



AS A WORLD HERITAGE CITY

THE CASE FOR
PHILADELPHIA

April
28,
2014



THE CASE FOR PHILADELPHIA'S BECOMING A FULL MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

The City of Philadelphia, currently an Observer Member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities, hereby requests that it be admitted as a full Member of the Organization.

Philadelphia respectfully submits that its historical and cultural contributions to the world, their embodiment in the City's fundamental design and in its physical spaces and structures, and the City's innovative efforts to preserve, re-use, and re-invent those spaces and structures in a manner that honors their history are deserving of international recognition and support. We wish to join the OWHC because it represents a company of world cities whose goals we admire and share. If admitted, Philadelphia would hope to learn from their experience, and would stand ready to share its own.

Toward this end, the City has prepared the following outline of its credentials for consideration by the Board of Directors of the OWHC. We look forward to entering into a follow-up discussion with the Organization and, if encouraged to proceed, will take such further action as may be directed.

Outline Of The Case

The case for Philadelphia's membership can be stated under four headings:

I. Colonial City Founded On New Principles

Philadelphia is a physical manifestation of the principles of freedom of conscience and religious tolerance, principles that were novel in the 17th century and remain critically important in the 21st.

Philadelphia was founded in 1683 by prominent British Quaker William Penn on the principles of freedom of conscience and religious tolerance. The animating concept of the new colony of Pennsylvania that persons of widely varying backgrounds and religious traditions could co-exist peacefully in one community was a significant departure from the norms of the time. With its rational grid plan and the five symmetrically-arrayed green squares of parkland that punctuate it, Philadelphia is the largest and most complete fulfillment of the kind of model city envisioned by Enlightenment architects. In the Society Hill and Old City neighborhoods more buildings from the colonial and federal periods are preserved than anywhere else in America, and the widely various historic places of worship that are located there bear witness to William Penn's founding concept.

II. Enlightenment City of Freedom and Popular Sovereignty

Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park, the site of two extraordinary events that occurred in the 18th century, embodies both the universal yearning for freedom and the



world's first practical demonstration of the idea of popular sovereignty.

In the 18th century, the world was governed by kings who ruled by divine right. England was such a country, and Philadelphia was the de facto capital of British interests in North America. It was the largest center of economic and cultural life in the American colonies. Nonetheless, it became the focal point of nascent nationalist and revolutionary activity. Here were held the first and second Continental Congresses, and the world-transforming Declaration of Independence was signed in Independence Hall in 1776. After an American victory in the war that followed, the new nation's leaders again convened in Philadelphia to draft the United States Constitution, a document that has served as a model for the founders of many other nations. Independence Hall was accordingly one of the very first and most important sites inscribed by UNESCO on its register of World Heritage Sites. It is surrounded by federally protected parkland – Independence Hall National Historical Park (INHP) – that both buffers the World Heritage Site and contains structures that are themselves worthy of inscription. Enlightenment principles also gave rise to early scientific advances in Philadelphia and ground-breaking social experiments.

III. Evolution from Industrial to Post-Industrial City

Philadelphia has been a world leader in giving shape to the post-industrial city.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Philadelphia had gathered the nation's largest concentration of industry and technology. Philadelphia's material strength made possible the Union victory in the American Civil War. It was in Philadelphia in 1876 that America celebrated its survival and its emergence on the global stage with a great world's fair, and the iron tower of its City Hall was the tallest building in the world when it was completed in 1901.

In time, however, the City's industrial base was reduced, and new forms of commerce were needed. Farsighted leaders began to re-imagine Philadelphia as a city defined by learning and culture. Educational pioneers such as the University of Pennsylvania, founded by Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, were joined by scores of other academic institutions. Philadelphia's medical community, advanced even in colonial times, grew to consist of some of the world's most advanced health systems, research facilities, and life science companies. The innovativeness that once lay behind the City's original Water Works, built in 1820, would now find expression in increasing public policy attention to a growing world-wide water crisis and new strategies for sustainability. And a grand new boulevard, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, was built athwart what had formerly been an industrial neighborhood. Here museums clustered, housing some of the world's greatest art and turning the boulevard into a great center of world culture.



IV. City of Re-Use and Re-Invention

Philadelphia has developed innovative ways to present, re-use, and re-invent its historical and cultural assets so as to preserve and protect the heritage that they represent.

In today's world, Philadelphia must find ways to preserve its historical and cultural heritage even as it grows as a 21st century metropolis. To do so, it has adopted a variety of re-use and re-invention strategies. The Philadelphia Naval Shipyard is an example. Once a center of the shipbuilding industry and a great military base, the Shipyard has become a model of how older structures may be re-purposed for civilian use in the context of preserving neighboring structures. The Shipyard has in a sense been re-invented into what is at one and the same time a thriving commercial center and a landmark of past industrial and military history. Independence Mall, part of the previously noted Independence National Historical Park, is another example. Here, planners wished to preserve an uncluttered view of iconic Independence Hall, where the Constitution of the United States was adopted. They also wished to create a beautiful and modern location where the history of the Constitution could be learned by all citizens and scholarship could take place. The solution was to keep the mall as open space, but space that was book-ended by Independence Hall on one end and by the new National Constitution Center on the other end. The view from one is a look back to the past, and the view from the other is a look forward to the nation that has grown out of what took place in the

historic building. Virtually all of the world's great cities face similar challenges, and Philadelphia would look forward to sharing its experience in dealing with them.

Summary

Philadelphia embodies a continuing notion of idea as place. Its formative principles shaped it at its inception, and ground-breaking ideas guided its development in the centuries that followed. Indeed, today's city is not only one of exceptional historic and cultural importance but also one in which the American virtues of ingenuity and inventiveness continue to leave a distinctive mark. It is, we believe, a city that bears a heritage worthy of the world's notice and support.

* * * * *

Note: The following sections contain images of some of Philadelphia's most important historical figures and landmarks, together with dates and brief descriptions of their significance.



Colonial City Founded On New Principles



William Penn

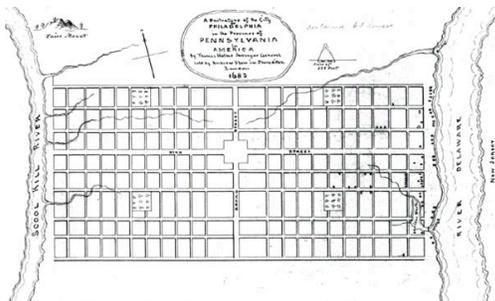
(14 October 1644 – 30 July 1718)

William Penn was an English real estate entrepreneur, philosopher, early Quaker and founder of the Province of Pennsylvania, the English North American colony and the future Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He was an early champion of democracy and religious freedom, notable for his good relations and successful treaties with the Lenape Indians. Under his direction, the City of Philadelphia was planned and developed.



Charter of Privileges

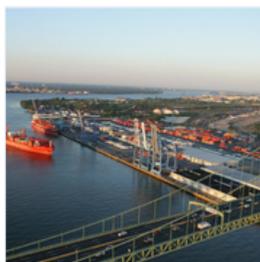
In a "Charter of Privileges" that he issued in 1701, William Penn established a form of government for the new colony and laid down its founding principles. Among other things, freedom of conscience was enshrined as a fundamental right and inhabitants were not to be "molested or prejudiced" for their religious beliefs.



Holme's Plan of the City

(1624–1695)

Thomas Holme was the first Surveyor General of Pennsylvania to actually serve. He laid out the original plan for the City of Philadelphia, a plan continued to guide Philadelphia's development in subsequent centuries.



Society Hill

ca. 1710-1830; restored 1957 ff.

Named for the investment “society” that originally owned some of the land, Society Hill is both a remarkably intact eighteenth-century city— unrivaled on either side of the Atlantic, and the showpiece of a new kind of twentieth-century urban renewal, based on the preservation of old buildings rather than their wholesale demolition and replacement. Its bold plan, launched in 1957 and overseen by internationally important city planner Edmund Bacon, preserved old buildings rather than demolishing and replacing them. 567 Colonial and Federal era structures were restored, while new housing (the largest part of it designed by I.M. Pei) was carefully integrated with the old urban fabric to support a population large enough to attract services and amenities.



William Penn Charter School

School House Lane

Present campus built in 1923-25, Zantzinger, Borie and Medary. The fifth oldest school in the US and the oldest Quaker school in the world, Penn Charter was established by William Penn in 1689. It was a school of "arts and sciences" open not only to the wealthy but also to students of limited means. It was among the first schools to offer education to different religions (1689), financial aid (1701), education for girls (1754) and education for all races (1770).

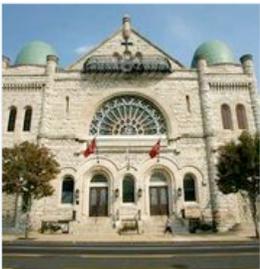


American Philosophical Society Hall

South Fifth Street, 1768

Co-founded by John Bartram and Benjamin Franklin, this is America's first “learned society” and a cornerstone of American enlightenment. The APS serves to advance intellectual pursuits in the humanities and sciences by way of research grants, publications, library resources, and symposiums. Among its members, APS has always held an impressive international profile including: Russian Princess Dashkova, Marquis de La Fayette, Louis Pasteur, Albert Einstein, and Marie Curie.

(National Historic Landmark)





Arch Street Friends Meeting House

(Quaker)

Fourth and Arch Streets

In continuous use since 1805, the simple design of this meeting house, created by architect Owen Buddle, Jr. reflects the Quaker values of equality and community. The property was given to the Society of Friends (Quakers) under the premise of use as a burial ground by Pennsylvania Founder, William Penn in 1701.

(National Historic Landmark)



Christ Church

(Episcopal)

Second Street north of Market

1727-1744 John Kearsley; steeple, 1751-54 Robert Smith. Penn welcomed Anglicans to his colony, and after thirty years of worship in a modest wooden chapel they built this landmark of Georgian architecture whose up-to-date style embodied the cosmopolitanism of Philadelphia. Here worshipped Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, and Betsy Ross.

(National Historic Landmark)



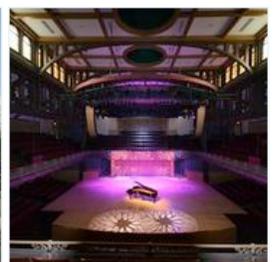
Old St. Joseph's Church (Roman Catholic)

Willings Alley

clergy house 1789; present church built 1838-39 John Darragh

From its founding in 1733 until the Revolution, Old St. Joseph's Church was the only place in the English-speaking world where public celebration of Roman Catholic mass was permitted by law.

(Philadelphia Register of Historic Places)

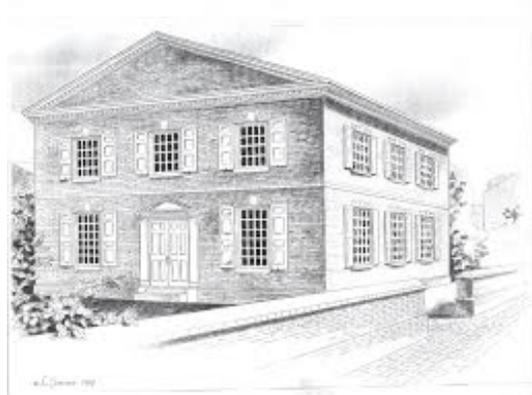


Congregation Mikveh Israel (Jewish)

44 North Fourth Street

Present synagogue 1976, H2L2 Architects

Founded in 1740 with the establishment of a Jewish cemetery, Mikveh Israel is the oldest formal Jewish congregation in Philadelphia and the oldest continuously active synagogue in the United States. It built its first house of worship in 1782, and after several moves and new buildings it returned to its original neighborhood in time for the celebration of the American Bicentennial.



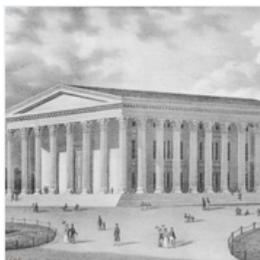
Mother Bethel Church (African Methodist Episcopal)

Sixth Street, south of Pine

1889-90, Hazelhurst and Huckel

The African Methodist Episcopal church was founded by freeman and minister Richard Allen in 1787, and in 1791 he acquired this site—thought to be the oldest continuously black-owned property in the country. Allen's tomb is located in the church.

(National Historic Landmark)



Enlightenment City of Freedom and Popular Sovereignty



Framers of the Constitution

It was in Philadelphia that the Founding Fathers of the United States gathered to undertake the audacious task of declaring independence from the British Crown and creating the framework for a new sovereign government. Between 1786 and 1787 a Federal Convention of delegates from twelve of the thirteen states met in Philadelphia, presided over by George Washington, to develop a blueprint for self-governance which has served as a model to countries across the world.



The United States Constitution

The Constitution of the United States was adopted in Philadelphia in September 1787 and took effect in March 1789 following ratification by the states. Informed by English, French and Native American philosophy and law, this founding document has been amended twenty-seven times to accommodate the growth and development of a maturing, modern nation.



Independence Hall

Chestnut Street, between Fifth and Sixth Streets.
1732-48 Andrew Hamilton and Edmund Woolley; tower 1750-52, Woolley
The addition of the churchlike bell tower bespoke the aspirations of a new kind of civil society whose course was charted in a succession of historic gatherings within the walls of this building. Here met the Second Continental Congress, which adopted the Declaration of Independence; the wartime government met in the building, and after the victory, the Federal Constitutional Convention convened here to draft the Constitution. Between 1790 and 1800, while the city of Washington was being built, the new American government occupied the just-completed east and west wings, designed for the state courts and city government. **(National Historic Landmark and UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site)**



Elfreth's Alley

Between North Second Street and North Front Street
The country's oldest residential neighborhood in continuous use for three centuries is also the namesake of Blacksmith Jeremiah Elfreth. The thirty-two houses that line the cobble-stone alleyway reflect the everyday life of common Americans in 18th century Philadelphia. **(National Historic Landmark)**





Carpenters' Hall

320 Chestnut Street, 1770-74, Robert Smith
Built as the meeting hall and library of the guild of talented builder-architects who built English-speaking America's largest city, Carpenters' Hall is a small but artistically ambitious building, as befitted its status. The First Continental Congress met here in 1774 when the building was brand new.

(National Historic Landmark)



Hill/Physick/Keith House

321 South Fourth Street, 1786

This free-standing mansion was built in a city of rowhouses by sherry merchant Henry Hill in up-to-date neoclassical style that reflects Philadelphia's integration in the culture of the "Atlantic Rim." After 1815 it was home of Dr. Philip Syng Physick (1768-1837) who adapted it for his home and office. Trained in London and Edinburgh, Physick was technical innovator whose teaching and widely published handbooks earned him the sobriquet "father of American surgery."

(National Historic Landmark)



John Bartram House and Garden

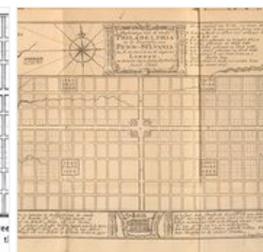
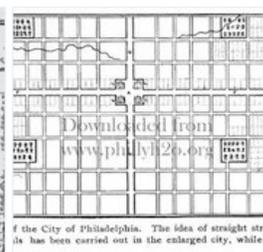
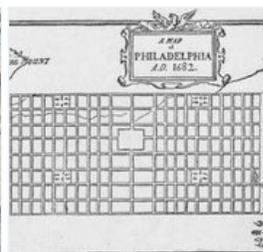
Fifty-Fourth Street and Lindbergh Boulevard
1728 John Bartram; 1891 City of Philadelphia
The home and garden of America's first botanist, John Bartram (Quaker), runs alongside the Schuylkill River and houses the oldest botanical garden in America. Self-taught, Bartram travelled Colonial America with the aim to document the native plant life of the New World. Bartram gained notoriety in Europe and the Americas, shipping his seeds via "Bartram boxes" across the Atlantic. Bartram also received the bestowment of "Royal Botanist in America" from King George, III. Three generations of Bartram's tended the garden, until the estate was purchased by Andrew M. Eastwick in the mid-eighteenth century, and then by the City of Philadelphia in 1891.

(National Historic Landmark)



Eastern State Penitentiary

Fairmount Avenue at 21st Street
1821-36, John Haviland
The world-famous embodiment of the Quaker zeal to see value in even society's least worthy members, the penitentiary was designed isolate prisoners from contaminating influences and allow their innate virtues to resurface. While the "Pennsylvania System" of solitary confinement failed as a social experiment, the iconic hub-and-spokes plan of Eastern State was adopted throughout the world by those who believed that prisons should reform rather than punish their inhabitants. As the diagram of a kind of perfected society, it should be associated with the written plan for a new society that was penned by the authors of the Constitution. **(National Historic Landmark)**



Evolution from Industrial to Post-Industrial City

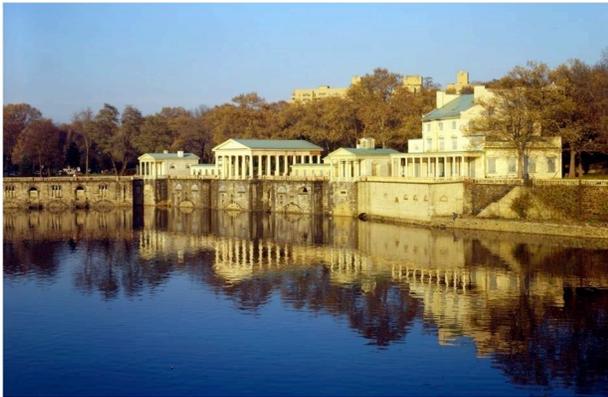


City Hall

Broad and Market Streets

1871-1901, John McArthur

Erected on Center Square, reserved for public buildings in Penn's 1683 plan for the city, City Hall's 548-foot iron-topped tower was the tallest building in the world for seven years, symbolizing Philadelphia industrial preeminence. When construction began, its French "Second Empire" style architecture was the ruling international fashion, but tastes had changed by the time of its completion. City Hall is richly adorned with sculpture by Alexander Milne Calder. **(National Historic Landmark)**



Fairmount Waterworks

East Bank of Schuylkill River, between Boat House Row and the Philadelphia Museum of Art

1811-15, Frederick Graff

Dam and conversion to water power 1819-22; central pavilion 1868-72

Fairmount Waterworks is the United States first major urban water supply system. The dam has been used in many ways since its inception including as a water pumping station, the Philadelphia Aquarium (closed in 1962), John B. Kelly pool for the Philadelphia School District, and now after preservation efforts, the Waterworks operates as an educational driving force concerning urban-related watershed projects and innovative preservation efforts. **(National Historic Landmark)**



Benjamin Franklin Parkway

1907-29, Paul Cret, Jacques Gréber, et al.

The centerpiece of Philadelphia's refashioning of itself in the early twentieth century, the Parkway was cut through a factory zone, literally replacing the monuments of the industrial past with the institutions of a new era defined by culture and commerce. The Parkway was overtly modeled by its French-born designers on the famous boulevards of nineteenth-century Paris, which was viewed as the capital city of modern civilization. It was designed to gather the city's leading museums, libraries, and schools along its new axis, while also facilitating movement from the crowded city to Fairmount Park.



Philadelphia Museum of Art

Benjamin Franklin Parkway at Fairmount
1911-28, Trumbauer, Zantzinger and Borie
The key monument of the new Parkway, the Philadelphia Museum of Art's site is the hill top formerly occupied by the city's main reservoir. The new building replaced an art museum built at the time of the Centennial Exhibition on a more remote site, and in addition to being physically closer to the population it sought to reach, it adopted progressive ideas about gallery arrangement, educational programming, and nighttime opening to serve a broader swath of society. The museum's brilliantly colored terra cotta ornament turned its classicism into something close to Art Deco.



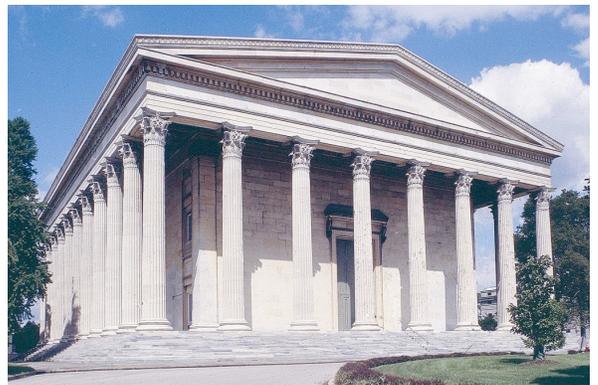
University of Pennsylvania

West Philadelphia
Founded in 1740; moved to present site in 1872.
One of the earliest colleges in America, what was originally the College of Philadelphia was shaped by the ideas of its founder, Benjamin Franklin. It differed from its colonial siblings, where classics and theology dominated the curriculum, in its emphasis on modern languages, science, and practical matters in general. After occupying several downtown sites, the university moved to West Philadelphia in the 1870s, and there in 1888-91 Frank Furness erected a university library of a new kind, organized like a factory for the efficient processing, storage, and reading of books. **(The Library is a National Historic Landmark)**



Girard College

South College Avenue
Founder's Hall, 1833-1847, Thomas Ustick Walter
Created from the largest private philanthropic endowment of its time; gifted by French immigrant Stephen Girard, the college is an independently-run private school tailored towards serving the educational needs of underprivileged children. Original stipulations from Girard's will state that the school would educate and house "poor, orphaned or fatherless, white boys" but has since adapted to promote inclusiveness and diversity. Girard's vision fits as an institution positing social justice principles at the forefront of 19th century American innovation. **(National Historic Landmark)**





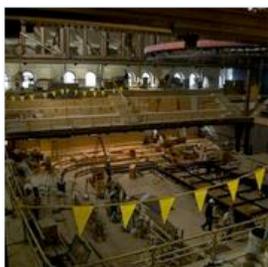
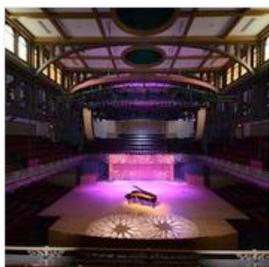
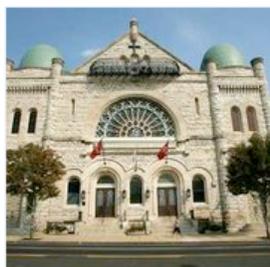
Academy of Music

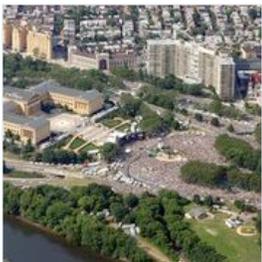
Broad and Locust Streets,
1855-57, Gustav Runge and Napoleon Le Brun
One of the oldest unmodified public opera houses in the world—and the oldest venue for musical events in the US, the Academy of Music symbolizes the cultural ambitions of Philadelphia at the same time that it emerged as a center of industry. It is the home of the world-renowned Philadelphia Orchestra (founded 1900), and it was here that Leopold Stokowski conducted in 1912-41. A musical innovator and an ardent supporter of new compositions, Stokowski was also devoted to broadening the audience for serious music. He collaborated with Walt Disney in the making of *Fantasia*, helping to select the music and conducting its recording in the Academy of Music in 1939. **(National Historic Landmark)**



Pennsylvania Hospital

1751-56, Samuel Rhoads
Central pavilion, 1794-1804, David Evans
One of Benjamin Franklin's many institutional inventions, this was the first hospital in the British colonies and one of very few purpose-built hospitals in the world during this period of rapidly advancing medical knowledge. It is a precursor of Philadelphia's 20th and 21st centuries development as a world center for medicine and the life sciences. The central pavilion is a refined example of neoclassical architecture, topped by a skylit medical amphitheater, an innovative architectural response to advances in medical practice. **(National Historic Landmark)**





City of Re-Use and Re-Invention



Philadelphia Naval Shipyard

League Island

First buildings, 1873-75; re-use master plan, 2004, Robert A.M. Stern Architects

A center of shipbuilding, Philadelphia was selected as the site for the first American naval shipyard in 1776, and the construction of large warships continued as the city became an industrial metropolis in the nineteenth century. In 1871 the facilities were relocated to a larger site in South Philadelphia, and here the largest dry dock in the world was built to serve the modern navy of iron and steel. The shipyard was closed in 1996 and its rebirth as a mixed use facility was quickly set in motion. A centerpiece of its re-use is the Urban Outfitters Corporate Campus, whose four historic buildings were transformed into an innovative workplace by Meyer Scherer & Rockcastle.



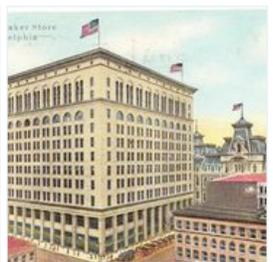
Old Dry Dock and New Dry Dock at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard



Urban Outfitters

Navy Yard, Philadelphia, PA

The site for the campus within the Naval Business Center consists of historically certified buildings located at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers. NELSON's proposal was to create a very dynamic and unexpected urban environment for employees and visitors. The design takes advantage of the river adjacencies by creating water esplanades, cafes, and park space. The historic buildings on the campus are celebrated through the design, but also linked via a very exciting and modern glass atrium that serves as a social and information "spine" for the campus, essentially an enclosed urban street.



Reading Terminal

Market and Twelfth Streets

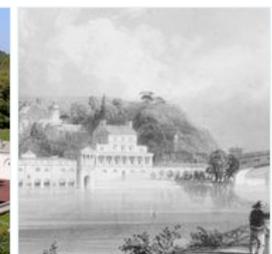
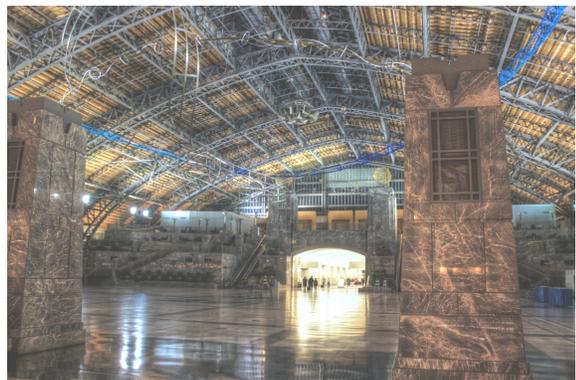
1891-93, Frank Kimball and Wilson Brothers

Symbol of Philadelphia's preeminent role in building the railways that were the backbone of America's industrial leadership, this was the headquarters of the Reading Railroad, which brought coal and iron to Philadelphia's factories, and, through its port, delivered those materials to the world. The 256-foot span of the train shed was the largest in the world when it was erected. After trains were re-routed underground in 1984, the headhouse was restored and converted into a hotel, and the huge train shed was reconfigured as part of the Pennsylvania Convention Center by Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback, and Associates in 1990-93.

(National Historic Landmark)



New Interior of the Reading Terminal Train Shed





Memorial Hall

West of the Schuylkill River, at the corner of East Memorial Hall Drive and the Avenue of the Republic. Memorial Hall is a Beaux-Arts style building in the Centennial District of West Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Built as the art gallery for the 1876 Centennial Exposition, it subsequently housed the Pennsylvania Museum of Art (now the Philadelphia Museum of Art) and the Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art (now the University of the Arts). Since October 18, 2008, the Hall has served as home to the Please Touch Museum, a popular modern attraction for children.



Love Park

Robert Indiana's famous "Love" statue – located at the beginning of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway – sets a modern tone for a City whose very name means "city of brotherly love".



National Constitution Center

Arch Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets
Established 1988, Pei, Cobb, Freed & Partners
The first and only of its kind, the National Constitution Center is a nonpartisan, non-profit initiative designed to encourage educational conversation of the United States Constitution. The center serves to promote civic education and engagement through its many exhibits and events. Located opposite Independence Hall on Independence Mall, the center sits as a symbol of the constitution's vitality and modern-day resonance.



Society Hill Towers by I. M. Pei

From 1957-1959, the Greater Philadelphia Movement, the Redevelopment Authority and the Old Philadelphia Development Corporation bought 31 acres (130,000 m2) around Dock Street. They relocated and demolished the Dock Street market, setting aside 5 acres (20,000 m2) of land that would become the three 31-story Society Hill Towers as well as the Society Hill Townhouses, a low-rise project.

(Historic Places)





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