



Henry George Birthplace
 Philadelphia County
 Zone 18 N4421320 E486470

4424

4423

4422

4421

(CAMDEN)
5963 / NE

57'30"
 2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130
 ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

PHILADELPHIA CO
 CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA
 NEW JERSEY

PENN-CENTRAL

CAMDEN

CT 25 RECD

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Henry George Birthplace

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 413 South Tenth Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Philadelphia

N/A vicinity of

congressional district N/A

state Pennsylvania

code 42

county Philadelphia

code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Henry George School of Social Science

street & number 50 East 69th Street

city, town New York

N/A vicinity of

state New York

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Records of Transfer, Registry Unit, Depart. of Records

street & number City Hall

city, town Philadelphia

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Philadelphia Historical Commission has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 31 January 1961

federal state county local

depository for survey records 1313 City Hall Annex

city, town Philadelphia

state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henry George Birthplace and Boyhood Home, 413 South Tenth Street, is a three story brick row house laid up in Flemish bond. The street front of the Birthplace fills the 18'9" lot, sharing party walls with the structures adjoining the north and south. The house is a miniature version of the typical Philadelphia house layout of "front building" and "back building" with a connecting closed-in stairhall generally referred to as the "piazza." The ground floor of the front elevation has a single window centrally located and a doorway on the north side. On the southern side of the front elevation is an archhead alley entrance. At the second level a bay window sheathed in sheet metal projects from the second floor with three windows. A mansard roof in the late Victorian style has a gable dormer with two windows on the third floor. In the cellar wall is a single window.

The rear of the "back building" has a single window on the first floor and similar windows above the second and third floors. The rear of the "front building" has a window on the first floor, a bathroom addition on the second and a single window in the mansard.

The building as originally erected had a somewhat different appearance having a two and one-half story "front building", "back building" and "piazza" all in the late Federal period. The "front building" has been altered but the "back building" and "piazza" appeared originally much as it does today.

The descriptive material below supplements the careful 9-sheet set of detailed measured drawings prepared for the Historic American Building Survey.

Front Elevation (Sheet No. 5)

As will be seen by consulting the new measured drawings which accompany and are a part of this description, most of the Flemish bond brickwork remains, though drastic changes have been made at most of the openings. The original opening of the first floor front entrance had an elliptical top with a three light transom and an eight panel door. This was changed in the early 20th century to the present modern six panel door with a rectangular transom. The original front window has also been replaced and enlarged but remains in the same location. After some plaster removal on the interior wall

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Henry George Birthplace, Philadelphia County

Continuation sheet DESCRIPTION

Item number No. 7

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Page 1 of 2

of the front elevation we found the starter bricks of the elliptical arch and the ghostline of the original window opening and these are shown on the hypothetical rendering of the front elevation as of 1839. (HABS Set Sheet No.1) On the south side of the front facade is the original entrance to the side passageway. It has a wood lintel, the spandrel of which is infilled with brick. The present gate is of wrought iron.

At the second floor level a bay window sheathed with sheet metal projects from the second floor with three windows which are flanked by double pilasters. A decorative sheet metal cornice with a row of nailheads, brackets, rosettes, and large gutter head at either end crowns the bay window. To accommodate the bay window the two original twelve light windows had to be infilled and the original wood cornice removed. To gain space the original low gable attic roof and former windows were removed and replaced with a mansard roof in the late Victorian style. In the cellar wall is a single window superceding two earlier windows.

South Elevation (Sheet No. 8)

The south wall of the rear wing has retained most of the original openings. The Franklin Fire Insurance Survey of 1831 gives a detailed description of the interior and exterior and includes a plan showing the location of all openings on the ground floor. Checking the location of the openings on the Insurance Survey against the new measured floor plans assures us that the present openings are original. (APPENDIX IV).

The ground floor has a six panel door with a rectangular transom and one twelve light window. The second floor has a single twelve light window over the ground floor window. The third floor, which was added during the alteration to the front of the building, has one window similar in size and location to the window below. A plain brick eave and verge board crown the facade. In an areaway is one three light window to the cellar and the ghost line of a former window now infilled.

Rear Elevation (Sheet No. 5)

The east facade of the "back building" has a six panel door with a rectangular transom and one twelve light window on the ground floor. Similar windows in size and location

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Henry George Birthplace, Philadelphia County

Continuation sheet DESCRIPTION Item number No. 7

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Page 2 of 2

occur in the second and third floors. The cellar wall has a ghostline of the original cellar doorway with the show wood lintel intact.

Interior (Sheet No. 9)

The interior of the building has changed drastically over the years with little of the original trim remaining. The woodwork in the second floor rear is characteristic of the very early 19th century and may be the only original finishing intact. There is also the exposed framework in the cellar which may well be a part of the one story frame house built by Edward Harlin.

Original Setting

For more detailed information about the original configuration of the house and its site see APPENDIX I.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1801-1808

Builder/Architect Edward Harlin

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henry George Birthplace and boyhood home possesses major significance as the only surviving building connected with the internationally famous Henry George, journalist, social reformer, political economist, and philosopher. George was born on the second floor, front chamber of this house in 1839 and lived there for ten years.

George moved so frequently that, he observed, he seldom had to clean house. This was true of every city in which George lived. The only other known house connected with George in Philadelphia is No. 814 South Third Street. George lived there from 1849 to 1851. This house has been demolished. The only residence in San Francisco where George lived for any length of time is the house in which he wrote his most famous work, Progress and Poverty. This house has been razed. After Progress and Poverty, the always active George embarked on many international lecture tours taking him as far as Australia leaving little time for setting up house. His last known residence, Fort Hamilton, New York (now Brooklyn), is also extinct.

At the age of sixteen, George went to sea and jumped ship in San Francisco. The only residence where George lived for any length of time is the house in which he wrote his most famous work, Progress and Poverty. No. 417 First Street was George's home from 1877 to 1879. The house has been razed.

After Progress and Poverty, the always active George embarked on many international lecture tours taking him as far as Australia leaving little time for setting up house. His last known residence was on 99th and Shore Road, Fort Hamilton, New York (now Brooklyn), from 1896 to 1897. Although George's last residence, George did not die there; rather, he died in a New York hotel suffering a stroke after a speech. The Brooklyn residence is also extinct.

The Henry George Birthplace also possesses major significance as the only poor man's Philadelphia row house that has survived from this period and has been studied using careful graphic analysis and documentary research. Such humble structures are not generally studied because they have no pretensions to style. Although a significant percentage of the Early American population found shelter in simple buildings they have mostly disappeared through the years. These studies are summed up in 9 record drawings in accordance with the high standards of the Historic American Building Survey. These drawings represent a significant addition to the HABS collection and this

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Henry George Birthplace, Philadelphia County

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

significance is clearly stated by Mr. Robert Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, in his letter accepting the donation of the measured drawings of the Henry George Birthplace and boyhood home. (See Appendix II).

While this building has been altered from its George-related period appearance, the exceptional significance of George, the lack of other sites associated with his life and the fact that it contains information and material from his period justifies the history of this property in the National Register.

Please read Appendix III for an explanation of Henry George's part in and contributions to American Politics, Economics and History.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet Titled Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .03
Quadrangle name Philadelphia/New Jersey

Quadrangle scale 1"=2400'

UTM References

A

1	8	4	8	6	4	7	0	4	4	2	1	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies city lot 114 on Plan 3S12 and measures 18' - 9" X 72' - 6".

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state PA code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles E. Peterson FAIA/James S. Collins

organization N/A

date October 15, 1982

street & number 8009½ St. Martins Lane

telephone 215-242-3176

city or town Philadelphia

state PA 19118

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/7/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Henry George Birthplace, Philadelphia County

Continuation sheet Bibliographical Ref.

Item number No. 9

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

Page 1 of 1

Information obtained from Records of transfer, Registry Unit, Department of Records, Plan 3 S 12, lots 114 & 84.

Baker, Charles A., Henry George. Oxford University Press, N.Y., 1955.

Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. VII, Scribners, N.Y., 1937, pp. 211-215.

Franklin Fire Insurance Survey, October 8, 1831. Policy No. 371.

George, Henry, Jr., The Works of Henry George. Doubleday and McClure Co., N.Y. 1900.

Watson, John Fanning, Annals of Philadelphia, E. L. Carey & A. Hart, Philadelphia. 1830.

Will of Edward Harlin dec'd. No. 105 Recorded in the Will Book No. 7 folio-184. 1820.