

# ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



November 2016

<http://www.uchs.net>

Joseph Minardi, Editor

## Send us your photos!

# 50th

Anniversary



Here's a (golden) nugget of information, next year will be the University City Historical Society's 50th (Golden) Anniversary. We are planning events throughout the year, celebrating each decade our existence. And now we're asking our members to join in on the celebration by sharing photos of University City from the 1960s to uchs.net. We're looking forward to seeing your photo memories of the neighborhood.

## The Gables B&B Sold

The Gables Bed & Breakfast (4520 Chester Avenue) has been sold for \$1.5 million to a single family who may return it to a B&B in the future. There was some concern that a new owner would purchase the 1889 Willis Hale-designed mansion and demolish or alter its distinctly Victorian character. It appears those fears have been allayed. A post from the Gables' Facebook page pertaining to Warren and Don's involvement with The Gables states:

*"We are coming to the end of an era. The Gables has been a wonderful adventure for Don and I for the last 24 years. We thank all of those who supported us and got us off the ground back in 1993. We thank the thousands of guests that have stayed with us and we will always remember you. (There are a few I'd like to forget) but 99.9% have been absolutely wonderful. The great news is that we have a fabulous new team that plan to carry on the dream and hospitality. We wish them all the very best and hope that they are able to put in nearly a 1/4 century as well. Congratulations Cesar, Ricky, John and the whole rest of the family. I can't even start naming them because I'd never be able to remember all the names. We are confident that they will do just fine and become a part of the neighborhood."*



## 2017 Valentine Tea Awards, Send In Your Nominations!

The UCHS will continue its annual tradition of awards on Sunday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017** from **4:00 to 6:00** at the Castle, **930 South 48th (48th and Springfield)**. The 2016 Valentine Awards Tea was another fun-filled event with friends, neighbors and local history buffs coming together for one afternoon.

The UCHS makes every effort to offer its guests a dazzling array of delicious finger sandwiches in an authentic vintage setting. We will honor our neighbors for this year's efforts in beautifying and improving University City's historic homes and neighborhood. The event is **free** to UCHS members and is an opportunity to meet with the University City community.

The Valentine's Tea is the event where the UCHS recognizes work done on properties throughout the prior year that enhances the whole community. There are three award categories: **Gifts to the Streets Awards** are given to high-quality exterior maintenance upgrades or restorations of historical features. **Outstanding Preservation Awards** are given to properties that have received full architecturally appropriate exterior renovations or restorations. **The Preservation Initiative Award** is given to a person or group of people who have acted unselfishly towards the preservation of a building or historical neighborhood resource in University City. Nominations can be emailed to [info@uchs.net](mailto:info@uchs.net) and will be accepted until **January 20, 2017**. And please feel free to nominate yourself!

UCHS members and their guests are invited to the Valentine Tea and Awards Presentation, Sunday, **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017**, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Castle, 930 S. 48th Street. As always, we look forward to seeing you there. Be sure to save the date!



2016 Valentine Tea Gift to the Street Award winner, Hysung Lee, UCHS Treasurer, Joanne Kellerman, and UCHS President, Elizabeth Stegner. Joseph Minardi, photographer.

# TASTY OLD TIME RECIPES

## POUND CAKE

- Ten large eggs
- One pound of butter
- One pound of granulated sugar
- One pound of pastry flour
- Grating of one nutmeg

Cream butter and sugar thoroughly, then beat in the yolks of eggs which have been beaten until thick; beat all together, then lightly beat in the flour and nutmeg, and when thoroughly mixed fold in the white of the eggs, which have been whipped until stiff. Bake in moderate oven for one and one-half hours.

## SPONGE CAKE

- Four large eggs
- Two cups of granulated sugar
- Two cups of pastry flour
- One scant cup of boiling water
- Half a lemon
- Two teaspoonfuls of baking soda
- Pinch of salt

Beat yolks of eggs very lightly, add sugar; stir in gradually one cup of flour, then white of eggs beaten very lightly, then the other cup of flour into which the baking powder has been stirred. Lastly, the boiling water, flavoring and salt. Do not add any more flour, even if batter seems thin.

N.B., this recipe does not have baking instructions but 30 minutes at 350 degrees should do the trick.

*-Tried and Tested Recipes by the Ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, November 1907.*

# Ask the Experts

## SPACKLE YOUR TROUBLES AWAY!

**Q:** How can I eliminate the small pits and holes in my plaster wall, now that the wallpaper has been scraped off?

**A:** A spackling compound is the standard answer to cracks and small holes. It comes in either a powdered form or, more frequently, ready-mixed in a can. It can be applied with a putty knife, dries quickly, and sands easily. It has a tendency to shrink as it cures, however, and so you may need to make a second application. For larger holes, rake out the edges to provide a "key" for the new material, then fill with a plaster mix intended specifically for patching. Pure plaster of Paris will dry too quickly for this use.

From *The Old-House Journal*, December, 1982.

# BUILDING OUTLOOK FROM 1899

If you think Philadelphia is currently undergoing a building boom like never before, check out this rosy review of the state of construction in the city from the turn of the century.

*"There is a gratifying amount of building in progress, and the outlook is of an encouraging character. In the opinion of prominent contractors and builders, there will be at least for some time to come no duplications of overbuilding, resulting from speculative tendencies, but rather a steady growth based on necessary demand for the construction of new buildings. The opinion also prevails that the advances to seriously depress this tendency toward construction except, perhaps, in the case of the those contemplating the erection of comparatively small structures."*

*-Carpentry and Building, November 1899*

## University City Then & Now: 5000 block of Cedar Avenue, North side



Courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Archives



Photo by Joseph Minardi.

Pictured here are twin houses on the north side of the 5000 block of Cedar Avenue. They were built on September of 1897 by John G. Ichall with some of them featuring an interesting bell roof over a two-story turret. When they were built, Cedar Avenue was still known as South Street.

## Did you know?

An ornamental band of undulant and recurving plant motifs in Classical architecture and its derivatives is known as a *rinceau*.



### 4046-4048 CHESTNUT UPDATE

Judge Abbé Fletman of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas ordered the matter stayed until further order of the court. This means that the UCHS has an order for a long-term stay of demolition with no action on permits without court approval.

## Dollar Stroll Wrap up

Thanks to everyone who visited the UCHS table at the Baltimore Avenue Dollar Stroll on September 8th. We sold many books, coffee mugs and one-dollar memberships that day. We also got to meet and greet many neighbors, both new and old.



*The UCHS table, from left to right: Joanne Kellerman, Kelly Wiles, Elizabeth Stegner, and Leon Kellerman. Photo by Joseph Minardi.*

## WINDOW TALK: A GLOSSARY

The word window meant “wind eye” in Saxon, and was simply a whole in the roof through which smoke from the fire could escape. Since those primitive days, windows have become much more sophisticated. Some are complex and full of meaning; others are dull, or even hostile.

If the eyes are windows to the soul, a window can be said to be the soul of a house, illuminating the inside and providing clues of the interior to the casual passerby. Much of the history of architecture is told in the shapes and symbolic uses of windows. Even on a typical Philadelphia residential street, windows can appear in a dazzling variety of types. It is this complexity that makes vintage-house appreciating so much fun. With this appreciation of windows in mind, presented here is a glossary of window terminology.

**Apron:** A panel on the wall below a window sill, sometimes shaped and decorated.

**Architrave:** The moulded frame or ornament surrounding a window, door, or other rectangular opening. Also, in classical architecture that rests on the column.

**Balconet:** A low, ornamental railing projecting just beyond the sill, which is made to look like a balcony.

**Bay Window:** A window that projects out from the surface of an exterior wall and extends to the ground.

**Blind Window:** A recess in an exterior wall trimmed with mouldings to give it the appearance of a window. Its purpose is to add symmetry or decoration to a facade.

**Blinds:** A rectangular frame, consisting of top and bottom rails and side stiles. Blinds are used as window shades and for ventilation.

**Bow Window:** A rounded bay window. It projects in a semi-circle from the surface of an exterior wall. Also called a compass window.

**Bull's Eye Glass:** A piece of glass having a raised center as a consequence of having been formed by a blow pipe. Originally considered to be inferior glass because of its imperfection, it was used in barns and secondary windows. Now it is prized because of its obviously handmade character.

**Cabinet Window:** A projecting window or bay window for the display of goods in shops.

**Cameo Window:** A fixed oval window with surrounding mouldings and ornament. A cameo window usually has tracery or muntins to divide the glass. Often found on Colonial Revival houses.

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From *Talk to Me of Windows: An Entertaining Story About Windows*, F. Palmer Cook, New York, New York, 1971.

*To be continued in next issue.*

# ON THE WEST SIDE



## PROFILES IN ARCHITECTURE

*James C. Fernald (p. 1895-1929)*

*Continued from previous issue.*

### Selected Relevant Commissions:

- 1909:** Residences (4), Felton St, East of Haverford  
Residence, WS of 63rd, 24' S of Callowhill  
Residence, NW cor 52nd & Warren  
Store and Dwelling, 1313 N. 52nd St.  
Crawford, Daniel,  
Residences (25), ES of Redfield, S of Haddington  
Residences (23), 701-745 N. 63rd  
Deal, Daniel, residences (2), WS of 54th, N of Haverford  
Hallowell, Charles J., residence, NE cor 61st & Race  
Kennedy, Joseph, residence, 1519 N. 67th  
Mahoney, Martin, residences (36), 60th & Catharine area  
Mullen, James A., residence, SE cor 66th & Media  
Patterson, William A.  
Residences (13), NS of Walnut, West of 51st  
Residences (2), NE cor 51st & Walnut  
Residences (3), SS of Market, W of 52nd  
Shoemaker, Samuel  
Residences (78), 59th & Vine area  
Residence, NS of Overbrook, 114' W of 52nd  
Residences (27), ES of Felton, N of Arch Street  
Stuetzer, George H., residences (21), Wanamaker & Race area  
Taylor, James, tenement, 6118 Pine Street  
**1910:** Residences (13), 54th & Media area  
Residences (8), 60th & Haverford area

- Residence, WS of 53rd, 300' S of Overbrook  
Crawford, Daniel  
Residences (4), 63rd & Oxford area  
Residences (39), 55th & Larchwood area  
Hallowell, Charles J., NS of Race, West of Edgewood  
Mahoney, Martin, residences (58), Osage Av, W of 59th  
Patterson, William A.  
Residences (16), 5020-50 Walnut St  
Tenement, SE cor 51st & Walnut  
Rogers, Calvin W., residences (2), 213-5 S. 52nd  
Shoemaker, Samuel  
Residences (27), Arch & Felton area  
Residences (29), ES of Hirst, N of Market  
Residences (29), WS of Hirst, N of Market  
Wilson, William D., residences (2), WS of 55th, S of Race  
**1911:** Crawford, Daniel,  
Residences (30), 5802-60 Christian  
Hartung, Warren, residence, 6248 Market  
McConaghy, James,  
Residences (9), ES of 56th, N of Larchwood  
Shoemaker, Samuel,  
Residences (46), Norfolk Street, West of 58th  
The work of James C. Fernald continued beyond 1911, but you get the idea. Fernald was one of the most prolific architects working in the city of Philadelphia and prospered greatly during the city's explosive growth period of the early twentieth century. Houses designed by Fernald are found all over Philadelphia.

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