

Public Comment Regarding the Proposed
Northwest Philadelphia Thematic Historic
District

Updated 1.3.2025

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Ted Maust
theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I would like to express my personal support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places as a Thematic District.

As someone living in West Mt. Airy, I am excited about the efforts that research and honor these buildings that help create the character of our neighborhood, and to preserve this character for the future of our community.

This local volunteer work is an enthusiastic effort to address development pressure in the community. The designations of the Cresheim Valley Apartments in 2022 and the Wood Norton Residences in 2023 emphasizes the significance of railroad expansion to shape the growth of Northwest Philadelphia, whose influence and good planning continues to be appreciated today.

The designs of these thirty buildings use a range of historical styles and types, from early Tudor Revival through Neo-Classical and pre-Modern architectural styles. Both the low-rise apartment buildings and the mid-rise towers reflect the optimism and access of commuter transit and pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood, qualities that still characterize our neighborhood in the 21st century. These apartment buildings continue to provide a housing option for working individuals and families who contribute so much to our community.

In a decade when Northwest Philadelphia is increasingly and suddenly threatened with the loss of historic buildings due to development pressure, efforts to document the places that characterize the Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhoods are of utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Deterwin

From: [Suzanne Ponsen](#)
To: [Theodore Maust](#)
Cc: [Steve Kendall](#); [Sherman Aronson](#); [Oscar Beisert Historic Preservationist](#); [aweiss SoLo weiss](#); [Marjorie Russell](#); [Phil Kane](#); [Robert Lane](#); [Roberta Moore](#); [Mike Ramos](#); [suzanne.ponsen](#); [Lora Lewis](#); [Julie Stapleton Carroll](#); [Adrienne Carpenter](#)
Subject: Northwest Philadelphia Apartment Thematic Historic District
Date: Monday, November 4, 2024 2:35:21 PM

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Ted Maust

Theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historic Commission Members,

West Central Germantown Neighbors would like to take this opportunity to voice our support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Registry of Historic Places as a Thematic District.

7 of the buildings, the Tulwayne, English Manor, Tulpehocken, Lennox, Wayne-Walnut, Wayne Manor, and Copley Manor sit within our boundaries.

In addition to their stately appearance, their locations represent the significance of the early railroad development here and the continued importance of SEPTA's regional rail.

We urge you to vote for their inclusion into the Philadelphia Registry of Historic Places so that it can receive protection under Philadelphia's ordinances and laws.

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Ponsen

West Central Germantown Neighbors President

215-720-0809

suzanne.ponsengmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Ted Maust

theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I would like to express my personal support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places as a Thematic District.

As someone living in West Mt. Airy, I am excited about the efforts that research and honor these buildings that help create the character of our neighborhood, and to preserve this character for the future of our community.

This local volunteer work is an enthusiastic effort to address development pressure in the community. The designations of the Cresheim Valley Apartments in 2022 and the Wood Norton Residences in 2023 emphasizes the significance of railroad expansion to shape the growth of Northwest Philadelphia, whose influence and good planning continues to be appreciated today.

The designs of these thirty buildings use a range of historical styles and types, from early Tudor Revival through Neo-Classical and pre-Modern architectural styles. Both the low-rise apartment buildings and the mid-rise towers reflect the optimism and access of commuter transit and pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood, qualities that still characterize our neighborhood in the 21st century. These apartment buildings continue to provide a housing option for working individuals and families who contribute so much to our community.

In a decade when Northwest Philadelphia is increasingly and suddenly threatened with the loss of historic buildings due to development pressure, efforts to document the places that characterize the Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhoods are of utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Carol Graeber

Carol Graeber

7215 Cresheim Rd Phila, PA 19119

cegraeber@yahoo.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Theodore Maust
theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

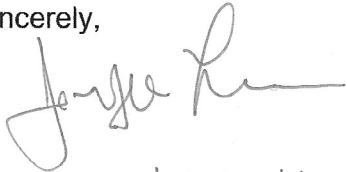
Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am a resident of West Mt. Airy and support the recent nomination of this Thematic Historic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as submitted by West Mt. Airy Neighbors (WMAN).

The thirty apartment buildings in the proposed district have been an integral part of this community and the home of many families in our beautiful Mt. Airy/Germantown area for decades. These places should not be disposable or have their historic presence erased through renovations that can ruin the historic architecture envisioned years ago by the builders and architects.

Please help our community save these historic structures through the preservation efforts of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. We would be immensely grateful for these Northwest Philadelphia Apartments to become an officially designated Thematic Historic District under the protection of our city's ordinances and laws.

Sincerely,



Joyce Liebetman
6906 Heyward St.
Phila, PA 19119
REJOICE34@gmail.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Theodore Maust
theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District


Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am a resident of West Mt. Airy and support the recent nomination of this Thematic Historic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as submitted by West Mt. Airy Neighbors (WMAN).

The thirty apartment buildings in the proposed district have been an integral part of this community and the home of many families in our beautiful Mt. Airy/Germantown area for decades. These places should not be disposable or have their historic presence erased through renovations that can ruin the historic architecture envisioned years ago by the builders and architects.

Please help our community save these historic structures through the preservation efforts of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. We would be immensely grateful for these Northwest Philadelphia Apartments to become an officially designated Thematic Historic District under the protection of our city's ordinances and laws.

Sincerely,



ROBERT SIMON

7215 CRESHEIM RD.

PHILA., PA 19119

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Ted Maust
theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I would like to express my personal support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places as a Thematic District.


As someone living in West Mt. Airy, I am excited about the efforts that research and honor these buildings that help create the character of our neighborhood, and to preserve this character for the future of our community.

This local volunteer work is an enthusiastic effort to address development pressure in the community. The designations of the Cresheim Valley Apartments in 2022 and the Wood Norton Residences in 2023 emphasizes the significance of railroad expansion to shape the growth of Northwest Philadelphia, whose influence and good planning continues to be appreciated today.

The designs of these thirty buildings use a range of historical styles and types, from early Tudor Revival through Neo-Classical and pre-Modern architectural styles. Both the low-rise apartment buildings and the mid-rise towers reflect the optimism and access of commuter transit and pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood, qualities that still characterize our neighborhood in the 21st century. These apartment buildings continue to provide a housing option for working individuals and families who contribute so much to our community.

In a decade when Northwest Philadelphia is increasingly and suddenly threatened with the loss of historic buildings due to development pressure, efforts to document the places that characterize the Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhoods are of utmost importance.

Sincerely,


Sherman Aronson
6906 Heyward St
Phila PA 19119
sca2012@outlook.com

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Ted Maust

theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I would like to express my personal support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places as a Thematic District.

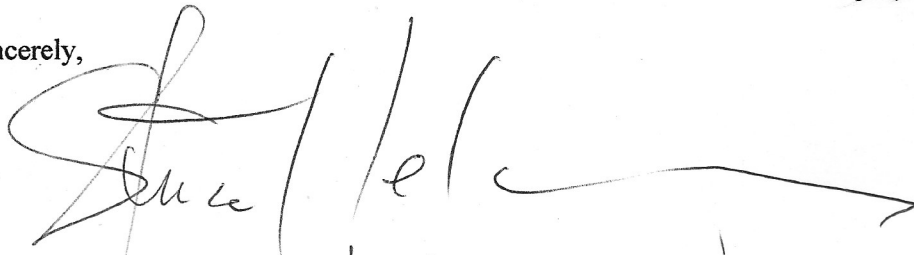
As someone living in West Mt. Airy, I am excited about the efforts that research and honor these buildings that help create the character of our neighborhood, and to preserve this character for the future of our community.

This local volunteer work is an enthusiastic effort to address development pressure in the community. The designations of the Cresheim Valley Apartments in 2022 and the Wood Norton Residences in 2023 emphasizes the significance of railroad expansion to shape the growth of Northwest Philadelphia, whose influence and good planning continues to be appreciated today.

The designs of these thirty buildings use a range of historical styles and types, from early Tudor Revival through Neo-Classical and pre-Modern architectural styles. Both the low-rise apartment buildings and the mid-rise towers reflect the optimism and access of commuter transit and pedestrian traffic in the neighborhood, qualities that still characterize our neighborhood in the 21st century. These apartment buildings continue to provide a housing option for working individuals and families who contribute so much to our community.

In a decade when Northwest Philadelphia is increasingly and suddenly threatened with the loss of historic buildings due to development pressure, efforts to document the places that characterize the Germantown and Mt. Airy neighborhoods are of utmost importance.

Sincerely,



Stuart Lehman

former resident of Alden Park Apt 604

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Theodore Maust
theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am a resident of West Mt. Airy and support the recent nomination of this Thematic Historic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as submitted by West Mt. Airy Neighbors (WMAN).

The thirty apartment buildings in the proposed district have been an integral part of this community and the home of many families in our beautiful Mt. Airy/Germantown area for decades. These places should not be disposable or have their historic presence erased through renovations that can ruin the historic architecture envisioned years ago by the builders and architects.

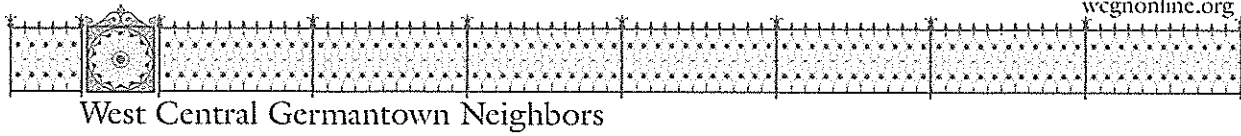
Please help our community save these historic structures through the preservation efforts of the Philadelphia Historical Commission. We would be immensely grateful for these Northwest Philadelphia Apartments to become an officially designated Thematic Historic District under the protection of our city's ordinances and laws.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Leh

former resident of Alden Park, apt 604

Susan Lehrman



Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attn: Ted Maust

Theodore.maust@phila.gov

Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historic Commission Members,

West Central Germantown Neighbors would like to take this opportunity to voice our support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Registry of Historic Places as a Thematic District.

7 of the buildings, the Tulwayne, English Manor, Tulpehocken, Lennox, Wayne-Walnut, Wayne Manor, and Copley Manor sit within our boundaries. In addition to their stately appearance, their locations represent the significance of the early railroad development here and the continued importance of SEPTA's regional rail.

We urge to vote for their inclusion and protection of Philadelphia's ordinances and laws.

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Ponsen

West Central Germantown Neighbors President

215-720-0809

Suzanne.ponsengmail.com

From: [Adrienne Carpenter](#)
To: [Theodore Maust](#)
Cc: [Adrienne Carpenter](#)
Subject: Letter of support: Nov. 20, 2024 PHC designation meeting : Northwest Apartments Historic District
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 8:59:14 PM

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Philadelphia Historical Commission

Attn: Ted Maust

1515 Arch Street, 13th floor

Philadelphia, Pa 19102

November 14, 2024

Dear PHC Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the designation and nomination of the Northwest Apartments Thematic Historic District at the public meeting at 9:30am. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at the Philadelphia Historical Commission meeting.

These illustrious apartment buildings represent a significant part of our history and an ongoing legacy for future generations. Philadelphia and many of its surrounding neighborhoods feature many historic properties; At best only three percent of the potentially historic properties in our communities are protected and listed on the Philadelphia Historic registry. Many of these rich historic properties are doomed to the wrecking ball and developers short-trend building fads.

In the Northwest Philadelphia we recognize the value and richness, which these elegant and grand apartments mean in the life of our community. It is for that reason that I support the designation and nomination of the Northwest Apartments Thematic Historic District.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Carpenter

651 Carpenter Lane

Philadelphia, Pa. 19119

Philadelphia Historical Commission

Attn: Ted Maust,

1515 Arch St., 13th floor

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19102

November 14th., 2024

For the Attention of the PHC Commission – ref: Northwest Apartments

I support the designation and nomination of the Northwest Apartments Thematic Historic District to be considered this coming Wednesday, November 20th 2024 at the Philadelphia Historical Commission meeting.

The apartments are representative of the intended environment and community, designed and positioned to encourage families to create homes and build relationships in this area. As such, the apartments can be considered as ‘legacy buildings’ that still support the historical, environmental and community aspects of the area, to this day and beyond.

There are clearly more buildings requiring external protections to prevent disfiguration here and to preserve the beauty of the area. The apartments continue to support the community relationships and include owners who actively support our local projects, including the EcoLab (Park) at Carpenter Lane SEPTA Station.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angus M", with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Dr. Angus I. McLeod

me@angusmcleod.com

From: [Carol Graeber](#)
To: [Theodore Maust](#)
Subject: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic District
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 7:34:14 AM

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Theodore Maust

Re; Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

I am writing in support of the nomination of this Thematic Historic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, as submitted by West Mt Airy Neighbors (WMAN). As a long time resident of West Mt Airy I value the historic apartments of our beautiful neighborhood, and I urge the Commission to protect these thirty buildings. These structures are intrinsic to our community, and their historic nature should not be destroyed through thoughtless renovations.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Graeber
7215 Cresheim Rd
Philadelphia, PA 19119

From: [Monica Gonzalez](#)
To: [preservation](#)
Subject: Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 12:15:01 AM

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attn: Ted Maust
Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District

Dear Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Monica Gonzalez, I am a resident of West Mt Airy and a member of West Mt Airy Neighbors, and I would like to express my personal support for the nomination of these apartment buildings to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places as a Thematic District.

I live behind three of the apartment buildings in the nomination: Pelham Court #1 and #2, and Emlen Arms. The Pelham Court apartments and Emlen Arms are quite different from each other architecturally, and that exemplifies the variety of apartment styles that were getting built in the early 20th century.

Despite their aesthetic differences, these three apartments highlight the changes in the neighborhood brought about by the extended railway line. Apartments as tall as Emlen Arms at 9 stories had a place here by the mid-1920s, a scale and a density supported by the nearby Carpenter Lane train station.

It is important to preserve the transit-oriented development highlighted in this nomination and acknowledge their continued role in providing well-connected housing to this day.

Sincerely,
Monica Gonzalez

SoLo/Germantown Civic Association (*RCO)

Southwest Central Lower Germantown
CLEAN GREEN SAFE

Wayne Ave Business Corridor/Happy Hollow Playground -Wayne Junction Community
Wayne Ave Merchant Association (WAM)

Dr. Jonathan E. Farnham email preservation@phila.gov
Executive Director
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St., 13th Flr.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Date Dec. 11, 2024

Re: Support NW Apartment Thematic District (5514 Wissahickon 445 W School House within SoLo)

Dear Dr. Farnham and Commissioners:

On Friday December 13, 2024, the Philadelphia Historical Commission will consider whether to add the NW Apartment Thematic District to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. We strongly encourage you to support this designation. SoLo/Germantown Civic Assoc. fully supports this nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

We thank the nominator Sherman Aaronson and the West Mount Airy Preservation Committee for identifying these worthy buildings, two of which fall within our boundary; 5514 Wissahickon Ave. and 445 W School House Lane. We appreciate and thank them for their hard work and research that went into the nomination and for bringing it to the Commission for designation.

It is buildings like the ones identified that add to the varied historic character of our community and those surrounding it. We believe this district/nomination is worthy and deserves recognition as a thematic district deserving the recognition and protection accorded to all properties listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

We support of the nomination and hope you will as well. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely

Allison Weiss-Pamela Bracey-Brenda Cherry

cc: preservation <preservation@phila.gov>, Kim Chantry <Kim.Chantry@phila.gov>, Shannon Garrison <Shannon.Garrison@phila.gov>, kristin.hankins@phila.gov, heather.hendrickson@phila.gov, Ted Maust <theodore.maust@phila.gov>, izzy.korostoff@phila.gov, Allyson Mehley <allyson.mehley@phila.gov>, Heather Hendrickson <heather.hendrickson@phila.gov>, daniel.shachar-krasnoff@phila.gov, Alex Till <alexander.till@phila.gov>, Jon Farnham <jon.farnham@phila.gov>



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL

CINDY BASS
ROOM 508, CITY HALL
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107
(215) 686-3424 or 3425
Fax No. (215) 686-1937
Email: cindy.bass@phila.gov

COUNCILWOMAN - 8TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

Chair
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
Public Health and Human Services

Vice Chair
Environment

Member
Rules
Finance
Streets and Services
Law and Government
Housing, Neighborhood Development
and the Homeless
Disabled and Special Needs
Ethics
Whole Council
Fiscal Stability and Intergovernmental Cooperation

Zachary Frankel, Chair

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

December 12, 2024

**Re: Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District
Sedgwick Gardens (6907 McCallum St.)**

Dear Chairman Frankel,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the inclusion of Sedgwick Gardens, located at 6907 McCallum Street, in the proposed Northwest Philadelphia Apartments Thematic Historic District. I fully support the position of the property owner, Lindy Communities, and their request to remove Sedgwick Gardens from the inventory of the proposed district. Additionally, I support Lindy's request for a brief continuance of the Historical Commission's consideration of the district to allow them adequate time to prepare and present their case.

It would be inappropriate for the Historical Commission to exercise greater authority than the Lindy family over the future of Sedgwick Gardens. The Lindy family's connection to the property is deeply personal and foundational to their legacy. Built by Jacob Lindy in 1939, Sedgwick Gardens has been lovingly maintained by the family for over 85 years. Their exemplary stewardship of the property speaks volumes about their commitment to its care and preservation. Imposing the oversight of the Historical Commission would create unnecessary administrative burdens, requiring approvals for even minor changes such as

window replacements, landscaping updates, or green initiatives. Such oversight could hinder the Lindy family's ability to adapt and enhance the property in alignment with their vision.

Moreover, the Lindy family has made extraordinary contributions to the City of Philadelphia through their public service and philanthropy. Their initiatives include the Legacy Youth Tennis and Education Center, ASAP (After School Activities Partnerships), Fiesta Schoolyard, the Lindy Scholars Program, the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, the National Liberty Museum, Jefferson Philadelphia Collaborative for Health Equity, Drexel Lindy Center, Drexel Lindy Institute, and the Lindy Resident Emergency Rent Relief Fund. Considering all that the Lindy family has given to the city, it would be unjust to strip them of their autonomy over a property so deeply intertwined with their history and legacy.

Thank you for considering my position on this matter. I urge the Historical Commission to respect the Lindy family's stewardship of Sedgwick Gardens and their request to retain control over this cherished property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Bass". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councilwoman Cindy Bass- 8th District Council