

*Preserving and Promoting the History of Northeast Philadelphia Since 1905*

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD

## THE CENTER FOR NORTHEAST PHILADELPHIA HISTORY

### Historical Buildings and Places of Northeast Philadelphia Survey and Database

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The following information was gathered as an initiative of the HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FRANKFORD - The Center for Northeast Philadelphia History. What follows is a partial, annotated listing of the buildings and places of Northeast Philadelphia that are either on or eligible for inclusion in either the Philadelphia or National Register of Historical Places - as indicated. As research progresses, additional sites will be added. If you have more information about any of these sites - or additional sites that you believe are eligible for or on these lists - please contact Debbie Klak at the Historical Society of Frankford.

#### **BUILDINGS OR PLACES ON THE NATIONAL OR PHILADELPHIA REGISTER (as indicated)**

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##### **Fox Chase Farm**

8500 Pine Rd., Phila, Pa.

A continuous operating farm since 1683. 500 acres sold by William Penn to William Stanley, which he named Mt. Stanley  
Purchased by the City in 1975  
National Register (2005)

##### **Friends Hospital**

4641 Roosevelt Blvd., Phila.

1000 acres, 10 bldgs

Founded in 1813 by Quakers. The first private psychiatric hospital in the U.S.A.

Also known as the Friends Hospital for the Relief of Persons Deprived of Reason or Frankford Insane Asylum for the Insane  
National and Philadelphia Registers

##### **Greenbelt Knoll**

Cul de sac in Pennypack Park off of Holme Ave. and Longford St., Phila.

Planned by Morris Milgram

Built in 1956

First integrated development in Philadelphia

National and Philadelphia Registers

##### **Comly Rich House**

4276 Orchard St. Phila.

Period of significance 1831

First house in the United States to receive a mortgage from the first Savings and Building Loan in the United States,  
the Oxford Provident Building Society founded in 1831. Rich was a comb maker and lamplighter.

Said to be the first house in the U.S.A to go into foreclosure.

National and Philadelphia Registers

##### **Carl Mackley Houses**

4301 E. Bristol St. (M and Bristol Sts), Phila.

1934- Organized Housing for Hosiery Workers

International Style

Architect- Oskar Stonorov

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Frankford Arsenal**

Tacony and Bridge Sts., Phila.

Architect- Unknown

Historical period of significance is from 1800-1949

U.S. Military Installation built 1816

No longer used as an arsenal

Was also known as the U.S. Arsenal at Frankford

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Watson Comly School**

13250 Trevoise Rd., Phila.

Architecture is Colonial Revival

Historic Significance 1875-1899

Now a meeting hall

National Register

**Frankford Avenue Bridge**

Frankford Avenue over Pennypack Creek north of Solly Ave., Phila.

Architect - John McMenamy

Historical period of significance according to Registers are 1900-1924

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Frankford Avenue Bridge over Poquessing Creek**

North of Knights Rd and Frankford Ave., Phila.

Unknown architect

Dated back to 1650-1699

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Glen Foerd at Torresdale**

5001 Grant Avenue, Phila

Owned by the MacCallister family and then the Foerderer family

Also known as the Lutheran Center for Education and the Arts at Glen Foerd

Architect - McAuley and Co.

Period of significance 1850-1924

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Holme Avenue Bridge**

Holme Avenue over Wooden Bridge Run

Architect or Engineer-- C.P.Boner

1900-1924

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Pennypack Woods**

Between Holme Avenue and Frankford Avenue, Phila.

Government sponsored co operative community for residents at the end of WW2

120 acres

1940-1945

Architect-- Oskar Stonorov

Philadelphia Register

**Tacony Music Hall**

4815-19 Longshore Avenue, Phila.

Built in 1885

Was once the center for Tacony's cultural life into the 20th century

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Ryerss Mansion**

Central and Cottman Avenues., Phila  
(Burholme Park)

Home of Joseph Waln Ryerss

Italianate Style

Built in 1859

Now a historical house museum and library

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Knowlton Mansion**

8001 Veree Road, Phila.

Also known as Rhawn House, William Rhawn (banker) House and Stable

Named after John Knowles, Rhawn's wife's great grandfather

Was also the residence of Robert MacKay Green, who in 1874 invented the ice cream soda

Built 1881

Architect- Frank Furness

Now Conroy Catering

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Henry Longfellow School**

5004-5098 Tacony St., Phila.

Utilitarian Classical Revival

Considered to be one of the simpler designs in Philadelphia

Vacant

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Mechanicsville School**

Mechanicsville Rd. , Phila.

Architect - Seth K. Samm

Historic significance 1850-1874

Private dwelling

National Register

**John Ruan House**

4278-4280 Griscom St., Phila.

John Ruan was a physician, member of the Trustees of Frankford Academy, and on the board of managers of the Frankford and Bristol Turnpike Company

Built in 1796

Georgian Style

Was also the home of Dr. Samuel Pickering

Now the G.A.R. museum, Frankford

National and Philadelphia Registers

**Knights of Pythias/Greenwood Cemetery**

930 Adams Avenue, Phila.

Chartered as the Greenwood Cemetery Company in 1869

Charter amended in 1870 to Knights of Pythias/Greenwood Cemetery Company of Phila.

Architect - Thomas S. Levy

Was once the farm of Dr. Benjamin Rush, signer of the Declaration of Independence

Rush lived on the property for 11 years

Philadelphia Register

**Harvey Rowland House**

Fishers Lane and Ramona Ave., Phila.

Harvey Rowland was a spring manufacturer and a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Frankford

Circa early 19th century, maybe earlier

Philadelphia Register

### **Frankford Avenue**

Washington - Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route (W3R)  
A Nationally Designated National Parks Service Historic Trail

### **ON ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

#### **Allied Chemicals**

Bridge and Tacony Streets, Phila.  
Was once the largest exporter of roofing products in the U.S.  
By 1920 was the largest American manufacturer of coal tar products

#### **Simonds Abrasive Company**

James St. , Phila.  
Specialized in the manufacturing of grinding wheels.  
Modern Art Deco Style factory structure

#### **Gillinder Glass Company**

Tacony St. and Devereaux Ave., Phila.  
Made glass for gas and electric fixtures.  
At one time , was the largest firm of its type in the nation

### **ON ENDANGERED LIST**

#### **Fisher's Lane Bridge**

Fishers Lane off Ramona Ave.

### **HISTORIC CHURCHES**

#### **Frankford Presbyterian**

4301 Frankford Ave., Phila.  
Organized in 1770  
German Calvinistic until 1807 when it joined the Presbyterian rank.  
Original Church torn down in 1860 and the present church was erected the same year on the same location.  
The Manse was built in 1844.  
Old graveyard on the grounds.  
Some early parishioners were Castor (Gerster), Womrath, Deal (John Deal was a postmaster in Frankford for many years),  
Harper, Worrell, Brous, Buckius, Neff, Wakeling, Axe, Somerdike, Greenwood  
Status: active Presbyterian

#### **St. Mark's Episcopal Church , Frankford**

4442-4444 Frankford Ave., Phila.  
Founded in 1832 in the Morrow School house at 4267-69 Paul St.  
The first building was erected at 4444-46 Griscom St. in 1835. (Tabernacle)  
In 1846, a larger church was erected and the name was changed to St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church  
In 1908, the present church was erected.  
Architect- Frank Rushmore Watson  
Stained glass windows by Nicola D'Ascenzo  
Civil War history  
Some early parishioners were, Bromily, Brous, Battersby, Creighton, Duffield, Lardner, Overington, Castor, Knorr, Cottman,  
Wilbraham, Whitaker, Rowland, Foulkrod, Devereaux, VanKirk, Comly, Horrocks, Ashton, Welsh  
Status: active Episcopalian

#### **Hermon Presbyterian**

4835 Frankford Ave., Phila.  
In 1868, Matthias Baldwin (Baldwin Locomotive Works) purchased the lot where the church now stands and erected the  
church with his own money.  
Addition to Chapel was made in 1889.

Manse built in 1888  
Status: no longer Presbyterian

**Rehoboth M.E. Church**

4229 Paul St., Phila.  
Church founded and built in 1834  
Sunday school started in the Morrow School House (4267-69 Paul St.) in 1829  
Parsonage built in 1890  
Part of the present building was the old Frankford Academy which was built about 1800.  
Burial grounds  
Status: no longer a Methodist church

**Central Methodist**

4670 Griscom St., Phila.  
In 1875, the congregation formed.  
New church built in 1892  
Architects- Hazelhurst and Huckle  
Sunday School Building built in 1912  
Architect- Horace Castor  
Parsonage on Orthodox St. built 1885  
Status: no longer a Methodist Church

**St. Joachim Roman Catholic**

1527 Church St., Phila.  
Cornerstone laid in 1845  
Church completed in 1848  
Church burnt down in 1977(?)  
New church built.  
Said to be the first Roman Catholic Church in N.E. Phila.  
Burial grounds  
Status: active

**Frankford Friends Meeting House**

1500 Orthodox St., Phila.  
1833  
Status: active

**Campbell A.M.E.**

1657 Kinsey St., Phila.  
Congregation established in 1807  
Current church built 1870  
2nd oldest A.M.E. Church in the country  
Burial grounds  
Status: active

**Emmanuel Episcopal**

8201 Frankford Ave., Phila.  
Organized 1832  
Became a parish in 1844  
Church built 1858  
Manse built 1889  
Burial grounds  
Status: active

**All Saints Episcopal**

9601 Frankford Ave., Phila.  
First building dedicated on Nov.3, 1772  
Current building built 1855  
Chapels were built and supported by All Saints were Eddington and Andalusia (now King Library named after Dr. Charles King, vestryman and warden of All Saints for 48 years)

These chapels were to become separate parishes

Burial grounds

Status: active

**Trinity Oxford**

Oxford and Longshore Avenues, Phila.

Congregation organized circa 1698

Church building 1711

Trinity Oxford "planted" Emmanuel and St. Mark's Churches

Burial grounds

Status: active