D Aerial View Looking North from Rhawn Street at Subject Property and Adjacent Properties.

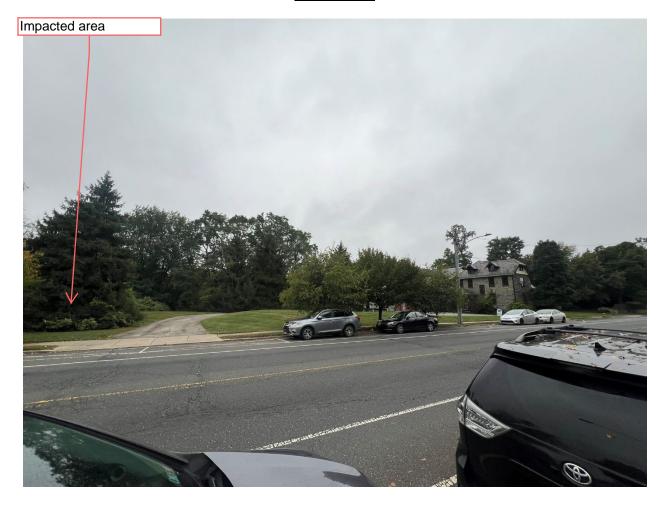


3D Aerial View Looking South from Solly Avenue at Subject Property and Adjacent Properties.



Close-up Aerial View Looking South from Solly Avenue at Impacted Area of Subject Property.

EXHIBIT 6



View of northernmost portion of 8001 Verree Road (East side of Verree Road).



View of section of northernmost portion of 8001 Verree Road (East side of Verree Road) where Amendment to Historic Boundary is sought.

EXHIBIT 6



View Looking South from Solly Avenue with Subject Property on East side (Left side of photo) of Verree Rd.

EXHIBIT 6



View Looking North with Subject Property on East side (Right side of photo) of Verree Rd. and Park Chase Apartments on West side of Verree Rd.



View Looking South from Solly Avenue at Verree Rd. with Subject Property on East side of Verree Rd.



View of 8121 Verree Road from Solly Avenue.



View of 8121 Verree Road from Solly Avenue.



View looking West of 8121 Verree Road from Solly Avenue at Rising Sun Avenue



View of Properties to the North of 8121 Verree Road on North/opposite side of Solly Avenue.



View of Properties to the North of 8121 Verree Road on North/Opposite side of Solly Avenue.