Germantown Futures
HSPV - 703-301
Laura Keim, Aaron Wunsch, with Laura Spina
Intersection of York and Germantown Roads

Germantown Village
Founded 1683

Scull and Heap, 1777
The Philadelphia to Norristown Railroad (The Chestnut Hill East) changed the landscape and relationship of Germantown to Philadelphia, dividing and creating steam-powered industry. Horse-drawn streetcars on trolley tracks changed the way people could travel.
Phil-Elena
built by George W. Carpenter, 1844
demolished 1898
Row-housing for workers.

Scenic park land along the Wissahickon Creek, formerly water-powered industry, with Lincoln Drive and motorcars.

“I would have, then, our ordinary dwelling-houses built to last and built to be lovely; as rich and full of pleasantness as may be, within and without, and with such differences as might suit and express each man’s character and occupation, and partly his history.”—Ruskin.
Can we save and reinvigorate this infrastructure and preserve neighborhood character for the next century?
Germantown

Neighborhood of Philly
Six Miles northwest of center city

- 2010 Population:
  - 46,000
    - 73% African American
    - 7% Asian
    - 24% below poverty line

- 49 community groups
- 11 Community Development Corps.
- 90 churches, 3 mosques
- 15 historic sites/museums
- 10,000 homes over 75 years old
Germantown: Resources

• One of America’s most historic neighborhoods- home to the nation’s longest National Historic District

• HG- 16 sites open to the public, including 7 National Historic Landmarks

• Underutilized historic housing stock

• Engaged but divided community
On this Site stood the house of
THONES KUNDERS
One of the thirteen Settlers
of Germantown in 1683
Here was the first Meeting place
of the Society of Friends
in Germantown
From Members of this Meeting
went forth in 1688 the first
formal protest in America against
HUMAN SLAVERY
ERECTED BY
THE SITE AND RELIC SOCIETY
1901

THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
MOUNT AIRY
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Germantown Past
Germantown Present
Germantown Futures?

**Method**: Preservation thinking and tools + Planning thinking and tools combined

**Philosophy**: Future design in a historically rich neighborhood necessitates an understanding of past development and its meaning in the present

**Problem**: One of America’s most historically rich neighborhoods, racially and economically divided, ripe for demolitions and development. How do we use our tools, understanding, collaboration and diplomacy to guide and shape its future?