

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For NCRS use only
Date received
by

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 Sally Watson House

and/or common

RECEIVED

JAN 10 1980

2. Location

street & number 5128 Wayne Avenue

city, town Philadelphia

vicinity of 2nd congressional district

state Pennsylvania

code 19144

county Philadelphia

code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community organizations

4. Owner of Property

name Fifty One Fourteen Wayne Avenue Company

street & number 5114 Wayne Avenue

city, town Philadelphia

vicinity of

state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Deed Book D 1375-157

street & number City Hall

city, town Philadelphia

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Places

title Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

Date February 25, 1980

federal state county local

depository for survey records Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

city, town Harrisburg

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

The Sally Watson House, 5128 Wayne Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa., was designed by Wilson Eyre, Jr. and built in 1889. It remains essentially unaltered.

This house consists of three full stories and a partially raised basement. The walls of the foundation, the first story as well as the north elevation are constructed of rubble schist stone. The upper two stories are constructed of cedar shingle over wood frame. The roof, modified on the rear (perhaps a later addition), is a gambrel type which slopes steeply down to the first story. A shed roof covering the kitchen and back porch is joined to the main roof at the rear elevation. The house measures approximately forty feet square and the height from the ground to the top of the roof is approximately thirty-four feet.

The major feature of the east facade is a massive stone chimney which widens to become the wall at the first floor. This wall acts as a kind of buttress for the house and recalls the asymmetrical simplified forms of the medieval English farm house. The house has two more chimneys, both of which are on exterior walls but understated in comparison to the front chimney.

Windows are primarily wood casement with small panes arranged in picturesque groupings or related to one another by horizontal moldings. The east elevation has a variety of casement and bay windows, the most important of which is a two story Tudor Gothic bay window at the stair hall. Circular windows have been placed on the south and north walls in contrast to rectangular shapes of other windows.

The use of wood brackets and exterior wood trim is done with restraint and is secondary to the visual contrast between stone and shingle. The brackets which support framing members at porches are carved with delicate tracery decoration. The entrance door is a Dutch type door and constructed of heavy planed boards which are joined by exposed wood splines. Wrought iron strap hinges and latchset add to the hand crafted charm of these details.

The first floor is entered from a covered entry on the south side of the house where one enters a dramatic stair hall. A living room and library are accessible from the hall through connecting doors. Behind the living room along the north wall is a small bath and hall which connects to the dining room and kitchen. A rear porch is accessible from the library through French doors. A rear servants' hall serves the living spaces and leads to stairs to the basement and to the second floor. The second floor has a gallery at the top of the main stair, four bedrooms, central hall, bath, and rear stair to the third floor. The third floor has two large bedrooms separated by a hallway and stair; large storage rooms and crawl space occupy the rest of this floor.

The interior spaces of the house are characterized by plaster ceilings and walls and wood floors. Wood paneling is used sparingly, being limited to the library and the stair hall. The library has a wood wainscoting, built-in book cabinets and window seat and a richly detailed mantel piece. The stair hall is detailed in wood in keeping with earlier examples of Renaissance and Gothic prototypes. The first floor of the stair hall is of raised panel and stile construction; the ceiling at the vestibule has exposed rafters. A unique reading nook complete with wrought iron light bracket and generous fireplace are incorporated at the stair landing. The stair itself is simply stated with wood railing, spindles, and capped newel posts. There are five fireplaces in all; each has a wood mantel and tile facing with tile or brick hearths.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The house has a generous yard to the south and west and is separated from the front sidewalk by a rubble stone wall and gate. Shade trees border the property to the north.

Floor plans are attached.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Sally Watson House, Philadelphia County

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

3

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date entered

Information Requested Concerning large gable on the rear elevation of this house.

As noted in the nomination this gable may have been a later addition to the Wilson Eyre, Jr. plans for the Sally Watson House. Unfortunately, the original building plans are not available so it is impossible to tell whether this gable is original. However, the owner and their consultant physically examined the gable and feel that it is original to the structure and therefore does not distract from the overall design and integrity of the structure.

8. Significance

Period ²	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 - invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889

Builder/Architect Wilson Eyre, Jr.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Sally Watson House was designed by Wilson Eyre, Jr.,⁽¹⁾ a noted architect in Philadelphia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Eyre was an important architect of the "Shingle School,"⁽²⁾ and the Watson House is an excellent example of this style. Eyre designed a number of other buildings in Philadelphia, including the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. The Watson House is an example of Eyre's early work and as such provides an invaluable resource in understanding his development. The Watson House also affords an excellent demonstration of the combination of diverse historical architectural styles characteristic of the era of creative eclecticism in American design. Eyre, of course, stands as a major practitioner of this school of architecture. For example, in The Sally Watson House he employed elements of the Queen Anne style, popular in late Victorian England and America, which drew upon earlier English Gothic and Medieval domestic architecture. These influences are evident in the shingle treatment of the upper stories, contrasted with the rough stone work and large openings of the ground floor, as well as in the organizing of casement windows into groupings and the vertical accents of chimneys, all of which are Romanesque in feeling. The Gothic bay window reveals yet another historical influence. The inclusion of a Renaissance stair hall shows another influence and is a surprising, yet completely successful, device of the architect. The addition of a landing with a reading nook is pure Romanticism. In sum, The Sally Watson House is an excellent example of Eyre's early work and is a successful example of a small country house strongly influenced by the historical periods which preceded it, but a unique and creative building in its own right. Eyre has happily integrated a variety of elements into a charming and intimate city dwelling which can still be appreciated today.

(1) Edward Teitelman and Richard W. Longstreth, Architecture in Philadelphia, M.I.T. Press, Boston 1971.

(2) Vincent J. Scully, Jr., The Shingle Style and the Stick Style, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1955, revised 1971.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"The Watson House, Germantown, Pa; Wilson Eyre, Jr., Architect." drawing in Avery Architectural Library, Columbia University, New York.
 "The Work of Wilson Eyre," Architectural Record, Vol.14, Oct. 1903, 280-325.
 A.M.Githens, "Wilson Eyre and His Work." Architectural Annual, Vol.2 1900, 121-184.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .66

Quadrangle name Germantown, Pa.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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4	8	5	50	0
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4	4	30	4	40
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning 137 feet Northwestwardly from the Northwesterly side of Manheim Street, 153 feet on Wayne Avenue, and extending that width Southwestwardly 198 feet, more or less.

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 John O. J. Shellenberger, President
Philip B. Furnas, Architect

organization Fifty One Fourteen Wayne Avenue Company date _____

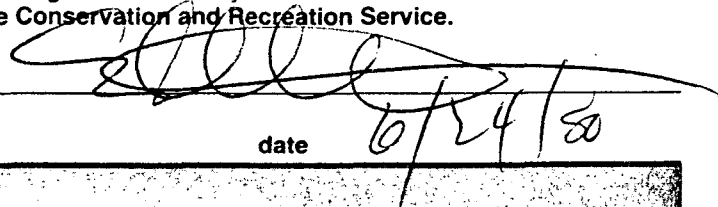
street & number 440 W. Sedgwick Street telephone 215-844-5233/215-238-6037

city or town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania 19119

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

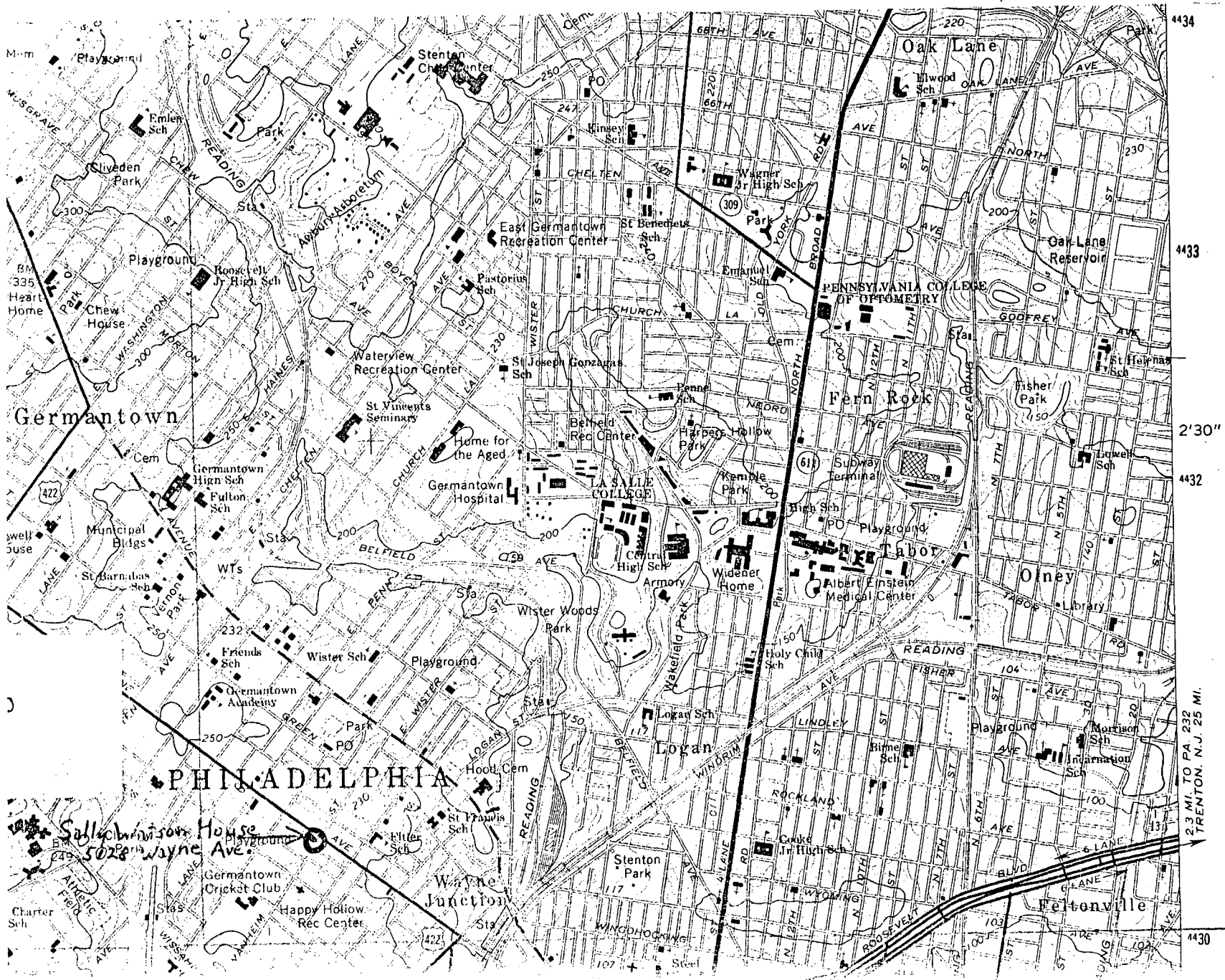
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
 ___ national state ___ local

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 
 title ED WEINTRAUB, State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/24/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date _____

Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration



4434

4433

2'30"

4432

2.3 MI. TO PA. 232
TRENTON, N.J. 25 MI.

4430