

FOR N USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Francis McIlvain House  
AND/OR COMMON  
1924 Arch Street

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
1924 Arch Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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  
Harry Newmark

STREET & NUMBER  
1924 Arch Street

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Philadelphia City Hall

STREET & NUMBER  
Broad and Markets

CITY, TOWN  
Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE  
7/24/78

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN  
Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

# DESCRIPTION

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

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

The house built for Francis McIlvain at 1924 Arch Street is three and one half stories high, twenty six feet wide and one hundred and fifty feet long. It was constructed in brick with wood joists and faced with ashlar brownstone. As was the fashion after the Civil War, the facade was detailed in a Second Empire style. This style is expressed in the bracketed mansard roof which is pierced by pilastered and arch-crowned dormers, in the heavily framed arched windows on the first, second and third floors and in the pilastered main door surround that is topped by an arched pediment supported on brackets. Within the surround are two boldly carved, black walnut doors-- with deep foliated bosses-- that are identical to a set made for the Charles T. Parry house at 1921 Arch Street. The Parry doors, now at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, have been attributed to Philadelphia's pre-eminent cabinet maker of the late nineteenth century, Daniel Pabst; those for 1924 Arch Street are probably by the same hand. The patching of the surround and the removal of the exterior brownstone stairs and newels to accommodate a change in street level are the only facade alterations.

The interior originally was planned with a vestibule, a side hall and two parlors on the first floor; a master bedroom and probably a sitting room on the second; childrens' rooms on the third; and servants' quarters and a billiard parlor under the mansard. Today, the first two floors are used as offices; an apartment and storage space occupy the upper levels. Despite the alterations some of the interior detailing survives. Most significant are the paneled vestibule doors which complement those on the exterior, the turned post balustrade on the main stair and the complex plaster ceiling mouldings on the first and second floors. In addition, the first floor rear bay is set off by a plaster arch which rests on two foliated plaster consoles. Finally, the attic billiard parlor remains basically unchanged. Alternating panels of matched grain and burl pattern veneer, seperated by fancy gilded mouldings, line the walls. An intricate foliated and geometric ceiling medallion with an original gas fixture still hangs overhead.

# 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In March of 1868, Francis McIlvain purchased two lots on the south side of Arch Street, west of Broad, from James L. Claghorn. Philadelphia directories for the period show that by 1870 McIlvain, as well as his son-in-law Ferdinand L. Fetherston, had taken up residence at 1924 Arch Street. An identical brownstone on the adjoining lot (now demolished) also was built by McIlvain, presumed as an investment property. It was sold to Charles McFassen in 1871.

Francis McIlvain owned and operated the F. McIlvain and Company Iron Foundry on Washington Avenue in South Philadelphia. His son-in-law Fetherston was equally successful as publisher of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, a paper he held in partnership with Gibson Peacock. As businessmen both McIlvain and Fetherston were members in good standing of the professional and high white collar community that developed along Arch Street after the Civil War. United States Decennial Census manuscripts from 1870 and 1880 show an area populated by engineers, lawyers, merchants and manufacturers. Charles T. Parry, a partner in Baldwin Locomotive Works lived across the street. On the McIlvain side resided among others John McGlensey of John McGlensey and Sons, grocers; Henry and Albert Harris of H. G. and A. G. Harris, lawyers; John Ogden of Ogden Brothers, woolen goods and Edmund Wright of Wright Brothers, makers of umbrellas and parasols. Their houses formed an impressive collection of brick and brownstone fronts that reflected the character and taste of an urban middle class. Like McIlvain's Second Empire-styled house, the dwellings were always current and proper-- never too foward or loud.

Today the west Arch Street section is largely commercial and slightly neglected. The completion of the Broad Street Station viaduct in 1881 severed a connection between Arch Street and the center city residential neighborhoods to the south. The construction of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in the early twentieth century eliminated the adjacent residential neighborhood to the north. And most of the houses that lined Arch Street since have been demolished or altered with storefronts. The Francis McIlvain house stands as one of the few survivors and as such represents both a neighborhood now mostly lost and the urban class which lived there. The owners intention to restore the house would greatly enhance this role.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

United States Decennial Manuscripts for Philadelphia, 1870-80.

Gopsill's Philadelphia City Directory, Philadelphia, 1870.

J. T. Scharf and T. Westcott, History of Philadelphia. 1609-1884, Philadelphia, 1884, III, 2017-18.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .08

QUADRANGLE NAME Phila., Pa. - N. J.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 485295 4422600

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 80 feet east of the east side of 20th Street and extending 26 feet eastward along Arch Street, then 150 feet southward to alley, then 26 feet westward, then 150 feet northward to beginning.

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

Carl E. Doebley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Clio Group

DATE

June 15, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

3920 Pine Street

TELEPHONE

Ev6-6272

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

*Ed Weintraub*

TITLE Ed Weintraub, Director  
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE 9/25/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

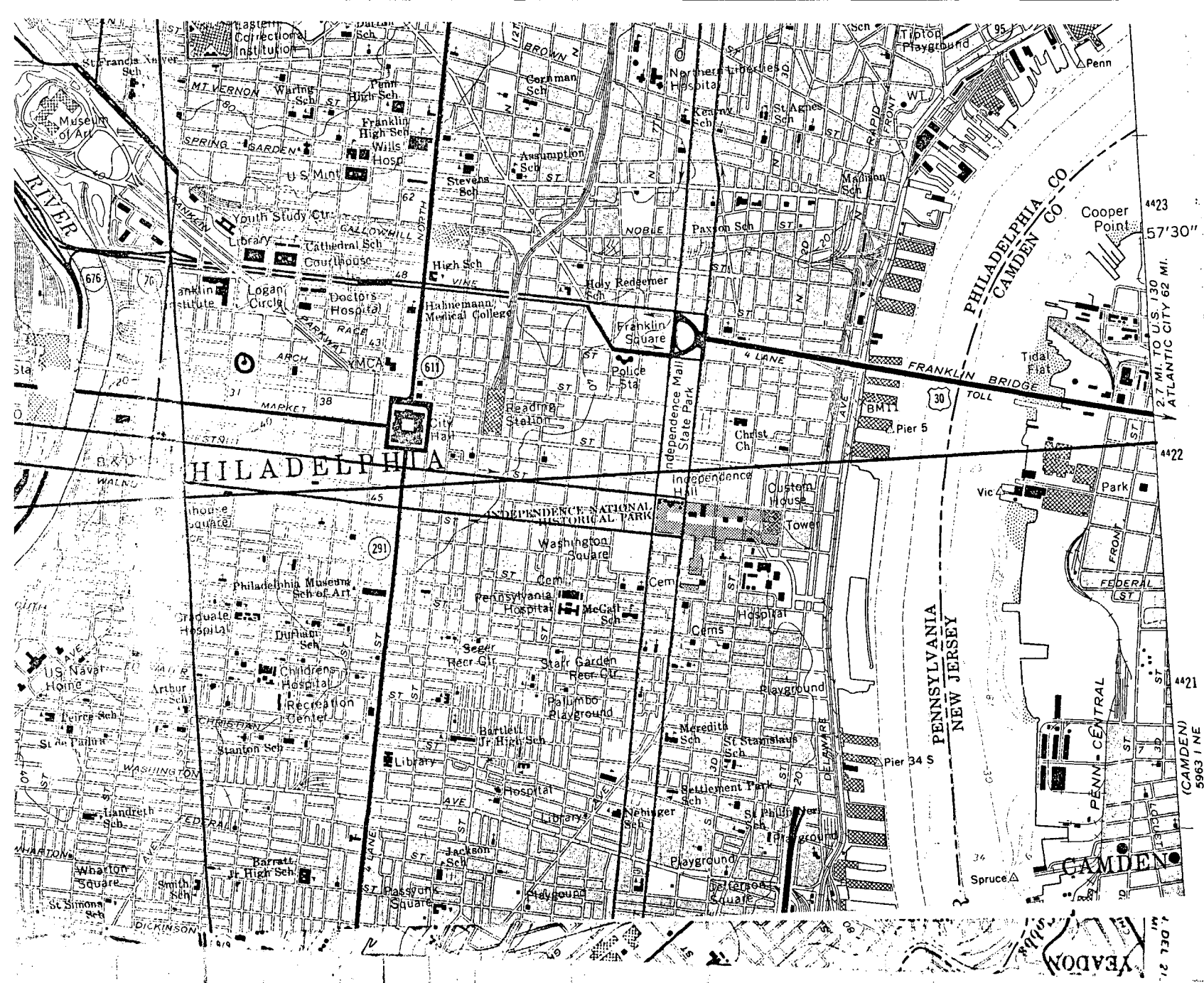
DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Francis McIlvain House  
 Philadelphia County  
 Zone 18 E485295 N4422600

4423  
 57°30"  
 2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130  
 ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.  
 4422  
 4421  
 5963 1 NE  
 (CAMDEN)  
 1 DEL 21