

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Green Tree Tavern**

RECEIVED

AND/OR COMMON **Marlborough Inn**

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **260-262 East Girard Avenue**

Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN **Philadelphia**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT **3**

STATE **Pennsylvania**

VICINITY OF
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Sidney Markind**

STREET & NUMBER **260-262 East Girard Avenue**

CITY, TOWN **Philadelphia**

VICINITY OF

STATE **Pennsylvania**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER **Philadelphia City Hall**

CITY, TOWN **Philadelphia**

STATE **Pennsylvania**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED
 —RUINS
 —UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 —MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Green Tree Tavern (now the Marlborough Inn) is a four-story brick building on a stone ashlar foundation with a low hipped front roof, rear shed roofs, and a central octagonal belvedere. It measures approximately 33 feet (four bays) front on Girard Avenue by 54 feet (five bays) deep on Marlborough Street.

Its most striking features are its octagonal belvedere with its twin squarish windows on each side and the cornice above fourth floor on the north and east sides facing the intersecting streets. The cornice is composed of fluted consoles resting on a narrow molding and supporting a wide four-part molding. Squarish fourth-floor casement windows and shield-like wooden plaques fill alternate metopes (the spaces between the consoles). (Photos 1,2,3)

Except for the board shutters (added in 1962) on the symmetrically arranged upper-story six-over-six sliding sash windows, all of the twentieth-century alterations have been made at the ground level. One element that has not been substantially altered is a ground-floor doorway (Photo 4) near the center of the east facade. Classical in design, it consists of two monolithic stone Tuscan pilasters and a stone double architrave. The present door and transom date from the mid-twentieth century, but a transom probably was present originally.

On the north facade (Photo 1) ground floor two sash doors with metal canopies flank two rectangular windows (each approximately 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches) of single panes surrounded by glass blocks. These windows were once much larger; in 1962 they were reduced in size and an iron lintel with rosettes was placed in the brick approximately two feet above each window. The western (right) doorway, which leads to the upper floors, appears to be original; it has a single marble step. The eastern door (left) and its two concrete steps date from 1962 and lead to the ground-story saloon. A marble water table extends between the two doors.

Three rectangular single-pane windows (approximately 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches) with wooden frames and the aforementioned doorway with the Tuscan frontispiece are on the ground floor of the eastern side facing Marlborough Street. (Photos 1,3) These elements are not arranged symmetrically. One window is near the rear (southeast) corner, above a cellar entrance; the other two, above small cellar windows, are north (right) of the doorway with the northernmost one approximately twelve feet from the front (northeast) corner. Before 1962 these windows were about the same size as the second-floor windows. Before 1962 the northeast corner was beveled, as suggested by the wide stuccoed area (probably a girder) above the blank brick of the east wall and around the corner over the saloon entrance. (Photo 1) An iron column, probably dating from the late nineteenth century, still supports the corner, but is now boxed in inside the saloon vestibule.

The building's plan is not precisely rectangular. The eastern side, for a width of approximately 18 feet, is approximately 54 feet long. The western part, approximately 15 feet wide, is about 33 feet long with a two-story rear extension about 11 feet long; a one-story shed-roof kitchen wing (approximately 15 feet wide by 14 feet) was built at the rear in 1913. The south end of the building is blank except for a one-over-one sliding sash window on each floor. (Photo 3) A saloon is on the ground floor; rented rooms are on the upper floors.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Neighboring buildings are contemporaneous with the former Green Tree Tavern. The buildings adjoining the tavern's west side were evidently erected at the same time as the hotel, in the 1840's. They were built as stores and dwellings, a function they retain. (Photo 2) The buildings on the north side of Girard Avenue (Photo 5) were probably built about a decade later. The dwellings on Marlborough Street south of the tavern date from the Civil War era (Photo 1), and the two-and-a-half-story house adjoining the tavern's lot (Photo 3) may even be older than the tavern.

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 type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Between 1838 and 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT probably Joseph Singerly

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For more than a century and a quarter the Green Tree Tavern (now the Marlborough Inn) has been a local hostelry in Philadelphia's Kensington section, making it one of the oldest hotels in the city. It was probably designed and built in the 1840's by Joseph Singerly, a highly successful local architect and builder.

Kensington developed during the colonial period as a commercial neighborhood along the Delaware River north of the City of Philadelphia. By 1820 Kensington was large enough to be organized as a district in Philadelphia County; thirty-four years later it and other county districts and boroughs were formally consolidated with the City of Philadelphia. The area's many creeks encouraged local industry almost from the beginning of Europeans' presence there. Philadelphia's first extensive cotton mill, for example, opened in Kensington in 1804, and a century later some of Philadelphia's largest industrial complexes were located in this area. Kensington was, and remains, a workingman's neighborhood.

With the rise of railroads after the mid-1830's Frankford Road no longer was the primary overland route between New York and Philadelphia. As Frankford Road declined in importance so did its many inns, to be rivaled by major cross streets with their corner taverns. One of those streets was Girard Avenue. It not only connected Kensington with the former Spring Garden district and after 1874 with West Philadelphia but also served as the site for a farmers market. The eastern section of Franklin Avenue Market, as it was known for decades, extended along Girard Avenue between Frankford Road and Crown Street, one block east of the tavern. Evidently in existence since the 1840's, the market was mentioned in city guides by 1852 and in city ordinances after the 1854 consolidation. The market provided first the stimulus for developing the Girard Avenue property and then the clientele for the resultant Green Tree Tavern, whose name was changed at the end of the nineteenth century to the more appropriate Farmers Hotel. After a market house was built farther west on Girard Avenue in the early twentieth century, the Franklin Avenue Market was discontinued and the former tavern became a corner saloon helping to preserve the male and ethnic values of its working-class neighborhood.

Joseph Singerly, a well established local builder who also advertised as an architect, acquired the hotel and adjoining store-dwellings in 1850. Since he purchased the property from an uncle, it is probable that Singerly both designed and built the tavern and stores. (The purchase price and deed descriptions indicate that the structures were built between 1838 and 1850.) There is no indication

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

that Singerly lived in or operated the tavern. It evidently was one of his many investment properties, which contributed to his comfortable income. An inventory of his estate, for example, listed 84 properties, and his will, written in 1876, bequeathed \$35,700 to family members in addition to annuities of \$1200 to his wife and \$600 to his widowed daughter-in-law.

The former Green Tree Tavern has not changed a great deal over the years. In 1913 the one-story brick kitchen wing was added to the rear of its western section, and a stairway was changed to connect with the side entrance. No more changes were made until 1941, when a new front door was installed. In 1962 the beveled corner, which probably had been cut out in the last quarter of the nineteenth century, was filled in to form a vestibule. Also the ground-floor windows were reduced and reinforced with iron lintels.

See Continuation Sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	4 8 8 7 0 0	4 4 2 4 1 5 8	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies plot plan 17N11, city lot 65. It is 33 feet 3 inches front on the southeast side of Girard Avenue by 58 feet 3 inches deep along the northwest side of Marlborough Street, at the southwest corner of Girard Avenue and Marlborough Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard J. Webster, Professor of History and American Studies

ORGANIZATION

West Chester State College

DATE

28 November 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE 215-436-2995

215-399-0784

CITY OR TOWN

West Chester

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

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Department of Licenses and Inspection. City of Philadelphia.

Deed Books IC-5, pp. 89-90; IC-10, pp. 18-20; SHF-26, pp. 142-45; GWC-66, pp.
394-96; JV-70, pp. 267-70. Department of Records. City of Philadelphia.

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Philadelphia: King & Baird, 1869.

Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory, 1901. Philadelphia: James Gopsill's
Sons, 1901.

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Company, 1916-1978. Vol. 3.

Inventory of Estate of Joseph Singerly, Deceased. Administration 406, 30 March
1899. Register of Wills. City of Philadelphia.

Last Will and Testament of Joseph Singerly. Will 745, 22 October 1878.
Register of Wills. City of Philadelphia.

McElroy's Philadelphia Directory for 1850. Philadelphia: Edward C. & John
Biddle, 1850.

Philadelphia: A Guide to the Nation's Birthplace. Philadelphia: William Penn
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Philadelphia As It Is in 1852. Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston, 1852.

Registry Unit, plot plan 17 N 11, city lots 61-65. Department of Records.
City of Philadelphia.

Watson, John F. Annals of Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania, in the Olden Time.
Enlarged, revised by Willis P. Hazard. Philadelphia: Edwin S. Stuart, 1884.

Webster, Richard J. Philadelphia Preserved: Catalog of the Historic American
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PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY

2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130 MI.
ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

PENN. CENTRAL
(CAMDEN)
5963 1 NE

4425

4424

4423

57°30"

4422

4421