

ON THE WEST SIDE

THE UNIVERSITY
CITY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

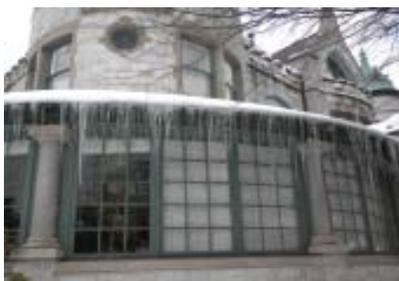


March, 2010

<http://www.uchs.net>

Mike Hardy, Editor

UCHS AWARDS 2009



On **Valentine's Day, 2010**, amidst the winter's record breaking snow storms, the **University City Historical Society** hosted the annual members' awards tea. A surprisingly large number braved the elements to come to the c. 1903 icicle-covered white marble "**Castle**" of **Nick & Ellie Cernansky** to enjoy tea and the spread and applaud those honored for outstanding preservation efforts in 2009.

These featured two recently restored **Second Empire** style twins in **Powelton Village**, one at **3404-06 Hamilton Street** and the other at **3404-06 Baring Street** sharing similar histories.

On Hamilton, owner/contractor **Larry Biond & Fran McGinnis** had, since the 1960's,



worked to restore and preserve the multi-unit 3404, including its distinctive wooden porch, while watching its twin at 3406 suffer neglect and abandonment. In the new century they acquired it, gutted the interior, rebuilt & restored its exterior walls and the matching porch and gave the two halves a coordinated multi-colored paint scheme. They now enjoy their splendidly restoration twins from their new single family quarters at 3406.



On a similar track at 3404-06 Baring, owner/contractor **John Taylor & wife Marilynn** had long and lovingly restored 3404 as their single family jewel. Only in recent years did they turn it over to **Jennifer Marie Hofmann** and move next door to 3406.

Last year they returned the first floor windows to their full floor-to-ceiling



splendor and gave the restored matching porches and facades a new coordinated paint scheme.

Down Baring Street at 3715, owners **Amy & James Montgomery** have embarked on a new restoration effort with a restored wrap-around porch, new slate roof, copper gutters and trim and new paint job, in progress.



All three Powelton sites were cited as examples of outstanding preservation.

Cited as well, at **538 S. 48th Street**, new arrivals **Laura & Kevin Duffy**, with the help of local painter/contractor **Chris Neff**, in 2009, restored their front porch, the side façade, all the original windows, including those with decorative glass,

installed new color coordinated storm windows and gave it all a multicolored paint scheme. When spring and the sun return, take the time for a stroll- or drive-by to witness the award winning results including more of Laura's efforts to landscape the side yard.



The same suggestion can be made for taking a look at **4116 Spruce Street**, where in the last year, new owner **Mike Levin**, has restored the brownstone facades of this unusual Second Empire end-of-row apartment building with contractor **Pietro Grippaudo** (shown above with his daughter, **Sabrina**) and filled its side yard with new greenery around an uniquely large *Franklinia alatamaha* tree and a restored wrought iron fence.

At **4317 Larchwood Avenue**, another owner/contractor, **Jim Manasion and wife Beth**, have long been working on a complete restoration of this c.1902 row house, with a new porch rail promised for next year as have **Donald Gensler & Maria Paz Gutierrez**, who just finished restoring their side and rear facades at **1001 S. 46th Street**. Likewise at **4504 Chester Avenue**, **Ed & Amy Werner** restored their twin's porch, façade and windows and gave them all a multicolored paint scheme. And, even newer to the scene are contractor/owner **Brendan McAtamney & wife Jessica**, who have rehabbed the interior, restored the porch and applied a multi-colored paint scheme to **4911 Larchwood Avenue**.

In addition to the owner residents of the homes above, owners **Melani Lamond & Brian Ratigan** and restaurateurs **Roger Harmon & Vince Whittacre** received awards for the restored facades and windows and multicolored paint scheme applied, with help from local contractor **Rod Boston**, to a c. 1900 free standing **Classical Revival** commercial and investment rental property at **4800 Baltimore Avenue**, housing the **Gold Standard Café**.



Two other investment properties also received historically sensitive exterior improvements, with **Robert Levy** honored for the restoration of both porches and matching multi-colored paint schemes to rehabbed **4229-31 S. 47th Street**.

And, **David Adelman** of **Campus Apartments**, received a **Preservation Initiative Award** for removing the many layers of paint applied to the brickwork faces of **4025-27 Locust Street**

All of these projects were originally thanked and commended by UCHS for their "**Gifts to the Streets**" for historically sensitive exterior façade work and multicolored paint schemes accenting historical details or as "**Green Gifts**" for greening improvements nominated by UCHS members.

In addition to the above, these also included: **Gifts to the Streets, 2009** - **411 N 33rd Street** - **David M Tilley**, exterior restoration; **313 N 34th Street** - **Peter Koutroubas**, exterior restoration in progress; **325 S. 43rd Street** - **Steve Zdancewic & Stephanie Weirich**, multicolored paint scheme; **406 S. 45th Street** - **Lilia Labik**, multicolored paint; **433 S. 45th Street** - **Arlene Caney**, multicolored paint with **Brothers United Professional Painters**; **532 S. 45th Street** - **Catherine Rosemurgy**, multicolored paint; **510 S. 49th Street** - **Katherine & Lee Dunsmore, III**,

restored porch balustrades with newly-minted oversized original balusters and multicolored paint; **3412 Baring Street - Jonathan Eells & David Sims**, multicolored paint and new landscaping; **3415 Baring Street - Michael Resnick & Frank Sarlo**, porch restoration, new landscaping and restoration of wrought iron fencing; **3503 Baring Street - Carolyn Healy & John Phillips**, wood restoration and exterior painting; **3510 Baring Street - Stephen Jay Mytyk & William Timothy Price**, exterior painting and restoration of wrought iron fencing; **4339 Larchwood Avenue – Marybeth Gasman & Edward Epstein**, multicolored paint; **4324-26 Osage Avenue – Kate Rosen & Benjamin Woolsey**, restored windows and front porch; **4513 Osage Avenue - Ilya Nassrallah & Maclean Pancoast**, multicolored paint; **4515 Osage Avenue - Sergev Y Medvedev & Nataliya P. Bosak**, multicolored paint; **4909 Walnut Street - James & Elizabeth Menasion**, façade restoration and multi-colored paint.

Green Gifts to the Streets, 2009 - 1017 S. 48th Street – Emily Wilson, newly landscaped front yard; **3501 Baring Street - Mark L Brack**, new landscaping; **4501 Regent Street - Joan Halbert & Paul Brooks**, restored garden wall using original stones along S. 45th Street; **4802-04 Springfield Avenue – Linda Stanley, Angela & Paul Coghlan and Steve McCoubrey**, designer and installer; landscaping twin front yards.

Thanks to **Roy Harker** and **Mo Phillips** of the **UCHS Board of Governors** for another successful awards selection and presentation.

So keep a look out for new projects in 2010 that warrant nomination for **“Gifts to the Streets”** streetscape improvements and **UCHS** will send a letter of commendation and put them on the list for possible **Preservation Awards** for next years **Valentine’s Day Award Tea**, hopefully one with less snow than this year’s.

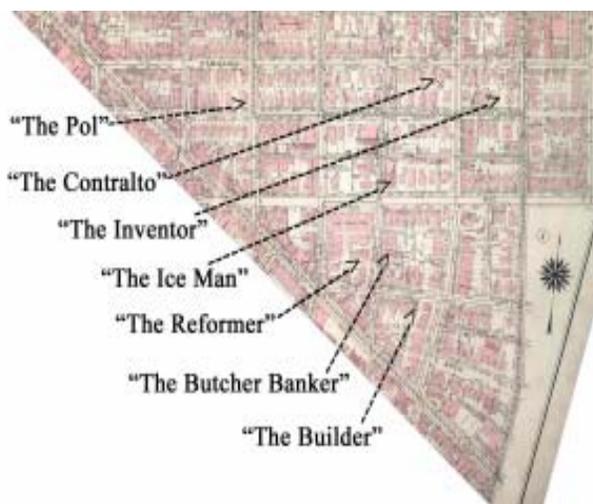
MAPPING

POWELTONIANS

Also at this year’s Awards Tea, **Doug Ewbank** of **Powelton** presented a tantalizing “tasting” of the research he has been conducting on the historic properties and people in **Powelton Village** and sent along this article he developed for the *Powelton Post*. We think his project has interest, not only for our members from that area of **University City**, but for a much broader audience. We reproduce Doug’s engaging introduction here for you to take your own cyber “tour”.

“Did you ever wonder who lived in your house in the decades before you? We generally know something about our immediate predecessors. But what about the first residents in 1860 or 1900? Were the houses on your block generally owner-occupied in 1900? Who lived in the mansions on **Powelton Avenue** or the **“Opera House” (3604 Hamilton)**? Who lived in the houses on **Bingham Place (the 3200 block of Pearl St.)**?

Answers to these and many other questions are being added to the **Interactive Map on PVCA’s website www.poweltonvillage.org** (Click on “history” then on “interactive property map” Houses for which research findings are available will have a “finger pointer” for accessing further information. Ed.).



This project grew out of background sheets for the house tour in 2008. The basic information comes from the censuses of 1860-1930 which give names and some social characteristics such as place of birth and occupation. It's often possible to follow people as they moved around Powelton, got married and raised families. Once you have names, you can start **Googeling**. **Sabra Cameron** and I have found an astonishing array of genealogies, biographies, news items, etc. that provide insights. Without the interactive map, this would just be a disk full of data. **Keith Roeckle** came up with the idea and the computer program to make it work. He put buttons on each house on a copy of the 1927 Bromley Atlas so you can access information with a mouse click on a house.

The site is designed for "touring" the neighborhood. Most pages now have links to neighboring houses so you can tour a block. Start at the **Riebenack** mansion (**Ross Commons**) at 34th and Powelton then follow down 34th St. to see who lived where Drexel's new **Millennium Hall** now stands. Take a tour of the homes of **Kevin Bacon's** father and grandparents starting at **3603 Baring**. Interested in houses that aren't there anymore? Try the houses where the **Powel School** stands or **209 N. 35th** (the "D" parking lot, labeled "**Hampton Court**"). A red square marks **3316 Baring** which once sat on the land now occupied by **3308-3310 Baring** and **3315-3333 N. 34th**.

There are many surprises. For example, **John Keffer** was sent to **Alabama** by the **Union League** to oversee reconstruction after the **Civil War**. The artist **Maxfield Parrish** spent much of his childhood here. Poweltonians were members of the corrupt **Republican** machine that ran **Philadelphia** (e.g., **Richard Peltz**) as well as Union League reform politicians (e.g., **Erastus Poulson**). **George Washington Taylor** was a leader in the anti-slavery movement who boycotted goods made with slave labor. **Isaac Ray** laid the medical and legal foundation for the "insanity defense." Architect **Frederick Thorne** designed his home in a **Victorian** style that reflected **Japanese** design. There are many more.

The map now has entries for 350 houses with information from about three censuses each. There is much more to add and we are posting new

information every week. Let me know if you would like to see more about your house. What topics interest you most: the Civil War? arts? politics? industry? Powelton has it all!"

Have fun and congratulations to all who had and have a hand in this imaginative on-going project.

HELP GET BETTER ACCESS TO RECORDS

Tim Gruber of **People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access** sent us this update: "on our effort to get the older Pennsylvania state death certificates more accessible and available online. So far there are 383 organizational supporters for this cause including your organization and we are working on getting many more. However, we still need individuals writing letters and sending emails (it all literally helps and it never hurts to write more than once). As one state legislator told me it's all about the squeaky wheel. Hopefully the **Pennsylvania General Assembly** will do more than spend all year passing the budget and will start working on other issues including our bill, HB 931.

By the way, there are now twelve states that have scanned images of their older state death certificates available online: **Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah** and **West Virginia**. Six other states have extracted data available online: **Washington, Alabama, Louisiana, New Mexico, Idaho and Florida. Arizona, Delaware, Washington and West Virginia** now have scanned images of their older state birth records online. The links to the various states can be found on the "Death Certificates for Other States, Etc" section of our website: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm>. However, it will not happen in Pennsylvania unless we make enough noise about it.

Thank you for all your help." Tim can be reached at 610-791-9294.



If you are the owner of an older or historic home, or thinking of becoming one, make plans to spend Saturday, **April 3, 2010** from 9 to 5 at the **Preservation Alliance's Old House Fair, Germantown Friends School, 31 W. Coulter Street**. General admission tickets available at the door are \$10; Preservation Alliance members \$5

The fair will feature over 70 exhibition booths of preservation professionals and vendors and will offer hands-on demonstrations by specialty craftspeople and presentations on preservation practices, products and services.

Special features of the Old House Fair include:

- Demonstrations and presentations by participating professionals about the products, skills and/or services they offer.
- *Ask the Experts* panels, 15-minute problem solving consultations for homeowners with an array of old house specialists.
- Free, 15-minute exterior paint color consultations with **"The Color Doctor," John Crosby Freeman**, featured in *Old House Journal*.
- Free consultation on problem mortar, brick and stone repairs with *Limeworks.US*. Bring a small bagged sample for an observation on how to address your masonry issue.
- Presentation of *Homeowner Awards* to private homeowners with exemplary stewardship in preservation through renovation and maintenance of their property.

For additional information, please contact **Amy McCollum, Old House Fair Coordinator** at 215.546.1146, x7 or via e-mail at Amy@Preservation.Alliance.com.

AND SPECIAL THANKS TO

All of those who recently renewed your UCHS dues, especially those who sent especially generous additional contributions as **Sustainers of UCHS** – **David Adelman, Campus Apartments; Elizabeth Bressi-Stoppe, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia; Dan DeRetis, Apartments @ Penn; Barry Grossbach & Mike Hardy, David Horwitz, Michael Levin, Sue & Jack Minnis, Chip & Marci Staddon, Larry Gladney & Jackie Tanaka** or as generous **Friends of UCHS** – **David Othmer & Maureen Barden, Carol & Richard Betts, Scott Wilds & Martin Bodtmann, Joan Halbert & Paul Brooks, Mary McGettigan & Larry Caputo, James M. Donley, Libby Rosof & Murray Dubin, Robert & Geraldine Giuntoli, Joanne & Leon Kellerman, Richard Lowe, Michael Lynch, Brian W. Yachyshen & Jacqueline B. McCrea, Maureen Tate & Jerry McHugh, Peter A. Shelton, Phebe & George Shinn, David Ade & Paul R. Steinke, Carol Thomson, Joan Weiner, Jean Wolf, The Woodlands; Michael & Peggy Wright.**

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ON THE WEST SIDE

*THE UNIVERSITY CITY
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