

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The William Strickland Home Row

AND/OR COMMON

**USE THIS COPY  
FOR DUPLICATING**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

215-227 South 9th Street

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE  
42COUNTY  
PhiladelphiaCODE  
101**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET &amp; NUMBER

215-227 South 9th Street

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

— VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry Unit, Department of Records - City Hall

STREET &amp; NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Philadelphia Historical Commission

DATE

August 7, 1964.

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historical Commission - City Hall Annex

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Erected c. 1815, the row of three and a half story houses extending from 215 to 227 South Ninth Street was built as residences. In appearance they were typical of the rowhouses of the early Greek revival period constructed for the middle and professional classes in Philadelphia. They incorporated six to eight rooms, and were two to three rooms in depth. Varying between sixteen feet six inches and twenty feet front, all but one measured thirty-five feet in depth; the exception, 221 South Ninth Street, was thirty-eight feet deep. Each had a piazza and back-building to the rear of the main house.

Originally, these houses had archhead front doors with two six over six windows on the first floor. The second and third floors had two openings also with six over six sash. The front dormers of the garret were double pitched with archhead windows. Marble watertables and steps and a molded cornice graced the facades.

Interior details were also characteristic of the scale and class of such period dwellings. The entries contained "one neat arch and pilasters, with Venetian door and fan, washboards and stucco cornice." On the first floor were two rooms, "Marble mantles, neat washboards, windows cased and inside shutters, stucco cornices, one door mahogeny, large and folding." The second floor rooms were similar, those on the third rather simpler.

In similar manner, the piazzas and backbuildings were typical. The piazzas were two stones high and held a flight of open Newell mahogeny rampt handrail stairs, plain brackets, molded ballusters." The kitchen and pantry were in the piazza.

The present appearance of these buildings reflects a history of change in neighborhood land use. The first floor of the structures at 215, 217, and 221 have been converted from residential to commercial occupancy. The sash has been modernized as have the sills and lintels on several of the houses. At 221 South Ninth, a heavy projecting wood cornice allows the roofline to extend out and above the other cornice lines. The roofing material on several of the houses also reflects a change, although a dormer can be found on each of the simple pitched roofs.

Such early load-bearing wall brick structures employed this type of basic design. Although changes have occurred, the character and rhythm of the row has survived.

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

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT diverse builders

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brick rowhouses extending from 215-227 South Ninth Street typified building and development in Philadelphia during the early 19th century. Built during the second decade (c. 1815), they were the result of an effort by craftsmen to erect suitable accommodations for merchants and professionals.

Benjamin Taylor, a well-known bricklayer resident of Elfreths Alley, sold each lot in the row for five shillings and an annual ground rent to different craftsmen in the building trades, under the agreement that within a period of two to four years, they respectively or in union erect suitable brick houses fronting on South Ninth Street. The first purchases provide an indication of construction methods: Isaac Paxson and John C. Evans, iron mongers, bought the lot at 215 South Ninth; James Hall and Joseph Lyndall, house carpenters, 217; Amos and Clayton Atkinson, bricklayers, 219; William Skerret, blacksmith, 221; John Burns, bootmaker, who sold to Hall and Lyndall, 223; James and William Bunting, carpenters, who also sold to Lyndall, 225; and James Glasgow, plasterer, 227. Although no other documentation exists, the similarity of design of each house and the proximity of construction dates indicate that those craftsmen pooled their skills to erect the row. This was common at the time in Philadelphia.

Upon completion, these entrepreneur craftsmen sold the houses to members of the professional and middle classes. These new inhabitants would continue to pay the annual ground rent to Benjamin Taylor, while the money received from the sale of the houses would accrue to the craftsmen.

It is indicative of this period that merchants and professionals began to move west from the Delaware River and lived for various lengths of time in such simple, yet popular and symbolic brick houses. These first purchasers and inhabitants included four merchants, a physician, a lawyer, and a cleric. The block retained this essential character until after the Civil War when fashion moved the more affluent west of Broad Street.

The most distinguished owner and inhabitant on the row was William Strickland, architect. He bought 219 South Ninth Street in 1819 and resided there from 1823 to 1829 when he sold the property to a merchant. In Philadelphia Strickland designed the Second Chestnut Street Theatre, 1820-22, the Arch Street Theatre, 1826-28, the Second Bank of the United States, 1818-24, the U.S. Naval Home, 1827-33, the U.S. Mint, 1829-33, the Merchants' Exchange, 1832-34, and the Musical Fund Hall, 1824.

Across from these rowhouses is the last remaining house that was once part of the Franklin Row, designed by the well-known architect Robert Mills. Franklin Row was one of the first rows in Philadelphia to be handled as a cohesive architectural entity rather than a compilation of individual units. Both in the Franklin and Strickland Rows the craftsmen worked in the style of the day, adopting the popular brick mode.

In sum, 215-227 South Ninth Street derives its significance from its representative characteristics as a middle-class row of the years immediately following the War of 1812, and as the home of William Strickland during some of his most productive years in Philadelphia.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Fredet, Jacques, The Row House Pattern and the Land Division in Philadelphia, Masters Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, December 1970.
- Teitelman and Longstreth, Architecture in Philadelphia: A Guide, MIT Press, 1974.
- Records of Transfer, Registry Unit, Department of Records, City of Philadelphia.
- The City Directory, Philadelphia, 1810-1850.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	486670	1422740	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Charles Robbins

ORGANIZATION

Department of City and Regional Planning

DATE

May 11, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

University of Pennsylvania 34th & Walnut St.

TELEPHONE

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

Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 11/30/76

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



THE WILLIAM STRICKLAND HOME ROW  
 Philadelphia County  
 ZONE 18 486 670 4421 740

4425

4424

4423

4422

4421

57'30"  
 2.7 MI TO U.S. 30  
 ATLANTIC CITY 62 MI.

(CAMDEN)  
 5963 I NE

PHILADELPHIA CO  
 CAMDEN CO

PENNSYLVANIA  
 NEW JERSEY

PENN - CENTRAL  
 CAMDEN