

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

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

USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING

1 NAME

HISTORIC John C. Graham Factory and Laird, Schober and Mitchell Factory  
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of 19th Street between Hamilton  
and Buttonwood Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
3rd

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
42

COUNTY Philadelphia CODE 101

3 CLASSIFICATION

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PRESENT USE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Franklinton Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

3 Benjamin Franklin Parkway

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Philadelphia City Hall, Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Broad and Market Streets

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE  
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

11/23/77

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE  
Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Of the two principal buildings on the block, the Graham factory of 1885 - 6 is the more severe, though tall floor heights and generous windows do much to relieve the spartan industrial form. On the principal 19th Street facade and continuing around on the Hamilton Street side the wall is handled in what was by then the traditional factory solution. Straightforward piers projecting from the wall plane frame recessed panels containing segmentally arched windows. At the top, the whole is crowned by a dentilled brick cornice which joins panel and pier, unifying the building. Direct, rational and dignified, it was architecture of this sort that proved suggestive to Louis Sullivan and more recently to Louis Kahn, whose Exeter Library is clearly dependent on Philadelphia brick industrial design.

Inside, the Graham factory is as direct. Heavy timber framing forms the principal internal structural system, though the frame is made hybrid by the encasing of the vertical timbers that form the central spine with rolled iron U channels that are bolted together through the wood. They are joined to the principal girders by trapezoidal iron plates, larger at the top than the bottom, which recall the flaring capitals of classical architecture, while serving as a primitive diagonal brace for the joint.

To the north on 19th Street another factory was erected five years later for the shoe manufacturers, Laird, Schober and Mitchell. Like the Graham factory, it is of brick with the principal facade divided into seven bays by projecting piers that again represent the internal structural frame. But, where the Graham factory had remained largely uninflected, the shoe factory was elaborated, indicating the incorporation of the place of production into the aggressive commercial world which sociologist Thorstein Veblen would discuss in the Theory of the Leisure Class. To that end of giving identity and a touch of style, the architects, Geisinger and Hales, enlarged the piers of the central bay and raised upon them a low square tower capped with a copper pyramidal roof, thereby marking the entrance and giving the building a more interesting silhouette. In addition they added a major belt course above the first floor windows to establish a base for the piers which, capped with stylized Ionic capitals, become pilasters, joining the building to the classical tradition then being revived. Other motifs, particularly the eyebrow dormers of the tower roof, and the rounded terminal blocks for the belt course and cornice are strongly reminiscent of Burnham and Root's industrial buildings in Chicago, indicating an awareness by the architects of contemporary midwest design.

The interior is not unlike the Graham factory, again depending on wood framing carried on a structural spine of massive wood timbers. With the exception of additional pipes, wiring and so on the interiors are largely as constructed; the principal change is an addition which closes off the central light court on the east side.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Graham- 185-6 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Graham - unknown  
Laird, etc. 1891 Hales  
Laird, etc: Geisinger and

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

By the middle of the 19th Century, Philadelphia justly claimed for itself the title of the nation's workshop. Whenever moderately priced land could be obtained in close proximity to river or rail transit a manufacturing district could be anticipated, and because the 19th century was only beginning to change from the customary intermingling of work and residence such factory districts were often situated within a block or two of fashionable houses. Contemporary factory planning prefers highway sites and one level buildings and augmented by contemporary preferences for the separation of residence from work is resulting in the gradual elimination of the mid city factory district, making it increasingly difficult for the present to comprehend the generating forces of contemporary cities.

The factory buildings on 19th street were a part of such a factory strip, one that in 1880 paralleled Pennsylvania Avenue railroad tracks from the Schuylkill River to Broad Street, and culminated in the great factory blocks (now demolished) of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. The Graham factory replaced an earlier building at 513 Cherry Street which had been outmoded by the increased demand for dress and upholstery trimmings while the Laird, Schober and Mitchell factory was moved from its 1133 Arch Street address by the upheaval surrounding the construction of the new Philadelphia and Reading terminal. The buildings are, thus, representatives of the urban forces manipulating real estate and work in the 19th century industrial city.

In addition to reflecting the growth and use of the region below Spring Garden Street, the factories are worthy of note as handsome examples of nineteenth century factory design which has stimulated much interest on the part of American architects ranging from Sullivan to Kahn. These buildings can serve as reminders but also as active participants if adaptively reused in a creative manner, thereby preserving the copper roofed tower and the massive walls as focal points in a redeveloping region.

Finally, the Laird, Schober and Mitchell factory is of significance as one of the earliest surviving works of one of the great American factory architectural firms. Trading later as the Ballinger Company, they will invent the saw toothed roof and the "superspan truss," as well as many of the standard safety devices, among them the firewalled safety tower, an early version of which appears here. The obvious Chicago sources suggest the influences of the new architectural publications in spreading visual motifs, and broaden our understanding of the influences on the development of Geisinger and Hales.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

For Laird, Schober and Mitchell factory, Builder, Decorator and Woodworker, vol. XV:6 (February 1891) p. 2.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 8	4, 8, 15, 1, 0	44, 2, 33, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is bounded on the north by Buttonwood Street, on the south by Hamilton Street and on the west by 19th Street. It extends eastward 210 feet to the end of the building.

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

George E. Thomas, Ph. D.

6 November 1977

ORGANIZATION

Clio Group

DATE  
215-386-6276

STREET & NUMBER

3920 Pine Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia,

STATE

Pa.

## 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

*William J. Wewer*

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director

DATE

3/17/78

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

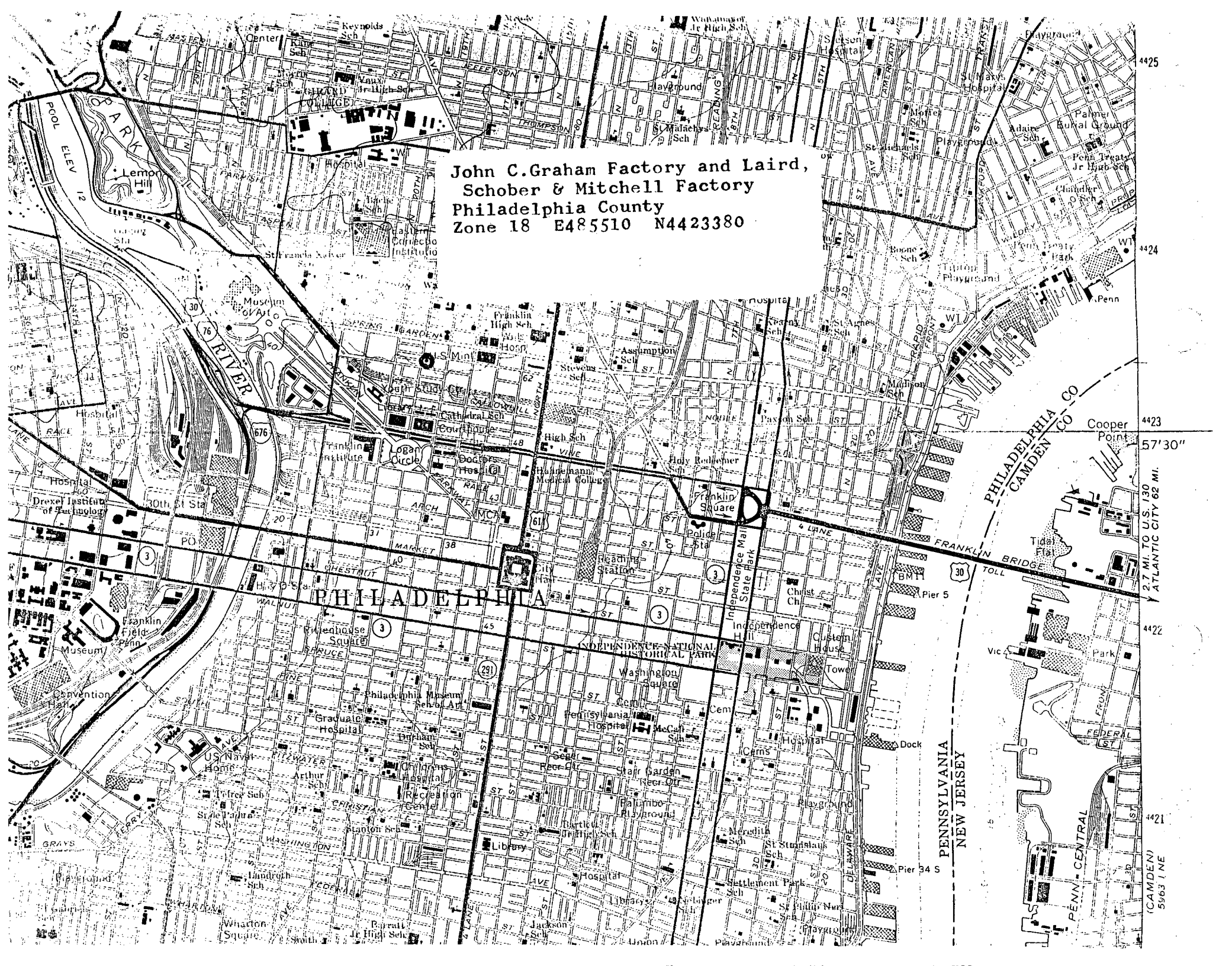
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**John C. Graham Factory and Laird,  
Schober & Mitchell Factory  
Philadelphia County  
Zone 18 E485510 N4423380**



4425

4424

4423

4422

4421

Cooper Point  
57°30"

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

(CAMDEN)  
5963 I NE

PHILADELPHIA CO  
CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA  
NEW JERSEY

PENN - CENTRAL