

Rec'd - Nomination 10/81

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 John Shedwick Development Houses

and/or common

RECEIVED  
USE THIS COPY FOR DUPLICATING  
MAR 1 1981  
PH & MC  
Historic Preservation

2. Location

street & number 3433-3439 Lancaster Avenue

not for publication

city, town Philadelphia vicinity of congressional district

state PA code 42 county 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" 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- Brian Noll

street & number 410 Woodland Avenue

city, town Wayne vicinity of state PA 19087

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Philadelphia City Hall

street & number Broad & Market Streets

city, town Philadelphia state PA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

3433-3439 Lancaster Avenue is a grouping of four row houses on the north side of one of the old main routes out of Philadelphia, the turnpike angling off of Market Street at 32nd and heading northwest toward Lancaster. Each member of the grouping has the typical tripartite row house facade of the period, two tall windows and a double door within a wooden porch on the ground story, a projecting bay window on the second next to a single window over the entrance, and a mansard roof with two dormers capping off the whole.

One approaches each house by a brick path beside a small grass plot surrounded by a delicate fence of wrought and cast iron. These houses were built about 1875 of brick, but with facades of the green serpentine limestone which was quarried about 30 miles to the west of Philadelphia. Its vogue in Philadelphia was short lived, as it was soon discovered to deteriorate rather quickly, especially in an urban environment. Cement patches on the facades, tinted in this greenish color, and textured, testify to this problem with the material. The houses have the expected side hall plans, entrances, ells, and bays mirrored in pairs in the ensemble rather than the simpler repetition of the same unit. The rear wing is only two stories high, lacking the 3rd story mansard of the front block.

The style of the exterior would be best characterized as Second Empire, a label most notably to be connected with the concave mansard roof. The simple gabled dormers show in their details a stylistic freedom within a more traditional classical framework. The main cornice of the facade is supported on paired brackets curving concavely up from the wall. Within the deep eaves is a medievalizing corbel-table frieze, at a scale and in a position analogous to classical dentils. The mansard itself has a wide vertical metal strip and brick corbels interrupting the mouldings of the cornice and curb to mark the division between the houses. The curving slope is shingled in hexagonal slates, and a pattern in lighter slates connects the design to the contemporaneous polychromy of High Victorian styles.

The wall itself is laid in random ashlar, with segmental arches above the windows. Of the five voussoirs in each, the keystone projects both beyond the extrados and out from the facade. The wooden second story bay is three faceted, with slight returns perpendicular to the facade at their joint with it. The verticals between the windows of the bay are moulded as pilasters, and the main cornice is carried around the bay. The second story and mansard windows are two-over-two double-hung sash with segmental top profiles.

Entry is through double doors recessed from the facade plane, and under a segmental transom light. Each leaf has a large round-headed opening of rather vertical proportions, and both this and the spandrel below are very heavily moulded. An abstract medallion in relief sits between window and spandrel, and inflects the shape of both in slightly segmental incursions into the moulded zones above and below.

The porch cornice is similar to the main one, but sits on much more elaborate brackets, here with flat arabesques profiled by recessed areas on the sides of each. The porch is supported on moulded piers square in section, with chamfers stopped by lambs' tongues at the corners and a thick fillet about seven-eighths of the way up. A very thick series of mouldings separates pier from pedestal below, and a baseboard makes the transition from pedestal to porch floor.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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At least some of the analagous mouldings and woodwork of the interior appear to be intact despite the partitioning of each building into apartments. The whole exterior seems well-preserved and the wooden details have been carefully painted in contrasting beige, mustard and brown.

# 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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates      1875-6      Builder/Architect      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Shedwick Houses are key representatives of the intensification of Powelton's development from the Antebellum suburb of country villas to becoming part of the post-Civil War city. They are remarkably well-preserved examples of speculatively built houses of this transitional era.

Historical research on these houses connects them with a major transition in the development of this area. In the 18th century, Samuel Powel, Philadelphia's mayor in the 1760s, had his country home here among relatively unpopulated surroundings, and ownership of the land remained in this family until well into the 19th century. A trustee of the Powel estate sold the block between Lancaster and Race from 34th to 35th Streets to John Shedwick in July, 1870. In subsequent deeds for the four properties, all from 1876, each was sold by Shedwick to a different individual who now appeared to be resident on it: 3433 Lancaster to George B. Duncan, 3435 to Mary S. Wetherill, 3437 to William D. Bones, and 3439 Lancaster to Elizabeth and Henry Wilson. In three of the four cases the property remained in the hands of this original family for 30 years or more. It seems clear that the properties were developed speculatively by John Shedwick and the houses built immediately before their individual sale in 1876.

This process of development was mirrored almost precisely in Powelton's sister area in West Philadelphia, that south of Market Street which was owned and preserved as a dispersed country estate by the Hamilton Family until the late 1850s, when more intense development immediately began. Early development in both of these new suburbs was of detached and semi-detached larger houses in picturesque styles, usually in an Italianate or more medievalizing mode, of which the most prominent proponent was Samuel Sloan. Sloan, in fact, designed a great many of the 'villas' and 'cottages' of this period in both areas. The natural inertia of this process was towards denser and denser development, especially after the Civil War, when the full-fledged urban architectural form of row housing began to fill in the area.

These houses on Lancaster Avenue are prime and early examples of this, the final developmental stage in the area's history that establishes its ultimate character as part of the city, rather than a suburb. They are the best preserved representatives of the start of this more intense development which was in evidence principally on the southern boundaries of this area, especially on Lancaster Avenue, the prime thoroughfare to Powelton village from Market Street and downtown Philadelphia. By the end of the next decade, a fully urban row housing type was in evidence here, much of it now destroyed by nearby institutional and commercial development. The Shedwick Houses are the most intact group remaining in Powelton Village to mark this transition, retaining the porches and rustic stonework of the country, yet invoking the cosmopolitan vocabulary and attached, repetitive nature of the city.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Philadelphia Deed Records  
John T. Faris, Old Roads Out of Philadelphia, p.110 ff. (Philadelphia: 1917)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2 acre  
Quadrangle name Philadelphia, Pa., NJ Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>484620</u>	<u>4422840</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet)

### 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 Jeffrey Cohen

organization Clio Group, Inc. date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 3961 Baltimore Avenue telephone 215-386-6276

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Larry E. Tise  
 title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date 1/15/82

For HCRS 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  
 date \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description

All that certain lot or piece of ground beginning at a point on the north side of Lancaster Turnpike Road and the east side of 35th Street. Thence extending north on the east side of 35th Street 285.614 feet to the middle of Race Street thence east along the middle of Race Street 449.22 feet to a point within the lines of 34th Street in the line of land now late of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Thence north along the said land 563.19 feet to the northeast side of the Lancaster Turnpike Road and thence northwardly along the same 474 feet more or less to the east side of the said 35th Street to the place of beginning.

