

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

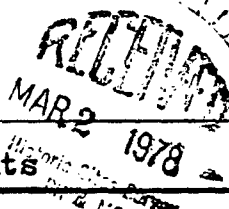
SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
The Powelton

AND/OR COMMON
The Powelton Apartments

USE THIS COPY
FOR DUPLICATING



2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
3500 to 3520 Powelton Avenue, 214 to 218 35th St. and 215 to 221 36th St.

CITY, TOWN
Philadelphia

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
3500 Incorporated

STREET & NUMBER
3500 Powelton Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Philadelphia

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Philadelphia City Hall

STREET & NUMBER
Broad Street and Penn Square

CITY, TOWN
Philadelphia

STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE
3/28/78

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Powelton is situated on the major portion of a city block bordered by Powelton Avenue, Thirty-sixth Street, Lancaster Avenue and Thirty-fifth Street. Though the apartment complex appears to be the result of a single project, it was constructed in two phases over an eight year period. The first phase began in 1902 when Frederick J. Poth purchased the lot from street car manufacturer George Martin Brill. Poth initially intended to build a nine story apartment, but the plans later were altered and seventeen single-family dwellings were constructed-- four fronting on Thirty-sixth Street, ten on Powelton Avenue and three on Thirty-fifth. Together, they formed a common rear court.

The ten houses on Powelton were originally massed as six units. At each end of the block was a double-width house with a center hall plan. The facades were graced with three story bays that were terminated with bowed dormers. Moving toward the center, paired single-width houses with side hall plans were placed next to the end houses. Their facades had a one story bay on the second floor, a tripartite window arrangement on the third floor and a Palladian window on the fourth floor that was capped with a gable. In the center were two, paired houses, also with side hall plans, whose facades had a second story bay, a double window on the third floor, a tripartite window arrangement on the fourth floor and a simple hipped roof. All ten probably were connected by bathrooms on the second, third and fourth floors that arched over an entrance to the rear court and were unified further by the use of common materials (Pompeian brick with wood and granite trim) and similar porch details. On Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets, a double-width house abutted the end house with an adjoining paired, single-width houses. An additional single-width house was built on Thirty-sixth Street.

The dwelling almost certainly were designed by Philadelphia architect Willis G. Hale. The complex and elaborately composed arrangement of the houses is typical of his work as is the generally rich detailing. The Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide (PRER&BG) also announced that Hale was responsible for the design of a number of houses being built at the same time for Poth in Parkside, an adjacent neighborhood.

Hale's project was never completed. In 1908, the PRER&BG reported that Solomon Greenburg had procured the seventeen unfinished houses. A few months later, it was noted that the Philadelphia firm of Milligan and Webber had finished plans for the conversion of the dwellings into house-keeping flats. The alteration was accomplished, ingeniously, by erecting five stair towers between the double-width units on Powelton Avenue and one, each, on the side streets. Their facades were related to Hale's design through the use of Palladian windows, yet differentiated by three story arched windows that gave a clear view of the stairwells from the street. Most of the individual entrances were also eliminated and gables were stretched between the separate porches. The result was an even more complicated though still unified composition.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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

1902- 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Willis G. Hale

Milligan and Webber

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Significance of The Powelton lies in at least three areas. Architecturally, the complex is important as an example of the style of two eminent Philadelphia firms: Willis G. Hale and Milligan and Webber. For Hale, it is a later work, done after three decades of practice in Philadelphia-- after designing buildings of recognized importance such as the Quaker City National Bank, The Record Building and the P.A.B. Widener House. In The Powelton, as in his earlier projects, there is both an exuberance of style and a close attention to detail that marks Hale as one of the most interesting of the post-Civil War architects in the city. It was the former quality, no doubt, that earned for him the distinction of three citations in "Architectural Abberations," a column written by the more staid architectural critic, Montgomery Schuyler. For Milligan and Webber, a firm of the next generation, The Powelton was executed near the beginning of a very successful career as architects of apartments and hotels. Their clever handling of a potentially troublesome alteration is typical of an attentive and respectful style that led to a large number of prestigious commissions in Philadelphia, including The Peale House, two apartments on Rittenhouse Square and many apartments throughout West Philadelphia, during its peak period of expansion.

The Powelton is also significant as a vestige of Frederick J. Poth, a German Immigrant who developed one of the larger breweries in the United States in the late nineteenth century. Through this business and his real estate developing, he became a major architectural patron in Philadelphia.

Finally, The Powelton is the keystone of Powelton Village. After the Civil War, this neighborhood began to develop as a suburban alternative to in-city living. By the end of the century the city had expanded and swallowed it. As the area became urbanized, it began to assume a distinctive personality as the home of what might be termed the "meritocracy"-- a social group who worked hard at their vocations, were highly successful, yet shunned the more honorific addresses in North Philadelphia or the western suburbs. Within a few blocks of The Powelton was the grand but unpretentious house of George Burnham, designed by T.P. Chandler, the Ferbiger House, designed by Horace Sellers, the enclave of the Wilson Family, designed by the Wilson Brothers and Poth's own house, designed by A.W. Dilks. The Powelton serves both as a focus for this community and as a reminder of its most glorious days. Its preservation and, hopefully, its restoration would do much to encourage a neighborhood that is once again on the rise.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PRER&BG, 26 Feb. 1902, XVII, 9; PRER&BG, 2 Ap 1902, XVII, 14;
 PRER&BG, 29 Ap 1908, XXIII, 18; PRER&BG, 9 Dec, 1908, XXIII, 50;
 PRER&BG, 10 Feb 1909, XXIV, 6.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .9

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	483750	4423100	B	18	483815	4423110
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Fronting on Powelton Avenue between Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets and extending south on Thirty-fifth Street 180 feet from Powelton Avenue and extending south on Thirty-sixth Street 215 feet south from Powelton Avenue.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Carl E. Doebley and George E. Thomas, architectural historians

ORGANIZATION

CLIO Group

DATE

January 19, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

3920 Pine Street

TELEPHONE

215-EV 6-6276

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania 19149

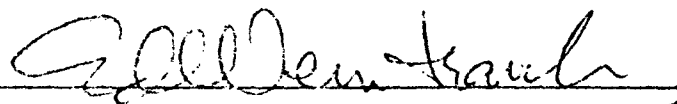
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Ed Weintraub, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE 6-21-78

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

