United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Fisher's Lane

and/or common East Logan Street

2. Location

street & number 39, 53, 69, 75, 81, 48, 52, 54, 62, 76, 82, 90, and 92 East Logan Street

not for publication

city, town Philadelphia

county Philadelphia

3. Classification

Category
X district

Ownership
X public
X private
X both

Status
X occupied
X unoccupied
X work in progress

Accessible
X yes: restricted
X yes: unrestricted
no

Present Use
- museum
- park
X private residence
- religious
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military

4. Owner of Property

name SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number

city, town

victory of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Deed Registry Unit, Department of Records

street & number Room 153, Philadelphia City Hall, Broad and Market Streets

city, town Philadelphia

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Philadelphia Historical Comm. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 28 March 1967

federal state county local

depository for survey records 1313 City Hall Annex, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

city, town Philadelphia

state Pennsylvania
7. Description

Condition

X excellent

X good

X fair

X deteriorated

X unaltered

X altered

X original site

Check one

moved

date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The historic district includes some eleven properties along both sides of East Logan Street, abuts on the Germantown Avenue Historic District to the west, and extends from the Hood Cemetery on its westerly, or upper, end to Wakefield Street and Stenton Avenue on its easterly, or lower, end.

On the north side of the street it includes the following architecturally and historically significant buildings.

1. 39 East Logan Street. Single detached, gambrel-roofed, two and a half story, stuccoed stone main house with two-story, stuccoed stone and brick masonry, rear addition. Built in the first half of the 18th century and remodeled in the late 19th century and early 20th century. Owner occupied residence in good condition.

2. 53 East Logan Street. Single detached, hip-roofed, three story, random rubble stone masonry main house with mansard-roofed and hip-roofed, two-story, random rubble stone masonry additions. Main, square-plan, house built ca. 1858, rear and side additions built in the 1870's and 1880's. Vacant, soon to be renovated for multi-family occupancy.

3. 53 Rear East Logan Street. Detached, hip-roofed, two-story, random rubble stone masonry carriage house built for the main house in the 1870's. Recently converted to residence of owner.

4. Ruins of two stone greenhouses and a shed built at the rear of 53 East Logan Street in the 1870's.

5. 69 East Logan Street. Single detached, gable-roofed, two and a half-story, random rubble stone masonry house. Built in the 1860's with rear additions built in the 1880's. Owner occupied multi-family residence, recently renovated.


On the south side of the street the district includes the following significant buildings.


11. 76 East Logan Street. Single detached, mansard-roofed, 2-1/2 story, stuccoed masonry house. Original built in the 1850's and substantially enlarged in the 1880's with addition of a 3 bay, stuccoed masonry wing to the west and a wing to the rear. The mansard roof was also added at that time. Multi-family residence in fair condition.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

13. 90 and 92 East Logan Street. Double semi-detached, mansard-roofed, 2-1/2 story, stuccoed masonry houses. Built in the 1870's, the present front façade and mansard roof, as well as rear wings, were added in the 1880's. The front porch of 92 East Logan Street enclosed in 20th century by brick walls. Multi-family in poor to fair condition.

Non-conforming intrusions detracting from the district.

8. Significance

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Although as detailed below, East Logan Street is significant for its architectural quality, several of its residents, and has figured in three centuries of the history of Germantown, the street, as it exists today, derives its primary historical significance as a fine example of 19th century urban development.

(Fisher's Lane, now known as East Logan Street, follows a route that appears to be as old as Germantown. It was shown on the 1766 Lehman survey of Daniel Pastorius' tract, described in early sources as "ground level and dry", and identified as the road to Kantzing's Mill. Following that precedent, the road over the years bore the names of the mills to which it led. Traversing the slope of the land as it descended to the Wingochocking, this road evidently provided the most convenient graded route to the succession of mills that were built along that water course. In the 1770's Thomas Fisher, William Logan's son-in-law, built a stone residence on the Stenton estate, near the Wingochocking, served by this road; thus it bore the name Fisher's Lane from then until the early 20th century.

Earliest development began on the north side of the street near the cemetery. Documents in the possession of the current owner of 39 East Logan Street indicate that the earliest part of that residence may have been built as early as 1729 by a Bernard Reser. This modest structure, identified as Lisle's Cottage in 1848 and 1860 atlases and maps of Germantown, was enlarged with the addition of a rear ell by the time it is shown on the 1871 atlas. The 18th century portion still exists but is enveloped by the extensive enlargements made in the 19th century; the present appearance betrays extensive 20th century remodeling. Nevertheless, the building maintains the overall massing and relationship with its neighbors that it had during the late 19th century.

The next house on the north side of the street, 53 East Logan Street, was built in the late 1850's for T. Charlton Henry, who by 1859 had amassed the largest piece of land along East Logan Street and had built himself a large, stately Italianate villa-style residence sited a respectful distance from the street. Stylistically the house was built following the principles formulated and popularized by A.J. Downing and others during this period. The property stayed in the Henry family for some years and was subjected to few discordant alterations. Almost all of the major changes to the exterior appearance of the building occurred as the Henrys enlarged it from its original square plan by adding side and rear additions. The interior underwent major remodeling in the early and mid-20th century. The ground floor interior is largely intact; a large walnut Eastlake vestibule probably added to the front hall in the 1870's, as well as a large portion of the original finish (deep plaster cornices and medallion work, walnut woodwork, deep milled molding, and paneling) still remain. Several patterns of stenciled decoration have been discovered in the front hall and stairwell. These multi-colored stencils all follow stylized flower motifs and appear to date, like the vestibule, from an 1870's remodeling.

The next three buildings, 69, 75, and 81 East Logan Street, built between 1860 and 1871, are more modest in scale, on smaller lots, and built much closer to the street than Henry's house, but this very attractive trio of buildings...
represent further elaborations of the design principles and style expressed in their more sedate, slightly earlier, neighbor, 53 East Logan Street. Although enlarged over the years, their principle elevations, especially those facing the street, are remarkably unblemished, spared even the mansarding of their roofs as happened to some of the properties across the street.

The southern side of East Logan Street, like the lower end of the north side, was developed in the 1860's and 1870's and contains houses built on a more modest scale than T. Charlton Henry's. 62 and 84 East Logan Street look essentially the same today as they did in the 1870's. On the other hand, 48 and 76 East Logan Street appear to have been substantially enlarged and modernized in the 1880's, when both acquired new wings and mansard roof.

Although the residents of East Logan Street were in the 1870's successful business people and professionals, few were of upper class society and most led fairly anonymous lives. Two exceptions were T. Charlton Henry and Joseph Pennell.

The artist Pennell lived at 75 East Logan Street from 1870 when his father Larkin took his family from the city to "Germantown, an open green suburb." The young Pennell was 13 at the time, developing the artistic talent that would make him famous. While residing there, he painted a prize-winning entry in a school art show, depicting "the ugly house across the street". (Joseph Pennell, b. 1857, d. 1926).

T. Charlton Henry, son of John Snowdon Henry and brother of Mayor Alexander Henry, was a prominent social and financial figure in Philadelphia. He served as president of the Philadelphia Warehouse Company and was president and founder of the Savings Fund for Germantown now known as Germantown Savings Bank. (T. Charlton Henry, b. 1828, d. 1890). Upon his death the property passed to the Wister family who held it until 1954.

As Germantown became more accessible, it began to attract those who wished to leave Philadelphia for its cooler, more spacious surroundings. Thus began a process, started by the likes of Henry and his neighbors, which changed Germantown from a rural village to a suburb, eventually consolidating into Philadelphia. In the 20th Century, the area took on a more urban appearance as it became intensely developed until, as it appears today, lower Germantown became densely built up with rowhouses. With its spacious lots and large detached dwellings in contrast to the close rowhouses that surround it, this part of East Logan Street is significant today as an early suburban streetscape that has survived remarkably intact from the period of its highest development in the 1870's and 1880's.

Several properties on East Logan Street are now under rehabilitation which will stem the deterioration that has claimed most of the similar East Logan Street properties east of Wakefield Street.)
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: 5 acres
Quadrangle name: Germantown, Pennsylvania
Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Richard I. Ortega
organization: N/A
date: 30 July 1979
street & number: 327 West Jefferson Street
telephone: (215) 565-7498
city or town: Media
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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title: date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
cert

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration
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State Historic Preservation Officer signature: [Signature]

title: ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation
date: 12-10-79

For HCRR use only
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date

Keeper of the National Register
Attest:
date

Chief of Registration


Keyser, Dr. Naaman H.; Kain, C. Henry; Garbetz, John Palmer; McCann, Horace F., *History of Old Germantown*, Germantown, Philadelphia, 1907, p. 64.


MAPS AND ATLASSES:

City Atlas, George W. and Wm. S. Bromley, G. W. Bromley publisher, 1911, 22nd Ward, Plates #2, 7.
City Atlas, C. M. Hopkins, C.E., G. M. Hopkins publisher, Phila., 1885, 22nd Ward, Plates #14, 63.
Survey of the Roads in Germantown, Christian Lehman. "An explanation of the original location and general plan or draught of the lands and lots of Germantown and Graysen Townships copied from Mathias Zimmerman's original of June 26th A.D. 1746 and of the several districts and divisions thereof part extracted from original of former draughts and part done and taken from actual mensuration drawn by Christian Lehman July 28, 1766 now carefully recopied (January 1, 1824) by his grandson Joseph Lehman for his father Benjamin Lehman."

Jane Campbell's scrap books, Germantown High School.