

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS 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 Portico Row

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 900-930 Spruce Street

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia VICINITY OF 3

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple ownership, including the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority.

STREET & NUMBER See continuation sheet.

CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry Unit, Department of Records

STREET & NUMBER City Hall, Room 153

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey
Philadelphia Historical Commission

DATE 1976 1958 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress
Philadelphia Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.
Philadelphia Pa.

7 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Portico Row is a block of 16 row houses, designed as eight mirror-image pairs, built between 1831 and 1832 along the south side of Spruce Street from 9th to 10th Streets in the vicinity of historic Clinton Street and Pennsylvania Hospital.

Designed by Thomas Ustick Walter in the Greek Revival style, the Spruce Street facade was a continuous three storey brick wall resting on a half storey marble watertable. Paired flights of marble stairs rose this half storey to entrance porticos, each of which served two houses. The portico was defined by three unfluted marble columns with Greek Ionic capitals supporting a simple marble entablature. Delicate iron railings resting on marble sills defined the property line between the pairs of stairs. The iron work also served as handrails on the stairs and divided each portico in half.

Each house had two windows in the marble half storey which lighted the cellar. On the entrance level above were two 6/6 windows, finely detailed with simple marble lintels and sills. The two remaining storeys had three similar 6/6 windows each. Above the brick cornice line was a single wooden dormer set in a sloping slate roof. Gutters and rainspouts were tin, except on the street facade where copper was used.

Each unit consisted of a 25' wide by 52' deep main block connected by a piazza to a 17' by 47' or 16' by 34' service wing. Since the units were mirror images these three storey brick wings and piazzas formed T-shaped rear yards along Cypress Street. In some cases, lower additions were made to the ends of the wings, further extending the building.

Interiors of the main block were finely detailed, including highly polished marble fireplaces, yellow pine floors, walnut or mahogany doors and trims, and ornamental plasterwork. Floors in the kitchen area of the service wing were of brown flagstone, and the cellar floor cement or brick. All walls, including the attic and cellar were plastered, although only those of the main three storeys were ornamented. Even waterclosets throughout the house were of walnut with marble floors.

In recent years, little has been done to maintain Portico Row, and its condition has deteriorated. Fortunately, this lack of attention has made restoration relatively easy as few major alterations have been made to the existing structure.

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 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 1831 - 1832 BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Savage/Thomas U. Walter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Portico Row is the last surviving example of its type of housing in Philadelphia. Built as a speculative housing development by John Savage, a merchant who had owned all the land on this block, this row was designed by Thomas Ustick Walter, who was also responsible for the dome and wings of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. Conceived and executed as a single entity, it finds precedents in the squares and terraces of London, Bath, Dublin as well as in the surrounding streets of an increasingly prosperous Philadelphia. The first on the north side of the 700 block of Walnut Street, 1799, (Benjamin Latrobe, architect) was built by William Sansom who completed the venture with a corresponding row on the south side of Sansom Street (Thomas Carstairs, architect). York Row, on the south side of Walnut Street (Nos. 712-716) followed in 1807. Robert Mills' Franklin Row of 1809 on the west side of Ninth Street between Locust and Walnut Streets and Carolina Row on the north side of Spruce Street (Nos. 925, 929-33) of 1812-15 were additional examples of the evolution of the row.

Colonnade Row, on the south side of Chestnut Street between 15th and 16th Streets in 1830 by John Haviland immediately antedated Portico Row. A continuous row of Ionic columns were built on the first level. This was a clear attempt to unify and enhance the scale and significance of the row in an historically aware manner. The Portico Row houses receive an analogous motif. This formal treatment and richness of material reflected the high-minded and sober aspirations and habits of the people who came to live there.

Portico Row was typical of housing developed for the upper middle class. The original owners included doctors, lawyers and merchants. Two residents of particular note were Commodore Isaac Hull (USN), Commander of Old Ironsides during the War of 1812 who lived (and died in 1843) at No. 5 Portico Square (908 Spruce Street) and Mrs. Sarah Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, a prominent home and fashion publication of the late 19th century. The social prominence of the residents continued until the turn of the century when the wealthier classes moved westward. Presently Portico Row is a series of boarding houses.

Portico Row represents the development of a particular urban architectural concept as well as an example of early 19th century upper-middle class housing; it assumes added importance as the only remaining row of its original scale and appearance.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leffell, J. et. al. The Portico Row Development: An Investment Opportunity Analysis (report for Wharton School course BA 721, May, 1975).

Murtagh, W.J. "The Philadelphia Row House," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, XVI (Dec. 1957).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.27

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	4,8,6	4,9,0	4,4,2	15,5,0	B	1,8	4,8,6	6,0,0	4,4,2	15,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the southwest corner of Ninth and Spruce Streets west along the south side of Spruce Street to the southeast corner of Tenth and Spruce Streets, thence south on Tenth Street to the northeast corner of Cypress and Tenth Streets, thence east along the north side of Cypress Street to the northwest corner of Cypress and Ninth Streets, thence north along the west side of Ninth Street to the starting point.

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

Linda Beacham, Barbara Playle, and Matla Wiener

ORGANIZATION

Department of Architecture

DATE

12 May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

University of Pennsylvania

TELEPHONE

215-243-5728

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

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

[Handwritten Signature] 6/13/77

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE four

Philadelphia City Directory. Philadelphia: A. McElroy, 1837, 1866

Philadelphia Historical Commission Records, City Hall Annex,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Tatum, G.B. Penn's Great Town. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1961.

Teitelman, E. and R. Longstreth. Architecture in Philadelphia: A Guide;
Cambridge: MIT Press, 1974

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ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE one

900 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

902 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

904 Spruce Street
904 Spruce Street Associates
A Limited Partnership
1324 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

906 Spruce Street
Vincent J. Tums and William J. Manfredi
1135 Land Title Building
S.W. Corner Broad and Chestnut Streets
Philadelphia, Pa. 19110

908 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

910 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

912 Spruce Street
Herman Hoffman & Blanche
600 Conshohocken St. Road
Narberth, Pennsylvania

914 Spruce Street
Herman Hoffman & Blanche

916 Spruce Street
Richard H. Orr
1701 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

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918 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

920 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

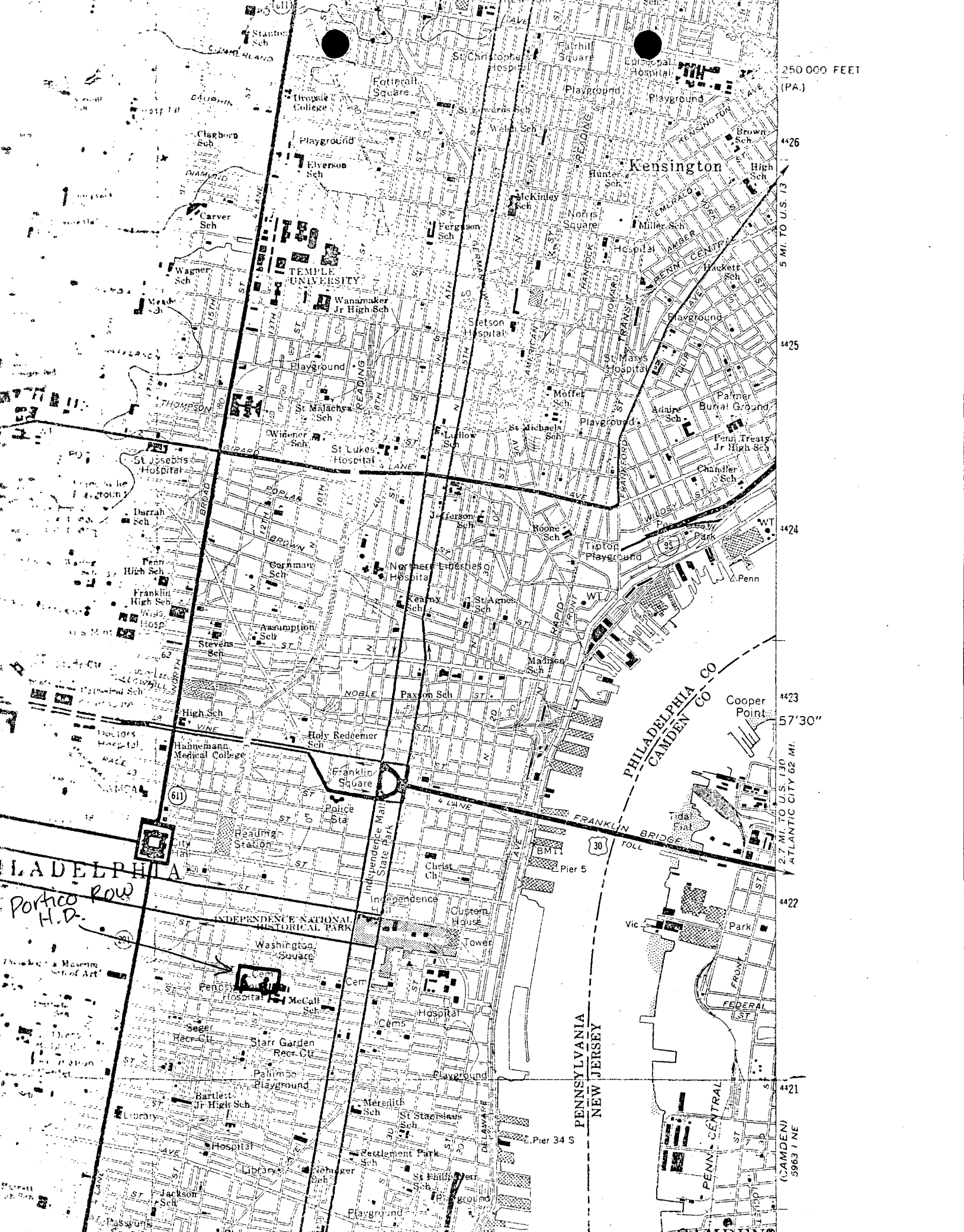
922 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

924 Spruce Street
Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia

926 Spruce Street
George A. Jones 3rd & Rita A. h/w
926 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

928 Spruce Street
928 Associates A Partnership
2401 Pennsylvania Avenue - Suite 1044
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130

930 Spruce Street
George Montakounis & Joan J. Nontakounis
300 South 10th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107



250 000 FEET (PA.)

4226

5 MI. TO U.S. 13

4225

4224

4223

57'30"

2.7 MI. TO U.S. 130

ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

4222

4221

(CAMDEN) 5963 7 NE

Kensington

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

PHILADELPHIA CO
CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA
NEW JERSEY

Portico Row
H.D.

PHILADELPHIA

INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

FRANKLIN BRIDGE

Cooper Point

Penn. Central

FEDERAL ST

PENN. CENTRAL

(CAMDEN)

Reading Station

St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Joseph's Hospital

St. Christopher's Hospital

Edgemoor Hospital

Elverson Sch

Kensington High Sch

Wanamaker Jr High Sch

St. Malachra Sch

St. Mary's Hospital

Assumption Sch

Tipton Playground

Hahnemann Medical College

Cooper Point

Franklin Square

Franklin Bridge

Washington Square

Penn. Central

Penn. Hospital

Federal St

Starr Garden Recr. Ct

Penn. Central

Meredith Sch

(Camden)

Settlement Park

(Camden)