

**ADDRESS: 1839-45 LOMBARD ST**

Name of Resource: Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building

Review: Designate

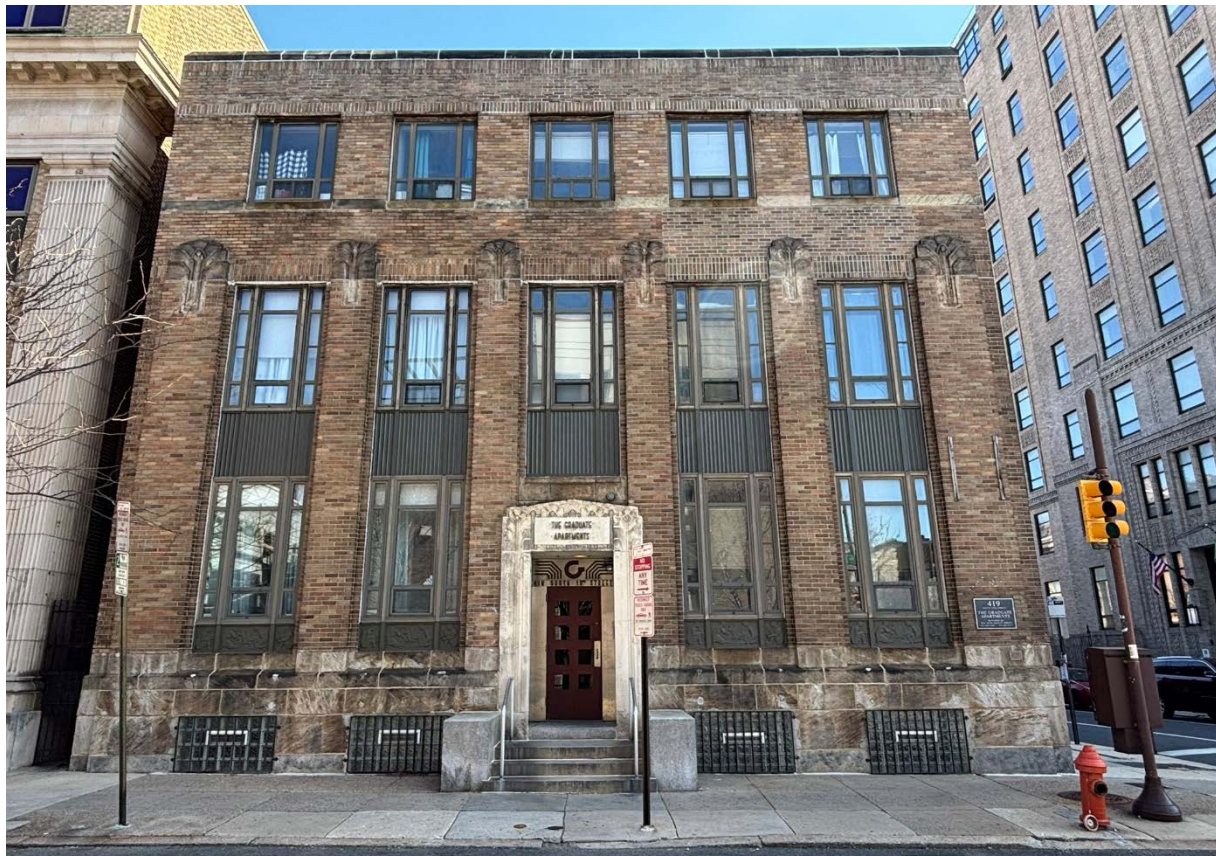
Property Owner: WP 419 Nineteenth LP

Nominator: Mr. Alex Crawford

Staff Contact: Kim Chantry, kim.chantry@phila.gov

**OVERVIEW:** This nomination proposes to designate the former Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy building at 1839-45 Lombard Street as historic and list it on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. The nomination claims that the building, constructed in 1930 with a 1939 third-floor addition, satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, E, and J. Under Criteria A and E, the nomination highlights significance tied to the architectural firm of Bissell & Sinkler, and specifically prominent Philadelphia architect Georgina Pope Yeatman, one of Philadelphia's first practicing female architects. It was her mother, Mrs. Georgina Yeatman, a champion of women's rights, who purchased and donated the site for the school building in 1929 and paid for the building's construction. Under Criterion D, the nomination outlines how the building embodies distinguishing characteristics of the Art Deco style of architecture. Under Criterion J, the nomination contends that the history associated with the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy specifically, and Philadelphia's role as the birthplace of the first collegiate medicinal program in rehabilitation therapy, exemplifies the economic, social, and historical heritage of the community.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** The staff recommends that the property at 1839-45 Lombard Street satisfies Criteria for Designation A, D, E, and J.



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

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

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

Street address: 1839-45 Lombard Street

Postal code: 19146

**2. NAME OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Historic Name: Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building

Current/Common Name: The Graduate Apartments

**3. TYPE OF HISTORIC RESOURCE**

Building       Structure       Site       Object

**4. PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Condition:     excellent     good     fair     poor     ruins

Occupancy:     occupied     vacant     under construction     unknown

Current use: Apartments

**5. BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

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

**6. DESCRIPTION**

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

**7. SIGNIFICANCE**

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

Period of Significance (from year to year): from 1930 to 1959

Date(s) of construction and/or alteration: 1930; 1939 addition

Architect, engineer, and/or designer: Georgina P. Yeatman

Builder, contractor, and/or artisan: Bissell & Sinkler

Original owner: Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy

Other significant persons: E.P. Bissell, J.P.B. Sinkler (among others)

**CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION:**

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

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

**8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Please attach a bibliography.*

**9. NOMINATOR**

Organization N/A Date January 22, 2025

Name with Title Mr. Alex Crawford Email wacrawford17@gmail.com

Street Address 4320 Lee Avenue Telephone (501) 400-2059

City, State, and Postal Code Little Rock, Arkansas, 72205

Nominator  is  is not the property owner.

**PHC USE ONLY**

Date of Receipt: January 23, 2025

Correct-Complete  Incorrect-Incomplete Date: March 12, 2025

Date of Notice Issuance: March 13, 2025

Property Owner at Time of Notice:

Name: WP 419 Nineteenth LP

Address: 19 S 21st St

City: Philadelphia State: PA Postal Code: 19103

Date(s) Reviewed by the Committee on Historic Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) Reviewed by the Historical Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Final Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated  Rejected

**NOMINATION**  
**FOR THE**  
**PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF**  
**HISTORIC PLACES**



**THE PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL OF  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BUILDING**

**BUILT 1930  
THIRD FLOOR ADDITION 1939**

**1839-45 LOMBARD STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

## 5. Boundary Description

Beginning at a point of intersection of the Easterly side of S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and the Northerly side of Lombard Street; thence from said point of beginning Northwardly along the Easterly side of S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street and parallel with 18<sup>th</sup> Street, 49 feet to a point, a corner of the Southerly side of a 3 feet wide alley; thence Eastwardly along the Southerly side of the aforesaid 3 feet wide alley and parallel with Lombard Street, 68 feet 9 inches to a point a corner; thence Southwardly and parallel with 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 49 feet to a point on the Northerly side of Lombard Street; thence Westwardly along the Northerly side of Lombard Street and parallel with Addison Street, 68 feet 9 inches to a point with its intersection of S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, the point and place of beginning.<sup>1</sup>

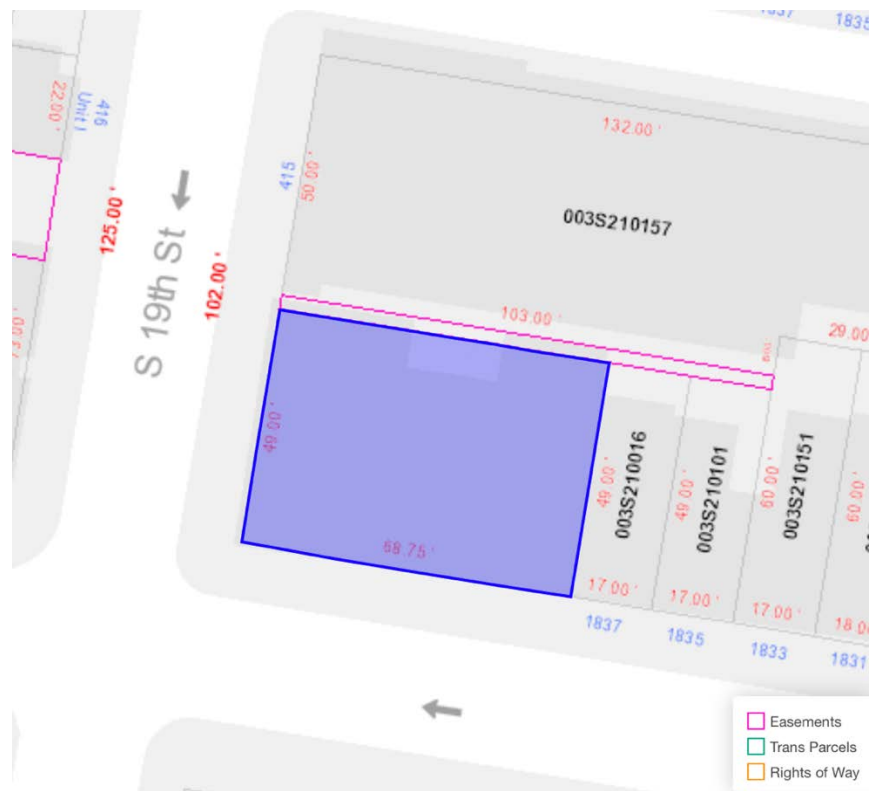


Figure 1. Parcel boundary for 1839-45 Lombard Street. Source: atlas.phila.gov.

<sup>1</sup> Source of boundary description: City of Philadelphia Records Department, PhilaDox, Document No. 50302274. Accessed 03/29/2024.

## 6. Property Description

The building at 1839-45 Lombard Street is located on the northeast corner of South 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Lombard Street in Philadelphia, in a neighborhood commonly known as Graduate Hospital. The building is surrounded by a mixture of residential, commercial, and medical-use buildings.

The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building is a three-story, flat roofed, brown brick building. Its primary façade with entrance fronts S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street, and a secondary façade fronts Lombard Street. A neighboring building, 1837 Lombard Street, abuts the east elevation, while the north elevation is an undecorated brown brick wall not easily visible to the public that faces a narrow alleyway between it and the building at 415 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street.



*Figure 2. View of the intersection of South 19th and Lombard Streets, looking northeast, illustrating the diversity of architecture in the blocks surrounding the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building, which is diagonally across from the parking lot in the foreground. Image source: Orange Line Media, August 2017/Alterra Property Group. <https://alterraproperty.com/portfolio-items/the-pepper-building/>.*



Figure 3. Close-up view from the previous photograph of the intersection of South 19th and Lombard Streets, looking northeast, focusing on the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building, displaying the building's main façades. Image source: Orange Line Media, August 2017/Alterra Property Group. <https://alterraproperty.com/portfolio-items/the-pepper-building/>.

### 19th Street Elevation (Primary/West)

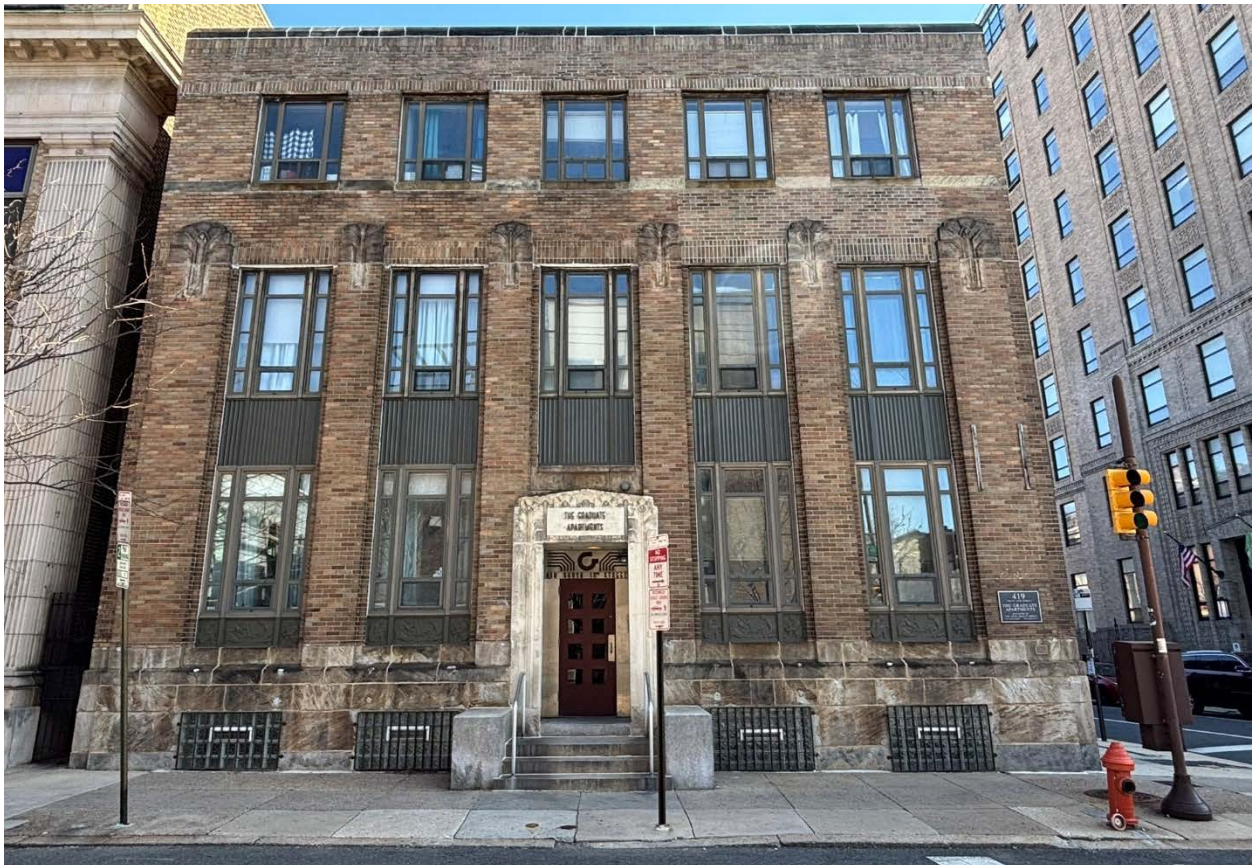


Figure 4. S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street elevation, March 2025.

The west/primary façade of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building is organized into five bays, located around a center entrance with recessed door. The entrance is denoted by a sandstone entrance surround with Art Deco-style carvings. Two-story brick pilasters with stylized chevron sandstone caps divide the bays, while the third story, which was added nine years after the building was constructed, is clad in unornamented brown brick. A smooth bluestone watertable adorns both street elevations. The aluminum windows are non-historic, but the first-floor fenestration retains original sculptural iron panels below the windows which depict figures engaged in therapeutic occupations.<sup>2</sup> Located in the sandstone beltcourse beneath the bays are window openings filled with glass block.



Figure 5. Left: S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. March 2025. Right: Sculptural iron panels below first floor windows. March 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton, Cynthia Rose. "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania", National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 7, page 1. In the files of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, 2003.



## Lombard Street Elevation (South)



Figure 6. Lombard Street elevation, March 2025.

The Lombard Street elevation is comprised primarily of brown brick, which is organized into seven bays, but otherwise contains the same details and windows as on the S. 19<sup>th</sup> Street elevation. The second bay historically contained an entrance into the building, and as such, it is altered slightly below the first floor window, and does not contain the same glass block basement windows found on all other bays.<sup>3</sup>



Figure 7. Detail of brick pilasters with stylized chevron sandstone caps, March 2025.

<sup>3</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 7, page 1.

## 7. Statement of Significance

1838-45 Lombard Street, the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building, is a three-story brown brick building constructed in 1930 in the Art Deco style by the architectural firm of Bissell & Sinkler to the architectural designs of prominent local architect Georgina P. Yeatman, with a 1939 third floor addition executed by the same firm and architect. A remarkably well-preserved example of Art Deco architecture located in the heart of Philadelphia, 1838-45 Lombard Street is notable for its association with national and local medical history, its association with notable Philadelphia architectural firm Bissell & Sinkler, and for its ties to trailblazing Philadelphian Georgina P. Yeatman. It therefore merits individual listing in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, meeting the following criteria for historic designation as set forth in the Philadelphia Historic Preservation Ordinance 14-1004(1):

- a) Has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth, or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past; and
- d) Embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen; and
- e) Is the work of a designer, architect, landscape architect or designer, or engineer whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, or cultural development of the City, Commonwealth, or Nation; and
- j) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.

### 7.1 *Early Rehabilitation Therapy and Philadelphia (Criteria A & J)*

The city of Philadelphia has been at the forefront of medical education and teaching since the beginning of the United States, and has been home to a number of notable medical events. The American Medical Association was created in Philadelphia in 1847 in an effort to regulate and make uniform standards for the profession, and in 1850, the oldest medical school for women in the U.S., Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, was established in the city.<sup>4</sup>

Philadelphia was also the birthplace of the first collegiate medicinal program in rehabilitation therapy. In 1897, the University of Pennsylvania established a facility for physical rehabilitation in the Agnew Building, located on the university's campus; it contained a gymnasium that was overseen by the hospital's orthopedic practitioners and treated some 2,000 patients in its first year of operations. By 1903, that number had grown to almost 9,000 patients, reinforcing the Agnew Building's pioneering status, particularly in the field of physical therapy.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Idem*, Section 8, page 3.

One of the major contributors to the cause of furthering the field was the University of Pennsylvania's first professor of physical therapy, Robert Tait McKenzie. Rehabilitation techniques that were common in the era before World War I stressed the importance of fresh air, water, exercise, and dietary modifications, which were used to treat a wide range of conditions, from fractures to paralysis. Recognizing the need for a scientific textbook that provided a comprehensive overview of the subject of physical medicine, McKenzie authored a groundbreaking work, *Exercise in Education and Medicine*, which was published in 1909.<sup>6</sup>

In spite of the efforts of people such as McKenzie, physical therapy was not widely taken seriously in the era before World War I, and physicians advocating for its use ran the risk of being dismissed by their colleagues as quacks. A later treatise authored by McKenzie, entitled *Reclaiming the Maimed* and published in 1918, coupled with a need for ways to treat newly disabled veterans, did much to advance many rehabilitation treatments into the area of respected science.<sup>7</sup>

## **7.2 Birth and Growth of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy (Criteria A & J)**

The origins of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy (or P.S.O.T.) lie in the U.S. government's response to the First World War. In 1917, because of the need to prepare for the treatment and rehabilitation of young men wounded in the War, the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army began recruiting young women trained as artists, teachers, or craftswomen to serve as reconstruction aides in occupational therapy. General Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces on the Western Front, sent out a request for 1,000 aides for service abroad.<sup>8</sup>

Following a high number of requests to the Philadelphia Arts and Crafts Guild during the winter of 1917-18 for classes in handcrafts that would be used in Army hospitals, the P.S.O.T. was founded in the spring of 1918 under the auspices of the Central Branch of the National League for Women's Service. The School opened its first, four-month, course on October 3, 1918, with classes divided between the Industrial School of Art and the Philadelphia School of Design for Women; all instructors were volunteering their services and classes covered subjects ranging from applied design to woodworking and bookbinding.<sup>9</sup> Physicians were also present, teaching classes on educational psychology, hospital routine, and hygiene and sanitation.<sup>10</sup>

The entire course cost \$50.00 and was open to women at least 23 years old, from the U.S. or one of the Allied Powers nations, and possessing a suitable personality. The secretary of the Central Branch of the National League of Women's Services, wrote:

<sup>6</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 3.

<sup>7</sup> *Idem*, Section 8, page 4.

<sup>8</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy, 1918-1981," University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981, page 1. In the files of the author. [https://cdn.ymaws.com/pota.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/history/a\\_brief\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_phila.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/pota.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/history/a_brief_history_of_the_phila.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Peters, Christine O. *et al.*, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy: A Centennial Lesson", *Journal of Occupational Therapy Education*, vol.1, issue 1, page 5. January 2017. In the files of the author. <https://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=jote>.

Within a short period after the announcement of the school had been made in the newspapers, nearly two hundred requests for circulars and application blanks had been received and it is felt that the original limit of a class of forty-two may have to be extended.<sup>11</sup>

The first class of thirty women, all of whom had previous arts or crafts training, graduated in February 1919 and immediately found positions in Army service.<sup>12</sup>

It had originally been the intention of the P.S.O.T.'s founders to disband the school following the end of the War, but physicians advised the opposite.<sup>13</sup> Although the demand from the military lay behind the creation of the School, it was also clear that there was a civilian market for the classes the School offered, and the Board of Directors was advised to continue the School in the aftermath of the War. A house at 2131 Spruce was rented for this purpose, and the third class of the School began an expanded, seven-month education in October of 1919.<sup>14</sup>

The P.S.O.T. was not alone in making a wartime-to-peacetime-market jump. Short courses in occupational therapy that had been offered during the War in Boston and Saint Louis also transitioned to academic programs, and the P.S.O.T. was one of six founding occupational therapy schools granting a diploma in the aftermath of the Great War (alongside one school each in Boston, Saint Louis, and Kalamazoo, Milwaukee-Downer College, and the University of Toronto.).<sup>15</sup>

The 1920s brought much change for the P.S.O.T., as the School outgrew its quarters and moved to 2200 Delancey Place. In 1923, the School was incorporated with its own Board of Trustees;<sup>16</sup> 1923 was also the same year that the American Occupational Therapy Association established minimum standards for the curriculum of schools of occupational therapy, which the P.S.O.T. far exceeded.<sup>17</sup> By 1928, the P.S.O.T.'s curriculum had expanded to 14 months (9 months of classes and 6 months of clinical internship). Consistent with the A.O.T.A.'s 1924 minimum education standards, the P.S.O.T. shifted its entrance requirements so as to recruit younger women, allowing for ladies 18 or older who possessed a high school diploma or its equivalent to apply.<sup>18</sup>

In 1929, the P.S.O.T. became affiliated with the Hospital of the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and in July of the same year, a part-time occupational therapy department (aimed mostly at training students) was organized in the Hospital.<sup>19</sup> This partnership was effected to "bring about a mutually valuable exchange of educational and clinical facilities,"

<sup>11</sup> *Idem*, page 4.

<sup>12</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy."

<sup>13</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 5.

<sup>14</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy."

<sup>15</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 4.

<sup>16</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy", page 1.

<sup>17</sup> *Idem*, page 2.

<sup>18</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 6.

<sup>19</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy", page 2.

and made sense due to the fact that the two were soon to be neighbors due to the P.S.O.T. breaking ground on a new building at the corner of 19<sup>th</sup> and Lombard Streets.<sup>20</sup>

### **7.3 The Yeatman Family and the P.S.O.T. Building (Criteria A, E, & J)**

In 1929, the Chairman of the Board of Managers of the School, Mrs. Georgina Yeatman, purchased the land where the P.S.O.T. Building now stands, gifting the land and funds for the construction of a building for the School at a cost of \$85,000. This was a much-needed gift for the School, as by the mid-1920s the number of graduates from the P.S.O.T. reached 28, outgrowing their quarters.<sup>21</sup>

The gift of the land and funds allowed the P.S.O.T. flexibility to reorganize the Curative Workshop, which served as “a centre for clinical lectures and demonstrations of the therapeutic applications of crafts, [and] also the Out-patient Occupational Therapy Department for the Graduate Hospital”. Furthermore, the gift came at a lucrative time for the P.S.O.T., as occupational therapists were in high demand. A brochure from the School from this era reports: “The School finds it true that the demand for Occupational Therapists exceeds the supply, therefore the competent graduate may feel assured in the offer of a position”.<sup>22</sup> The opportunity to construct a purpose-built facility for the School offered it a chance to capitalize on that demand.

The generosity of Mrs. Yeatman in funding both the acquisition of land for a building and its construction was likely an outgrowth of her lifelong interest in promoting women’s issues, a view she shared with her daughter of the same name.<sup>23</sup> Over the course of her lifetime, she would fund the construction of a third-story addition to the building in 1939 at a cost of \$18,000 and donate considerable funds for equipment, operations, and scholarships.<sup>24</sup>

Mrs. Yeatman’s financial contributions were made possible due to the fact that her husband, Mr. Pope Yeatman, was a man of quite substantial wealth; in 1914 it was reported that he earned a salary in the range of \$100,000 a year.<sup>25</sup> Born on August 3, 1861 in Saint Louis, Missouri,<sup>26</sup> Pope Yeatman had graduated from Washington University in Saint Louis’ Mining School in 1883 and spent the next 12 years working in mines in the U.S. and Mexico.<sup>27</sup> In 1895 he left for South Africa to work for the Consolidated Gold Fields Company, eventually managing several gold mines in the Transvaal before he returned to the U.S. in 1904. He then found employment working for the Guggenheim family’s mining business as their chief consulting engineer and

<sup>20</sup> Peters, “The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy,” page 7.

<sup>21</sup> Hamilton, “Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building,” Section 8, page 6.

<sup>22</sup> Peters, “The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy,” page 7.

<sup>23</sup> Hamilton, “Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building,” Section 8, page 6.

<sup>24</sup> *Idem*, pages 6-7.

<sup>25</sup> Woolley, Edward Mott. “The Justice of High Salaries: Edward Mott Woolley Shows Engineer Pope Yeatman Earns His One Hundred Thousand Dollars a Year.” *White Pine News Weekly Mining Review*, March 29, 1914, page 3.

<sup>26</sup> “Pope Yeatman, Sr.” *FindaGrave.com*.

<sup>27</sup> “Pope Yeatman, Engineer, Dies.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 6, 1953, page 61, section B21.

played a prominent role in the development of the mines of the Chile Copper Company in Chile.<sup>28</sup>

His work frequently took him far from his family in Philadelphia, including to Alaska and China.<sup>29</sup> Even when he was home, he would commute daily from Philadelphia to New York City via train to work in his office at 105 Broadway.<sup>30</sup> By 1925, his office address had changed to Room 708 of 111 Broadway; both addresses are located in the Trinity and United States Realty Building, which is now a New York City Landmark.<sup>31</sup>

During World War I, Mr. Yeatman served as the head of the non-ferrous metals division of the War Industries Board.<sup>32</sup> He would be awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal in 1923 by the War Department for helping to procure copper, lead, zinc, and other nonferrous metals for the Army.<sup>33</sup>



Figure 8. A contemporary photo of Mr. Yeatman taken between 1918 and 1925. Source: *Who's Who in Philadelphia*.

On June 26, 1894, Mr. Yeatman wed Georgie Claiborne Watkins, the daughter of Judge Claiborne Watkins, in Saint Louis.<sup>34</sup> Mrs. Yeatman had been born on July 7, 1862 in Little Rock, Arkansas,<sup>35</sup> but had been raised in Philadelphia; she attended Springside School in Chestnut Hill

<sup>28</sup> "Pope Yeatman, Engineer, Dies." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 6, 1953, page 61, section B21.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> "The Justice of High Salaries."

<sup>31</sup> *Who's Who in Philadelphia*. Stafford's National News Service, volumes 1 and 2, 1925.

<sup>32</sup> "Pope Yeatman, Engineer, Dies."

<sup>33</sup> "Pope Yeatman." *Hall of Valor by the Military Times*. <https://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient/recipient-18396/>.

<sup>34</sup> "Mrs. Pope Yeatman Dies: Civic Leader: Architect's Mother Was Prominent In Club Circles." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 24, 1941, page 9.

<sup>35</sup> "Georgie Claiborne Watkins Yeatman." *FindaGrave.com*.

before she met and married Mr. Yeatman.<sup>36</sup> The couple would have three children: daughter Jane Bell Yeatman (born 1900), daughter Georgina P. Yeatman (born 1902), and son Pope Yeatman, Jr. (born 1904).<sup>37</sup> The couple would spend many years living at 1118 Spruce Street before moving to “Five Gables”, their Chestnut Hill house.<sup>38</sup>

Mrs. Yeatman would become one of the leading lady socialites in Philadelphia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Described in her obituary as “a leader in club circles of the city”, in addition to her affiliation with the P.S.O.T., she was also a founder of the Charlotte Cushman Club and a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Democratic Women’s Luncheon Club, the Emergency Aid of Pennsylvania, the Women’s Civic Club, the Civic Club, the Acorn Club, the Sulgrave Club, and the Sedgley Club. She also played an instrumental role in helping to restore Stratford-on-the-Potomac, the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, single-handedly making possible the restoration of the kitchen.<sup>39</sup>

In addition to providing the land and funding the construction of the new P.S.O.T. Building, the Yeatman family was also largely responsible for the design of the structure.<sup>40</sup> Georgina Pope Yeatman, the youngest daughter and middle child, was a practicing architect who offered her services (and those of the architectural firm she worked for) to the P.S.O.T. for the commissioning of the new school building.<sup>41</sup> Mrs. Yeatman proved instrumental in selecting the architectural firm of Bissell & Sinkler for the design of the building, helping to award her daughter her first major commission.<sup>42</sup>

Georgina Pope Yeatman was born June 26, 1902 in Ardsley, New York.<sup>43</sup> An ambitious and independent woman, she graduated from the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1919 at the age of 17.<sup>44</sup> Three years later, she graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an A.B. degree at the age of just 20. While she attended, she was a student athlete on the women’s field hockey and basketball teams and founded the Women’s Athletic Association chapter at UPenn.<sup>45</sup> The chapter remains active today.

Following her graduation, Miss Yeatman enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania’s architecture program and by 1924 became the first woman to complete the requisite coursework for an architectural degree.<sup>46</sup> The University refused to award her a degree, however, as the University did not grant degrees in architecture to women at the time. Undeterred, Miss Yeatman enrolled at MIT in Boston and received a B.S. degree in architecture in 1925.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>36</sup> “Mrs. Pope Yeatman Dies.”

<sup>37</sup> “Georgie Claiborne Watkins Yeatman.”

<sup>38</sup> “Mrs. Pope Yeatman Dies.”

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> “A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy”, page 3.

<sup>41</sup> Hamilton, “Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building,” Section 8, page 9.

<sup>42</sup> *Idem*, page 10.

<sup>43</sup> “Philadelphia’s First Women Cabinet Member.” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 12, 1936, page 61.

<sup>44</sup> Tatman, Sandra L. “Yeatman, Georgina Pope (1902-1982).” *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*.

<sup>45</sup> “Pioneering Woman Architects in North Carolina.” *NCModernist*. <https://www.ncmodernist.org/ncwomen.htm>.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> Hamilton, “Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building,” Section 8, page 10.

Miss Yeatman's independence and defying of the stereotypical norms for women of the era received a remarkable deal of support from her parents.<sup>48</sup> When Miss Yeatman decided to become an aviatrix and learned how to fly in Philadelphia, in 1921 her parents built her a landing strip at their farm in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.<sup>49</sup>

After spending two years abroad studying and traveling in Europe and India, Miss Yeatman was hired as a draftsman by the Philadelphia architectural firm Bissell & Sinkler, making her one of Philadelphia's first practicing female architects. While working as a draftsman for the firm, Miss Yeatman reportedly had a pivotal role in coming up with the initial design for the P.S.O.T. Building, and she would regard the design as one of her most important works of her career.<sup>50</sup>



Figure 9. A 1935 press photo of Miss Georgina Pope Yeatman, following her appointment as Philadelphia's Director of City Architecture. Source: "Georgina Pope Yeatman." 1935. Press photograph. Ebay, <https://www.ebay.com.hk/itm/154293411330>.

#### 7.4 *Bissell & Sinkler (Criteria A, E, & J)*

The architectural firm of Bissell & Sinkler was formed on November 1, 1906, by architects and business partners Elliston Perot Bissell and John P.B. Sinkler.<sup>51</sup> Mr. Bissell, born November 23, 1872 in Philadelphia, was an 1893 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and had been a practicing architect with Cope & Stewardson, one of the largest architectural firms in the city at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as well as a member of an architectural firm he had started with his cousin.<sup>52</sup> Mr. Sinkler, born September 10, 1875, and also a native Philadelphian, had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1898 and had studied at the internationally renowned École des Beaux-Arts in Paris before working independently for several years.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>48</sup> "Pioneering Women Architects in North Carolina."

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 10.

<sup>51</sup> Tatman, Sandra L. "Bissell & Sinkler (fl. 1906-c.1936)." *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*.

<sup>52</sup> Tatman, Sandra L. "Bissell, Elliston Perot (1872-1944)." *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*.

<sup>53</sup> Tatman, Sandra L. "Sinkler, John Penn Brock (1875-1959)." *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*.



Like many architecture firms working in Philadelphia at the time, Bissell & Sinkler originally concentrated mainly on residential architecture.<sup>54</sup> However, the firm also designed a number of hospitals and medical facilities in addition to the P.S.O.T. Building, including the Pennsylvania Epileptic Hospital & Colony Farm Dormitory in Westtown, PA (1907), the Jewish Maternity Hospital in Philadelphia (1912), the Orthopedic Hospital in Philadelphia (1914), the Home for Consumptives Superintendent's House and Nurse's Home in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia (1927), and the Orthopedic Hospital and Infirmary of Nervous Diseases on the University of Pennsylvania's campus in Philadelphia (1931).<sup>55</sup>

During the 1920s, two important changes occurred that impacted the direction of Bissell & Sinkler. The first was that Mr. Sinkler was appointed as Philadelphia's Director of City Architecture in 1920, a position he held until 1924, meaning that his attention was divided between the firm's clients and the City's design demands for everything from firehouses and bandstands to traffic control towers. After four years of splitting his attention, Mr. Sinkler resigned from the position of Director of City Architecture and returned his focus back to the partnership.<sup>56</sup>

The second, and lasting, change that occurred was that both Mr. Bissell and Mr. Sinkler developed a keen interest in the preservation of historic architecture. In 1926, the partners had participated in the reconstruction of High Street, which formed the centerpiece for Philadelphia's Sesqui-Centennial Exposition. By the start of the 1930s, the partners and their firm had begun to concentrate on historic restoration and reconstruction; in addition to Mr. Sinkler's time as the Director of City Architecture, he also designed the Germantown municipal building to be a replica of William Strickland's Merchant's Exchange, while Mr. Bissell served on several committees intended to survey and maintain historic buildings.<sup>57</sup>

Although it was clear by the time the P.S.O.T. Building was under consideration for construction that Bissell & Sinkler had adopted an increasing interest in rehabilitating the designs of architects past, that did not mean the firm was ignorant of the tastes of the present day, as evidenced by the firm's submission of an Art Deco design for the P.S.O.T. Building.

<sup>54</sup> "Bissell & Sinkler."

<sup>55</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 9.

<sup>56</sup> "Bissell & Sinkler."

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*



Figure 10. A photograph from the April 12, 1911 edition of *American Architect*, highlighting a house in Lebanon, Pennsylvania that had been designed by Bissell & Sinkler. It is a fine representation of the firm's early focus on residential architecture. Source: "Article/illustrations: A Country House, Lebanon, Pa Bissell & Sinkler, Architects." AbeBooks.com, <https://www.abebooks.com/magazines-periodicals/Articleillustrations-Country-House-Lebanon-Bissell-Sinkler/30959084495/bd>.



Figure 11. A photograph of Elliston Perot Bissell, taken around the year 1905, shortly before the founding of Bissell & Sinkler. Source: "Elliston Perot Bissell 1872 – 1944." University of Pennsylvania University Archives & Records Center. <https://archives.upenn.edu/exhibits/penn-people/biography/elliston-perot-bissell/>.

## 7.5 *The Art Deco Style (Criterion D)*

By the late 1920s, one of the most *en vogue* types of architecture was Art Deco. The style as it is commonly understood today had first appeared in France just before the outbreak of World War I, but it reached its apex in the time between 1925 and 1940. This was the result of an outright rejection of the traditional establishment that had existed before the war across music, fashion, dance, art, and architecture, with Art Deco providing a language for architects to express this rejection of what they saw as the excessive exuberance of pre-war architecture.<sup>58</sup>

The Art Deco style was popularized by the 1925 Paris Exposition (full name *L'exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes*, or the International Exposition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts), which ran from April to October of that year and highlighted the new style of art, architecture, furniture, decorative arts, and industrial design that was emerging across the world. There were 15,000 exhibitors from 20 countries present, and over the six months the Exposition ran it received over 16 million visitors. There was no official American presence, but hundreds of influential American architects, designers, department store buyers, artists and patrons were visitors at the Exposition.<sup>59</sup>

While the 1925 Paris Exposition served as Art Deco's 'coming-out' moment, the name Art Deco was coined retroactively in 1968, when a book by Bevis Hillier entitled *Art Deco of the 20s and 30s* was published. During the height of Art Deco architecture, the style was frequently just called 'modern' or 'modernistic'. Other names in use included the Moderne style, the Zig-Zag style, the Art Modern style, the Vertical style, and the Streamline style.<sup>60</sup>

Art Deco as an architectural style is an umbrella term that encompasses several different variations, which frequently drew upon one another for design features and details. There are three main architectural variations of Art Deco buildings, each with its own distinctive characteristics. They are: Zigzag, or Jazz Moderne; WPA, or Classical Moderne; and Streamline Moderne. The Zig-Zag style is commonly found on skyscrapers and large commercial buildings and features highly decorated façades with a focus on verticality and geometric patterns; the WPA or Classical Moderne is often seen in governmental and institutional buildings of the mid to late '30s; the Streamline style is far more austere and features smooth, rounded form with little ornamentation and a horizontal focus.<sup>61</sup>

The city of Philadelphia is notable for having vernacular, monochromatic representations of both subtypes, where ornamentation of the exterior façades are fabricated from the same material as the rest of the building surface. Although the P.S.O.T. Building is not as monochromatic as many examples in Philadelphia and is ornamented with a mixture of materials, such as limestone, sandstone, and decorative iron panels, its main exterior ornamentation is fabricated from brick and blends into the main body of the building. This allowed the P.S.O.T. to build with an eye towards the future and towards the tastes of the day, without breaking the bank. The choice by the P.S.O.T. Board of Directors to select an Art Deco design was likely due to an eagerness to

<sup>58</sup> "What is Art Deco?" Art Deco Society of Los Angeles. <https://artdecola.org/what-is-art-deco>.

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

portray progressiveness, as an institution that promoted the advancement of women. Elements of the Art Deco style represented on the building's facades include the entrance surround with geometric incised carvings, tall pilasters with stylized chevron capitals, and sculptural iron spandrel panels with imagery portraying people engaged in therapeutic occupations such as weaving and woodworking.<sup>62</sup>

## 7.6 *The P.S.O.T Building Post-Construction (Criteria A & J)*



Figure 12. Mary Wolcott, Helen Willard, and Gladys Wanner (left to right) learn model airplane construction at the P.S.O.T. from Victor R. Fritz, field director of the Philadelphia Model Airplane Association, 1930. Photo taken by George D. McDowell. Source: Temple University Urban Archives, George D. McDowell Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Photographs.

The P.S.O.T. moved into their new quarters in May of 1930, at the start of a decade that would bring a great deal of institutional consolidation and change for the School.<sup>63</sup> By 1933, the occupational therapy course offered by the P.S.O.T. required four quarters of classroom study followed by one year of hospital training, a sign of the continued evolution of occupational therapy standards.<sup>64</sup> The same year, students were admitted to the College Collateral Courses of the University of Pennsylvania for work in psychology and sociology; both the medical lecture content and manual activity requirements were substantially increased.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," Section 8, page 10.

<sup>63</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 2.

<sup>64</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 7.

<sup>65</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 2.

Even as the standards of the occupational therapy changed, the P.S.O.T. was at the forefront of the profession. In 1934, Eleanor Clarke Slagle, a member of the faculty at the P.S.O.T., reviewed all occupational training schools on behalf of the A.O.T.A. to informally regulate curricula; the P.S.O.T. was one of only five nationwide to meet with Ms. Slagle's approval. One year later, the American Medical Association began accrediting occupational therapy programs, setting the length of occupational therapy education to three years and including both classroom and clinical experiences; the P.S.O.T. was quick to undergo the accreditation process.<sup>66</sup> The School obtained its accreditation in 1938, alongside sister programs at Milwaukee-Downer, Boston, and St. Louis;<sup>67</sup> Kalamazoo would join them in 1939, forming the core five programs in the U.S. (although by 1941 there were twenty-one other schools in the country).<sup>68</sup>

In 1939, Mrs. Yeatman authorized the addition of a third floor to the P.S.O.T. Building, costing approximately \$18,000, which she provided the funds for.<sup>69</sup> This allowed the P.S.O.T. to increase their building's capacity to over eighty students.<sup>70</sup> The School's former location at 2131 Spruce Street was turned into dormitories and renamed "Yeatman House" in her honor.<sup>71</sup>

The 1940s at the P.S.O.T. were defined, like so much else, by the Second World War. Even before the official U.S. entry into the War, the School found itself drawn into the conflict; in 1940, the P.S.O.T. solicited donations from its alumni to help the O.T. Association of England "establish workshops for the care of injured civilians, especially the women and children who have suffered in bombing raids." (The P.S.O.T. took an active interest in promoting occupational therapy internationally and had also graduated several Englishwomen, including Margaret Barr Fulton in 1925, the first occupational therapist to work in the United Kingdom.)<sup>72</sup>

When war did arrive to the U.S., a special war emergency course was set up at the request of the Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army, in order to train 600 occupational therapists for service in Army hospitals. The P.S.O.T. was one of eight schools selected for the program and trained approximately 150 of the group.<sup>73</sup> As a result, enrollment at the P.S.O.T. doubled from 125 to 250 students; those selected for the program received free tuition plus a stipend. Requirements of the program mandated that students must be college graduates who had majored in the fine, applied, or industrial arts and were between the age of 21 and 35; students were selected by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. This meant that, for the first time in P.S.O.T. history, men were admitted to the School.<sup>74</sup> The men and women at the P.S.O.T. who completed the 12-month-long emergency program are recorded as rendering exemplary service during and after the War.<sup>75</sup>

<sup>66</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 7.

<sup>67</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 2.

<sup>68</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 8.

<sup>69</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," pages 6 and 7.

<sup>70</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 2.

<sup>71</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 7.

<sup>72</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 9.

<sup>73</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 3.

<sup>74</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," page 7.

<sup>75</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 3.

Following the end of the War, in 1947, Helen S. Williard of Ambler, Pennsylvania, then-Dean of the School (and pictured in Figure 9) published *Principles of Occupational Therapy*, a treatise that remains a seminal work in occupational therapy today.<sup>76</sup>

On July 1, 1950, the P.S.O.T. officially merged with the University of Pennsylvania to create a newly established School of Auxiliary Medical Services, the first of its kind in the country.<sup>77</sup> The resources the University provided made it possible to offer a considerably enriched program, as well as providing facilities for an increased number of students, including men. By 1957, the P.S.O.T. course of study consisted of 21 courses in the liberal arts (nine of these in biological and social sciences), seven courses in medical sciences, and 13 courses in occupational therapy theory and practice, followed by 9 to 10 months of clinical education.<sup>78</sup>



Figure 13. Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy, undated, ca. 1950s, Left to right: Virginia Cute [later Virginia Curtin], Clare Spackman, Helen Willard, Miss Woodruff? [as identified on the back of photograph], Dotty Johnson. Courtesy of the Archive of the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. Source: [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Philadelphia-School-of-Occupational-Therapy\\_fig1\\_319970825](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Philadelphia-School-of-Occupational-Therapy_fig1_319970825)

Until 1959, the three divisions of the School of Auxiliary Medical Services (medical technology, occupational therapy, and physical therapy) continued to operate in their own respective quarters; however, in 1958, the University had purchased a building at 39<sup>th</sup> and Pine Streets and remodeled it to house the new School.<sup>79</sup> The P.S.O.T. thus vacated their building and were relocated to 3901 Pine Street.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>76</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 7.

<sup>77</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 3.

<sup>78</sup> *Idem*, page 4.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>80</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 11.

Though functionally now part of the newly-named School of Allied Medical Professionals (S.A.M.P.), the P.S.O.T. retained its name until 1967, at which point it was renamed to the Occupational Therapy Department.<sup>81</sup> Despite a constantly balanced budget, due to its small size, lack of graduate programs, and its distinct focus, in 1977 the University's Board of Trustees voted to phase out S.A.M.P. which was dissolved by 1981.<sup>82</sup>

Over the course of its existence, the P.S.O.T. graduated 1,940 occupational therapists from the U.S. and at least six other nations (Canada, the United Kingdom, India, Australia, South Africa, and the Philippines); six P.S.O.T. graduates received the A.O.T.A.'s Award of Merit for outstanding contributions to the field of occupational therapy, and five the Eleanor Clarke Slagle Lectureship, its highest academic award.<sup>83</sup> 20 P.S.O.T. graduates became the head of academic programs in occupational therapy in the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Israel.<sup>84</sup>



Figure 14. The seal of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy. The same figures, seated in front of a loom, appear on the decorative iron panels underneath the first-story windows of the P.S.O.T. Building. Source: "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," addendum, page 1.

Following the P.S.O.T. vacating their former quarters on Lombard Street, the building was renovated for use as doctors' offices, with at least 16 doctors maintaining their offices there by 1960.<sup>85</sup> Around 1960, the building was acquired by the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and became known as the "Medical Services Building"; the University made several changes to the exterior around this time, removing all windows on the basement level and

<sup>81</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 4.

<sup>82</sup> Peters, "The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," page 11.

<sup>83</sup> "A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy," addendum, page 1.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid*, addendum, page 2.

<sup>85</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 1.

removing an entrance on the Lombard Street façade.<sup>86</sup> Around 1985, all remaining original windows were replaced with the current aluminum units.<sup>87</sup> The Graduate Hospital retained ownership of the building into the late 1990s, at which point the building was purchased by its current owner, and converted to apartments.<sup>88</sup>

### **7.7 *Bissell & Sinkler and the Yeatman Family Post-1930 (Criteria A & J)***

The construction of the P.S.O.T. Building appears to have been one of the last major projects that the firm of Bissell & Sinkler undertook before the impacts of Black Tuesday, the stock market crash in 1929, and the onset of the Great Depression hit the firm. In a letter to Sandra Tatman in 1982, E. Perot Bissell Jr. laid out the end of his father's partnership with Mr. Sinkler:

In 1933, Bissell & Sinkler found little demand for residential construction and after much deliberation decided to dissolve the partnership. Great concern was felt for the welfare of the draftsmen and office staff many of whom had years of service. By great good fortune it was found that Miss Georgina Yeatman was anxious to secure an office for her practice and she took over the business and the staff in toto. This was a great relief to my father and Mr. Sinkler.<sup>89</sup>

Mr. Bissell and Mr. Sinkler would retain their interest in historic architecture following their retirement from their firm. Mr. Bissell would serve as a member of the National Committee for the Preservation of Historic Monuments, served as the chair of the Pennsylvania state survey of historic buildings from 1932 through 1936, and was actively involved in the restoration of both Elfreth's Alley and Independence Square; he would pass away July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1944, at the age of 71.<sup>90</sup> Mr. Sinkler was involved with early efforts to restore Independence Hall and restored The Highlands, the estate of Caroline Sinkler in Ambler, Pennsylvania; he also served on the City's Zoning Board of Adjustment and as the head of the City Bureau of Architecture from 1932 through 1936.<sup>91</sup> He would outlive his business partner by 15 years, dying in February 1959 at the age of 83.<sup>92</sup>

Miss Yeatman's life during the 1930s was full of accomplishments in both her personal and public lives in addition to her purchase of Bissell & Sinkler. She received her private pilot's license in 1931 and by 1936 had bought a silver Waco airplane for private business trips and to visit her family and their farm at Chiselhurst.<sup>93</sup> By 1936, her architectural resumé included plans for projects at the Davis Memorial Park (Charleston, WV) and the Pennsylvania Epileptic Hospital and Colony Farm (Westtown, PA), the construction of the Philadelphia Aviation Country Club and the P.S.O.T., and an addition to the Shipley School in Philadelphia, among others.<sup>94</sup>

<sup>86</sup> *Idem*, pages 1 and 2.

<sup>87</sup> *Idem*, page 1.

<sup>88</sup> *Idem*, page 2.

<sup>89</sup> "Bissell & Sinkler."

<sup>90</sup> "Bissell, Elliston Perot."

<sup>91</sup> "Sinkler, John Penn Brock."

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>93</sup> "Philadelphia's First Woman Cabinet Member."

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*



In January 1936, Miss Yeatman made history by being appointed to the position of Director of the Department of City Architecture for the City of Philadelphia; a position she would hold for four years.<sup>95</sup> (See Figures 15 and 16). She was the first woman to hold the position, and her appointment made the newspapers in several other U.S. cities, such as St. Louis, MO<sup>96</sup> and St. Petersburg, FL. That same year, when floods devastated Pennsylvania, she reportedly flew to affected areas and dropped food and medicine to survivors.<sup>97</sup>



Figure 15. St. Louis Post Dispatch, January 12, 1936, p. 5.

Miss Yeatman and her firm were hired once again by the P.S.O.T. in 1939 to construct the third floor addition to the P.S.O.T., which further solidified the bond between the Yeatman family and the School.<sup>98</sup> She also ably demonstrated her skills as a pilot in January of 1939 when she safely landed her plane at Wings Field north of Philadelphia after striking a root while taking off from the airport at Beauford, North Carolina; the root tore the left wheel and "half the undercarriage" off the plane, once again landing Miss Yeatman in the newspapers.<sup>99</sup> (See Figure 17)

<sup>95</sup> "Yeatman, Georgina Pope."

<sup>96</sup> "Philadelphia's First Woman Cabinet Member."

<sup>97</sup> "Girl is Philadelphia's Flying City Architect," *St. Petersburg Times*, February 6, 1937.

<sup>98</sup> Hamilton, "Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building," Section 8, page 1.

<sup>99</sup> "Georgina Yeatman Averts Crash in One-Wheel Plane," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 9, 1939, page 3.

# Woman Picked For Office In Philadelphia

## Miss Georgina Yeatman To Be Director of City Architecture

By J. WESLEY HUFF

Philadelphia, Dec. 31.—(AP)—Miss Georgina Pope Yeatman, 33 and socially prominent, becomes director of city architecture tomorrow.

All her life a Democrat, Miss Yeatman was appointed by Philadelphia's Republican mayor-elect, S. Davis Wilson, in keeping with his campaign pledge to select a woman for his cabinet. She will become the first woman cabinet member of the nation's third largest city.

Miss Yeatman has a shy manner while talking. Her blonde hair is cut severely in a boyish bob with a shock combed down over her forehead. She looks upon her job as an opportunity to work for better housing for all philadelphians now living in run down and slum sections.

"The city should adopt a long term plan for better housing conditions," she said, "embracing slum clearance, modernization of existing structures and new building. The city should make it possible to begin this work immediately."

Miss Yeatman regards her position as "just another client, the city. The architectural department will be run on the basis of ability alone," she said. "Women will have an equal chance with men."

When asked what books she is fond of reading, she replied: I am an aviation enthusiast."

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pope Yeatman, with whom she lives in Chestnut Hill, own a farm near Jaffers, new Hampshire. She took up flying four years ago so that she might visit the farm on weekends. She also uses her plane to study architecture, gardens and landscaping.

The new city architect saw her new "boss" for the first time in her life December 5, when the mayor-elect called her to his office and told her of her appointment to the \$8,000 a year post.

She is tackling a man sized job, for she intends to continue managing her own architectural business and get some time in riding to hounds and flying. She reports only one crack-up, with her plane. No one was injured.

Miss Yeatman is one of four women registered as architects in Pennsylvania and one of two in the city. She was born in Ardsley, N. Y., but has lived most of her life in Philadelphia.

How did she happen to study architecture?

"Mathematics was a cinch for me," she said, "and I liked to draw things. The two simply converged into architecture."

To the questions, "Are you particularly interested in domestic pursuits? Are you contemplating matrimony?" she replied, "No plans."

# Girl is Philadelphia's Flying City Architect



CITY ZONER

Georgina Pope Yeatman, flying architect, stands among Philadelphia's city fathers. She's director of city architecture and a member of the zoning board.

By The AP Feature Service

PHILADELPHIA. — Georgina Pope Yeatman, not many years ago, couldn't get into the University of Pennsylvania school of architecture because she was a girl. But a year ago she became director of city architecture here in America's third largest city.

She sits on the Philadelphia zoning board and is also a member of the commission appointed by the mayor for development of the municipal airport at Hog Island as an air-rail-marine terminal.

Besides becoming one of her state's four licensed women architects, after study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she learned to fly. Obtaining a plane for quick week-end trips to her parents' summer home near Jaffers, N. H., she got a new slant on architecture and gardens from the air, and combined this pleasure with her profession. She designed the Philadelphia Aviation Country club.

Flying over last spring's floods, Miss Yeatman dropped food and medicine to isolated sufferers and made relief surveys. In five years she has had but one accident: Forced down by motor trouble, she did a dead stick landing near Kennett Square, Pa., crashed through a fence and into some farm machinery, emerged with scratches, and called it nothing to get excited about. She still considers flying better sport than riding to hounds, which she likes, too.

Why did she insist on being an architect?

"Mathematics was a cinch for me," she answers. "I liked to draw things. The two simply converged into architecture."

Tomorrow: Bank Officer

# MEXICAN STEAK IS SUGGESTION

## Miss Maud Secret of Hamilton Sends in Meat Recipe That She Highly Recommends as Delicious

Mexican steak, which she calls an "all-meal dish," is the recipe recommended this week by Miss Maud Secret of Hamilton, box 116. It sounds delicious:

### Mexican Steak

- 1 pound round steak
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons melted fat
- 1/2 clove garlic, minced
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 cup tomatoes
- 6 potatoes, quartered

Salt the steak and dredge with chili powder and flour. Fry the garlic and onion in fat until tender, add steak and brown on both sides, add the potatoes and tomatoes and enough water to cover. Apply lid and simmer about 30 minutes, or until tender. Garnish with pimiento and pineapple rings.

### TWO SKATE ACROSS COUNTRY

LOS ANGELES.—(UP)—Normal Skelly and John Shefuga roller skated from Boston to this city. Their score for skate wheels for the trip was 480.



Figure 16. Left: Ledger Star, December 31, 1935, p. 9. Right: The Waco Times Herald, February 5, 1937, p. 9

## Georgina Yeatman Averts Crash in One-Wheel Plane



Georgina Pope Yeatman steps from her damaged plane at Wings Field after a flight from North Carolina, where a take-off accident ripped off the ship's left wheel.

Miss Georgina Pope Yeatman, socially prominent City Architect, brought her airplane safely to a landing on one wheel yesterday at Wings Field, Conshohocken.

She and two cousins escaped injury, but the plane, after landing, settled to the left side, nearly shearing off a wing.

Two hours earlier, half the undercarriage had been torn away from the plane when it struck a root extending above the surface of the airfield at Beaufort, N. C.

Notified by officials at the Beaufort field what had happened, Miss Yeatman contacted Wings Field attendants by radio and told them she was "coming on in."

"There's no point in landing here," she radioed. "Please clear the field and have attendants ready for an emergency landing."

She divided her time between piloting the plane and assuring her passengers. Miss Francis Dillon, of Charleston, W. Va., and 13-year-old George Turner, of Chile, there was no cause for alarm.

All other craft in the vicinity of Conshohocken were warned to keep clear of the field. Two Pennsylvania Motor Policemen, sirens screaming, raced to the field to stand by.

Miss Yeatman swung the plane in three great circles over the field before coming in.

The plane landed on the one good wheel and rolled along for 60 feet before slowly settling to the left. Miss Yeatman and her passengers climbed out, unaided.

Miss Yeatman lives at 1622 Locust st. She has flown for seven years.

Figure 17. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 9, 1939, p. 3.

When Miss Yeatman's term as Director had run its course, the mayor of Philadelphia reappointed her in December 1940 to serve a three-year term on the Zoning Board of Adjustment.<sup>100</sup> Her mother, Mrs. Yeatman, died in 1941, reportedly after a long illness.<sup>101</sup> Mr. Yeatman would pass away in 1953 at age 92.<sup>102</sup>

By the 1950s, Miss Yeatman's attention was squarely in North Carolina. Starting in the mid-1930s, she had begun acquiring land near Beaufort, North Carolina, with the intent to begin a dairy operation, as the Yeatman family had a dairy farm in New Hampshire; she named her farm Open Grounds.<sup>103</sup> By 1954, her farm had become so successful she sold the family farm near Jaffrey in New Hampshire and moved the dairy operation to North Carolina; Open Grounds would eventually come to encompass over 45,000 acres. Miss Yeatman was the first woman to be registered as an architect in North Carolina, but outside of the buildings on her farm, she did no work in the state. In 1974, she sold Open Grounds to the Ferruzzi Group of Italy; they would grow the farm to become the largest farm east of the Mississippi River.<sup>104</sup>

Miss Yeatman never married, but in her forties she adopted two girls, Barbara and Mildred.<sup>105</sup> She became a major donor to North Carolina State University and East Carolina University and would call her time as a farmer at Open Grounds among the happiest of her life.<sup>106</sup> She died at Open Grounds in 1982 and is buried in Morehead City, North Carolina.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>100</sup> "Mayor Fills Posts on Four Boards," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 20, 1940, page 2.

<sup>101</sup> "Mrs. Pope Yeatman Dies."

<sup>102</sup> "Pope Yeatman, Engineer, Dies."

<sup>103</sup> "Georgina Pope Yeatman," *Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation*. <https://dna.bwaf.org/architect/yeatman-georgina-pope>.

<sup>104</sup> "Pioneering Women Architects in North Carolina."

<sup>105</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>106</sup> "Georgina Pope Yeatman," *Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation*.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

## Bibliography

“A Brief History of the Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy, 1918-1981”, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1981, page 1. In the files of the author. [https://cdn.ymaws.com/pota.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/history/a\\_brief\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_phila.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/pota.site-ym.com/resource/resmgr/history/a_brief_history_of_the_phila.pdf).

“Article/illustrations: A Country House, Lebanon, Pa Bissel & Sinkler, Architects.” *AbeBooks.com*, <https://www.abebooks.com/magazines-periodicals/Articleillustrations-Country-House-Lebanon-Bissell-Sinkler/30959084495/bd>.

City of Philadelphia Records Department, PhilaDox, Document No. 50302274. Accessed 03/29/2024

“Elliston Perot Bissell 1872 – 1944.” University of Pennsylvania University Archives & Records Center. <https://archives.upenn.edu/exhibits/penn-people/biography/elliston-perot-bissell/>.

“Georgie Claiborne Watkins Yeatman.” *FindaGrave.com*. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146691967/georgie-claibourne-yeatman>.

“Girl is Philadelphia’s Flying City Architect,” *St. Petersburg Times*, February 6, 1937.

“Georgina Pope Yeatman,” *Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation*. <https://dna.bwaf.org/architect/yeatman-georgina-pope>.

“Georgina Pope Yeatman.” 1935. Press photograph. *Ebay*, <https://www.ebay.com/hk/itm/154293411330>.

“Georgina Yeatman Averts Crash in One-Wheel Plane,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 9, 1939, page 3. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/171360587/?terms=%22Georgina%20Pope%20Yeatman%22&match=1>. [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania].

Hamilton, Cynthia Rose. “Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy Building, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania”, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. In the files of the Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, 2003.

“Mayor Fills Posts on Four Boards,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 20, 1940, page 2. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/171368817/?terms=%22Georgina%20Pope%20Yeatman%22&match=1> [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania].

“Mrs. Pope Yeatman Dies: Civic Leader: Architect’s Mother Was Prominent In Club Circles.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, January 24, 1941, page 9. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-philadelphia-inquirer-mrs-pope-yeat/138865302/>. [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania].

Peters, Cristine O. [...]“The Philadelphia School of Occupational Therapy: A Centennial Lesson”, *Journal of Occupational Therapy Education*, vol.1, issue 1. January 2017. In the files of the author. <https://encompass.eku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1019&context=jote>.

“Philadelphia’s First Women Cabinet Member.” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, January 12, 1936, page 61.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/139078729/?terms=%22Georgina%20Pope%20Yeatman%22&match=1>. [St. Louis, Missouri].

“Pioneering Woman Architects in North Carolina.” *NCModernist*.

<https://www.ncmodernist.org/ncwomen.htm>.

“Pope Yeatman, Engineer, Dies.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 6, 1953, page 61, section B21. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-philadelphia-inquirer-pope-yeatman/138863643/>. [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania].

“Pope Yeatman.” *Hall of Valor by the Military Times*.

<https://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient/recipient-18396/>.

“Pope Yeatman, Sr.” *FindaGrave.com*.

[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146691861/pope\\_yeatman](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146691861/pope_yeatman).

Tatman, Sandra L. “Bissell, Elliston Perot (1872-1944).” *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, [https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar\\_display.cfm/24066](https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/24066).

Tatman, Sandra L. “Bissell & Sinkler (fl. 1906-c.1936).” *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, [https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar\\_display.cfm/23868](https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/23868).

Tatman, Sandra L. “Sinkler, John Penn Brock (1875-1959).” *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*, [https://www.americanbuildings.org/pab/app/ar\\_display.cfm/21524](https://www.americanbuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/21524).

Tatman, Sandra L. “Yeatman, Georgina Pope (1902-1982).” *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings*. [https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar\\_display.cfm/18771](https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/18771).

“What is Art Deco?” Art Deco Society of Los Angeles. <https://artdecola.org/what-is-art-deco>.

*Who’s Who in Philadelphia*. Stafford’s National News Service, volumes 1 and 2, 1925.

[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Who\\_s\\_who\\_in\\_Philadelphia/oOnTJJGBazkC?hl=en&gbpv=0](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Who_s_who_in_Philadelphia/oOnTJJGBazkC?hl=en&gbpv=0).

Woolley, Edward Mott. “The Justice of High Salaries: Edward Mott Woolley Shows Engineer Pope Yeatman Earns His One Hundred Thousand Dollars a Year.” *White Pine News Weekly Mining Review*, March 29, 1914, page 3. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/white-pine-news-weekly-mining-review-the/138864773/>. [East Ely, Nevada].

## **Credits**

Thanks to Hanna Stark of the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia for providing the most recent deed to the property at 1838-45 Lombard Street and for providing tips for how to fill out the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places form.

Thanks to the authors and editors of the Wikipedia pages on Georgina Pope Yeatman and Pope Yeatman for providing basic information and links to newspaper articles.