

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Philadelphia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Clarkson-Watson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bank of Germantown

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
5275-77 Germantown Ave.

CITY OR TOWN:
Philadelphia

STATE: Penna. CODE: 5142 COUNTY: Philadelphia CODE: 101

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Germantown Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
5214 Germantown Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Penna. CODE: 5142

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Department of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Penna. CODE: 5142

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Germantown Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1952-53 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Germantown Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
5214 Germantown Ave.

CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Penna. CODE: 5142

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Penna.

COUNTY: Phila.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original structure was built about 1740-50. At that time it had a pentaave. It also had pointed stonework and molded window sills. Several alterations have been made throughout the history of this building. In 1770's engaged columns, triangular pediment, Tuscan frontispiece added directly over the original pointing of front wall and rough caste stucco on the exterior were the major changes.

In the decade between 1820-30 heavy shutters were added as part of the installation of what became known as the Bank of Germantown. During the Victorian Era once again the pediment of the 1770's was reapplied over new stucco work. Victorian brackets were added instead of the engaged columns. Bulk windows and additional doors were added to front of the building at different times.

The house is a combination of 2 buildings, two and a half stories high with a full cellar. The original building was the rectangular front portion which measures 38 feet in width and 32 feet deep. There is a brick addition in the rear and a wood shed which are recent additions.

In 1952 the left side of the house was intact, except for the removal of a partition in the front room. The right side had been altered to accomodate a beauty parlor on the first floor and apartments upstairs.

Most of the flooring, the bolts, locks and hinges are original in the older part of the house. Items of particular interest in the left side of the house are the stair railing and the arch in the entrance hall.

The present owners of the building, the Germantown Historical Society, have been responsible for the renovation of the Bank of Germantown according to the 1770's appearance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | <u>financial</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The structure located at 5275-5277 Germantown Avenue was built around 1740-50. Its earliest use was as a private home. Between 1792 and 1796 it was the residence of Matthew Clarkson, a former Philadelphia mayor. During the Yellow Fever Epidemic in 1793 the offices of the Federal government were located in Germantown. At that time the Clarkson home was visited by the secretary of state, Thomas Jefferson, as well as Edmund Randolph, the first attorney general of the United States.

In the nineteenth century when the structure was adapted to serve as the Bank of Germantown, John Fanning Watson, Philadelphia's first historian, was a resident and worked as a cashier of the Bank, (1814-1847). As a resident of Germantown, Watson became deeply interested in the colonial history of that area. In 1830, he published an 800 page volume entitled, "Annals of Philadelphia!" Today this publication is considered a valuable source of regional reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hocker, Edward, Germantown, 1683-1933. Philadelphia: Published by the Author, 1933.
 Keyser, Kain, et al, History of Old Germantown. Philadelphia: Horace McCann, 1907.
 Philadelphia Historical Commission, File with Brief of Title, photos, etc.
 Tinkcom, Tinkcom and Simon, Historic Germantown. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		39°	01'	53"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		75°	10'	06"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *Less than one acre*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joanne Boylan, student-intern

ORGANIZATION: Philadelphia Historical Commission DATE: 1-20-71

STREET AND NUMBER: 1313 City Hall Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Philadelphia STATE: Penna. CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *John J. ...*

State Liaison Officer

Title: Deputy Executive Director,
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum
Commission

Date: 6/11/72

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

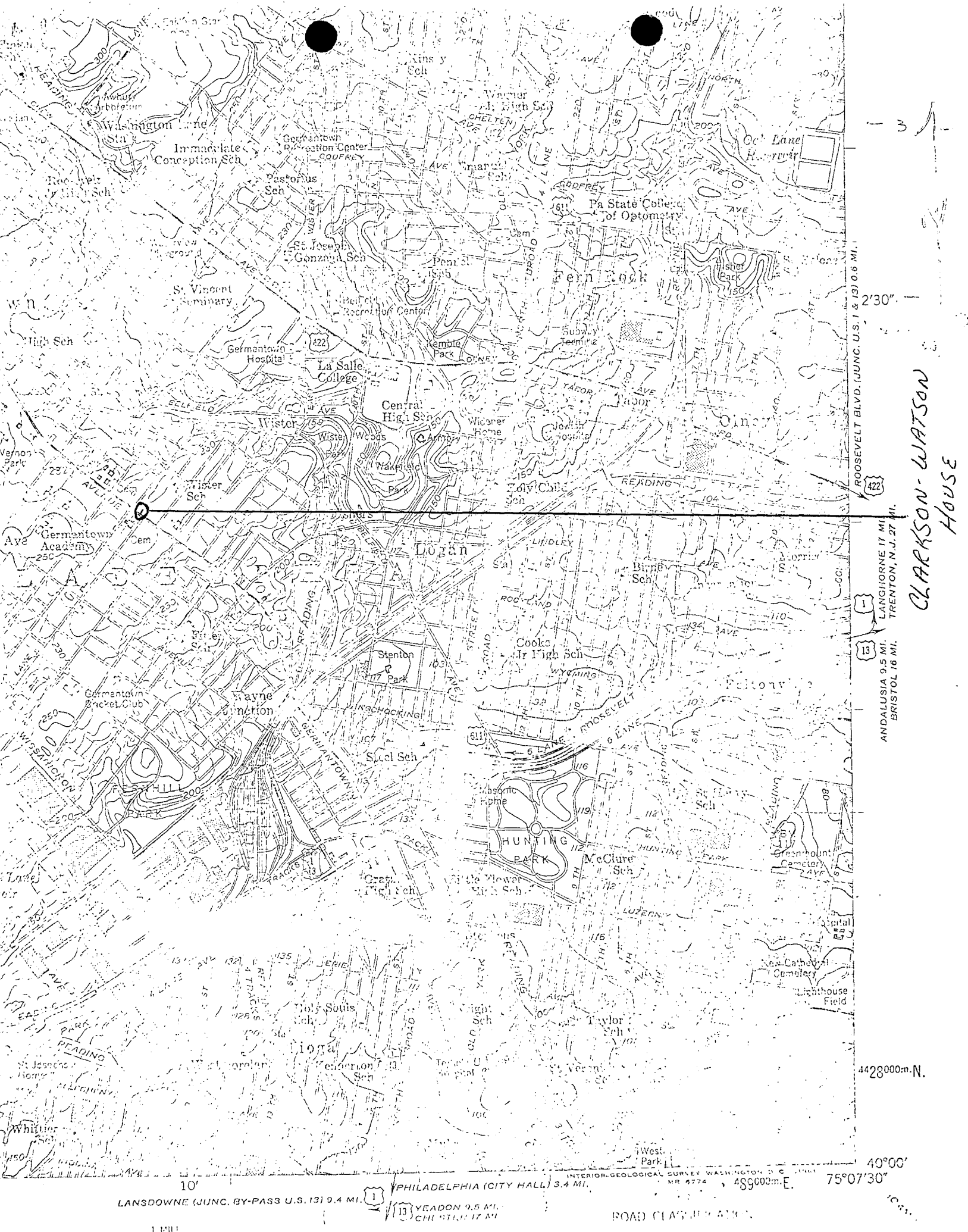
Date: _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



CLARKSON-WATSON HOUSE

ROOSEVELT BLVD. (UNCL. U.S. 1 & 13) 0.6 MI.

ANDALUSIA 9.5 MI.
BRISTOL 16 MI.

LANGHORNE 17 MI.
TRENTON, N. J. 27 MI.

4428000m.N.

10' 40°00' 75°07'30"

LANSDOWNE (JUNC. BY-PASS U.S. 13) 9.4 MI. PHILADELPHIA (CITY HALL) 3.4 MI. INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C. 20508 MR 4774 489002m.E.

YEADON 9.5 MI. CHILISTON 17 MI. ROAD CLASSIFICATION