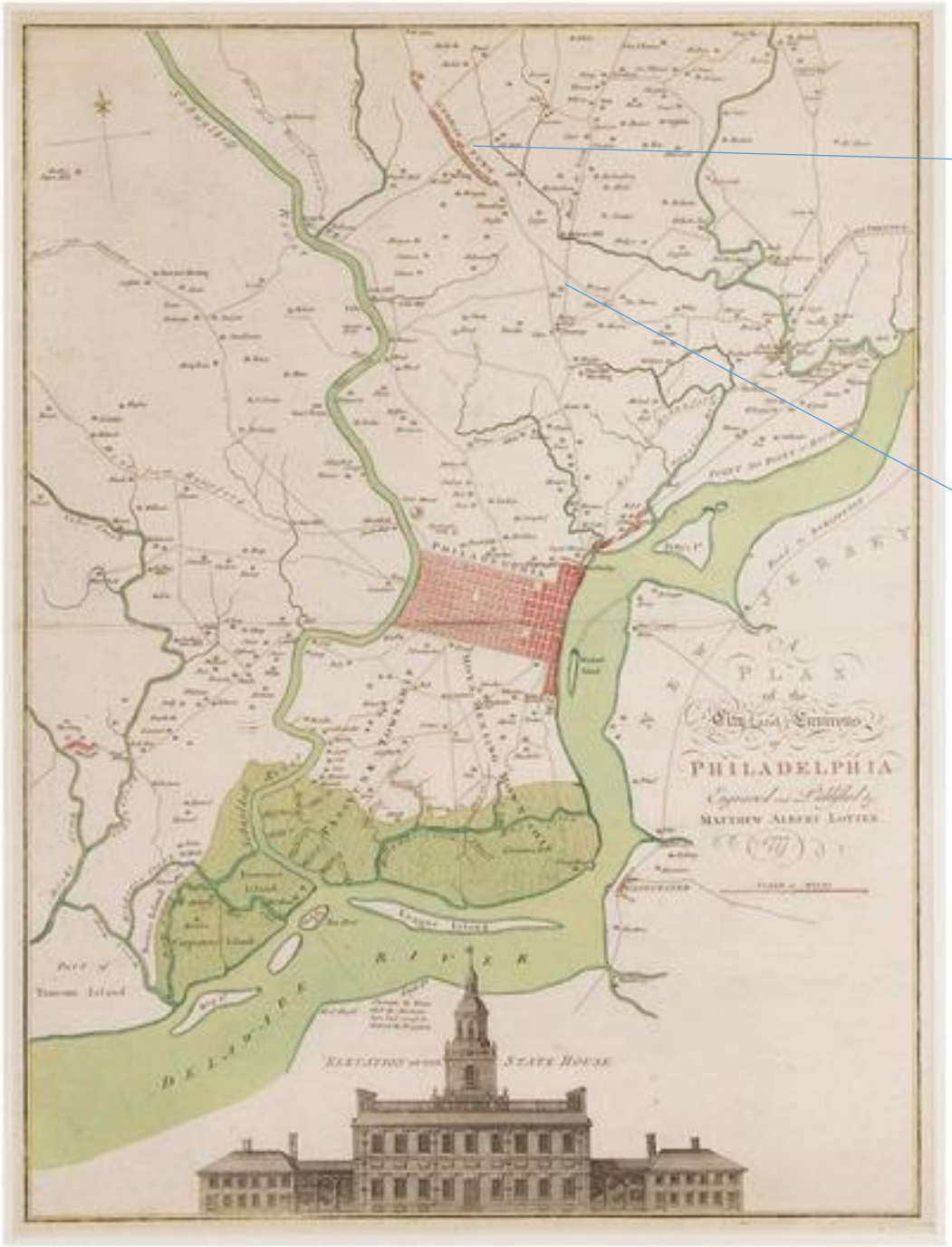
Germantown Futures

HSPV - 703-301

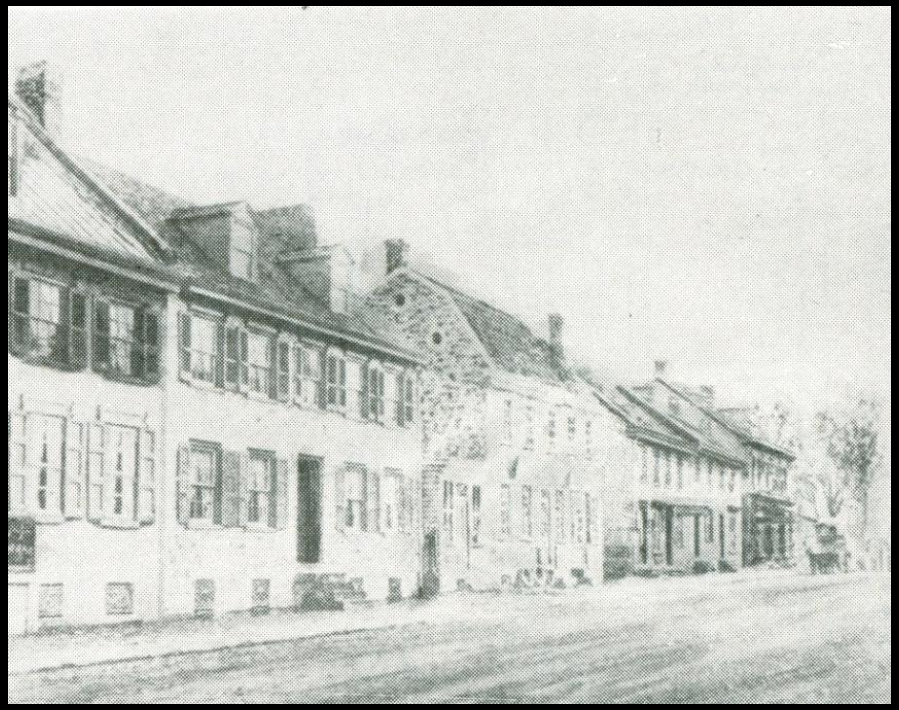
Laura Keim, Aaron Wunsch, with Laura Spina



Germantown Village
Founded 1683

Intersection of York and Germantown Roads

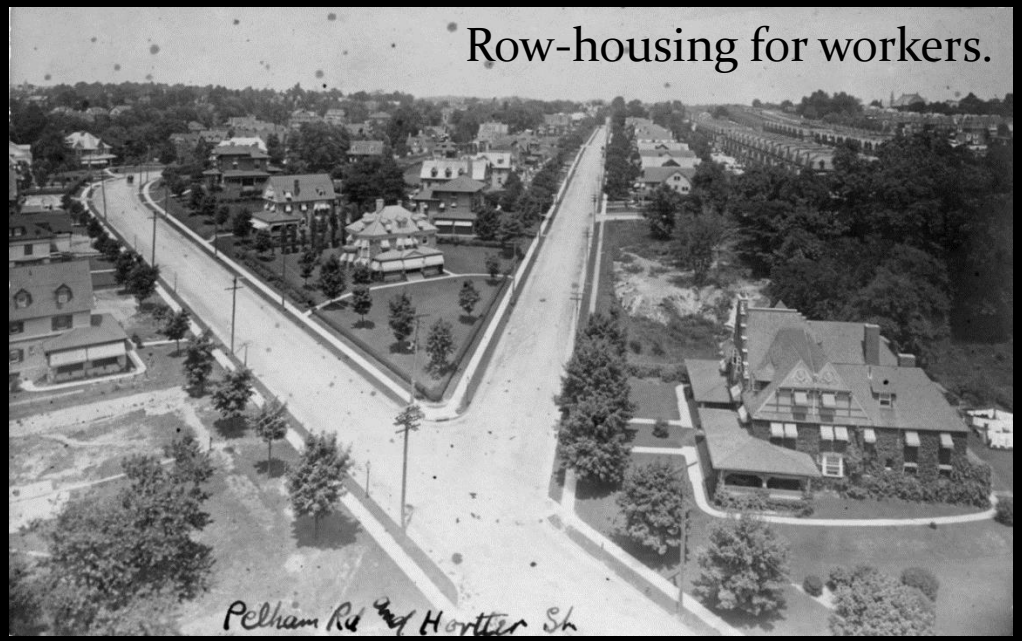
Scull and Heap, 1777



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



"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.

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

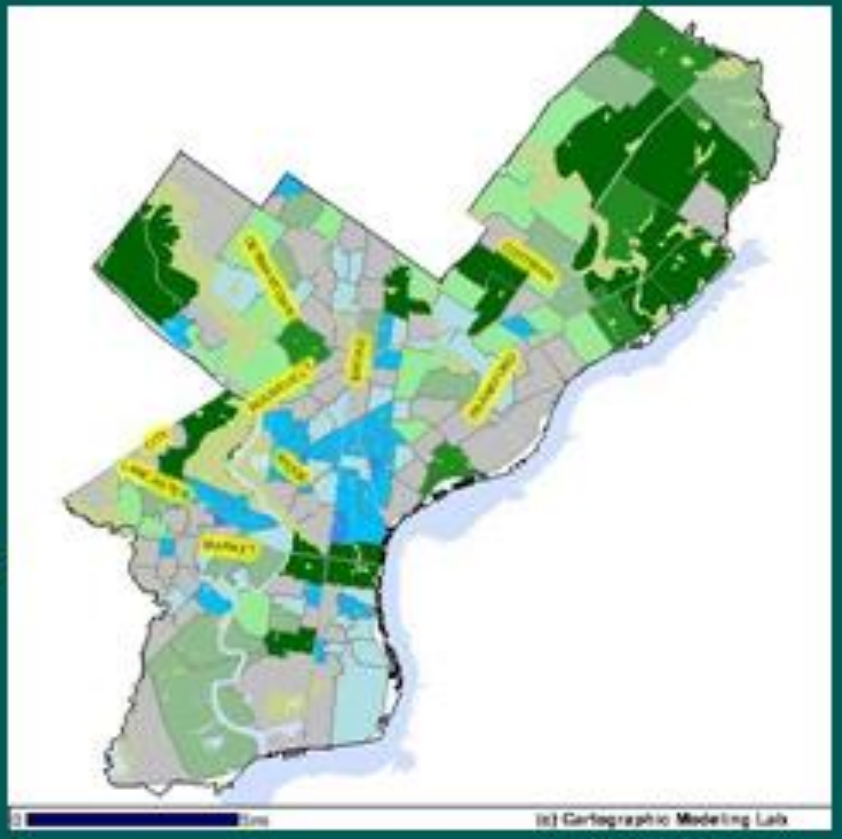
Can we save and reinvigorate this infrastructure and preserve neighborhood character for the next century?

Germantown

Neighborhood of Philly

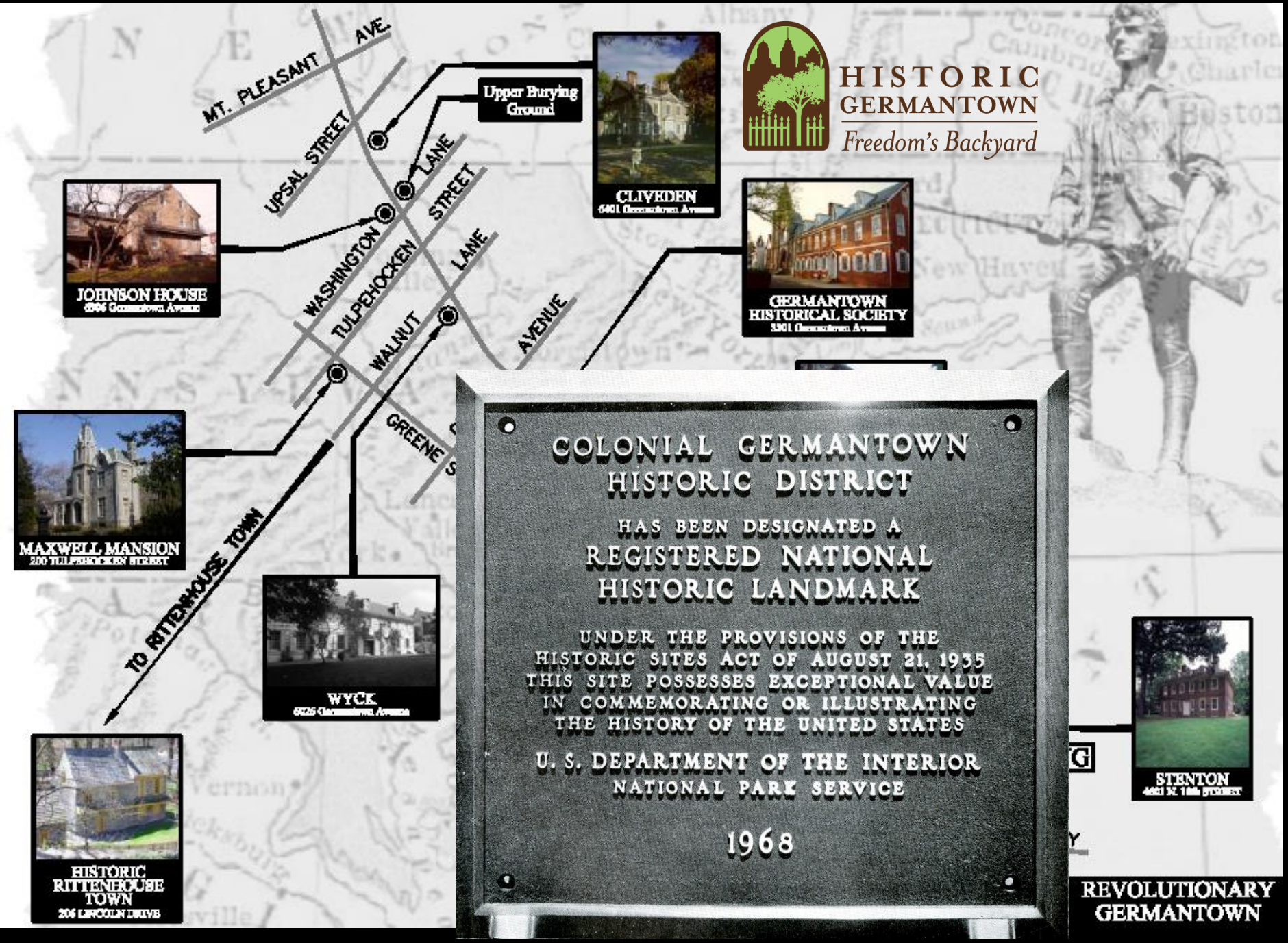
Six Miles northwest of center city

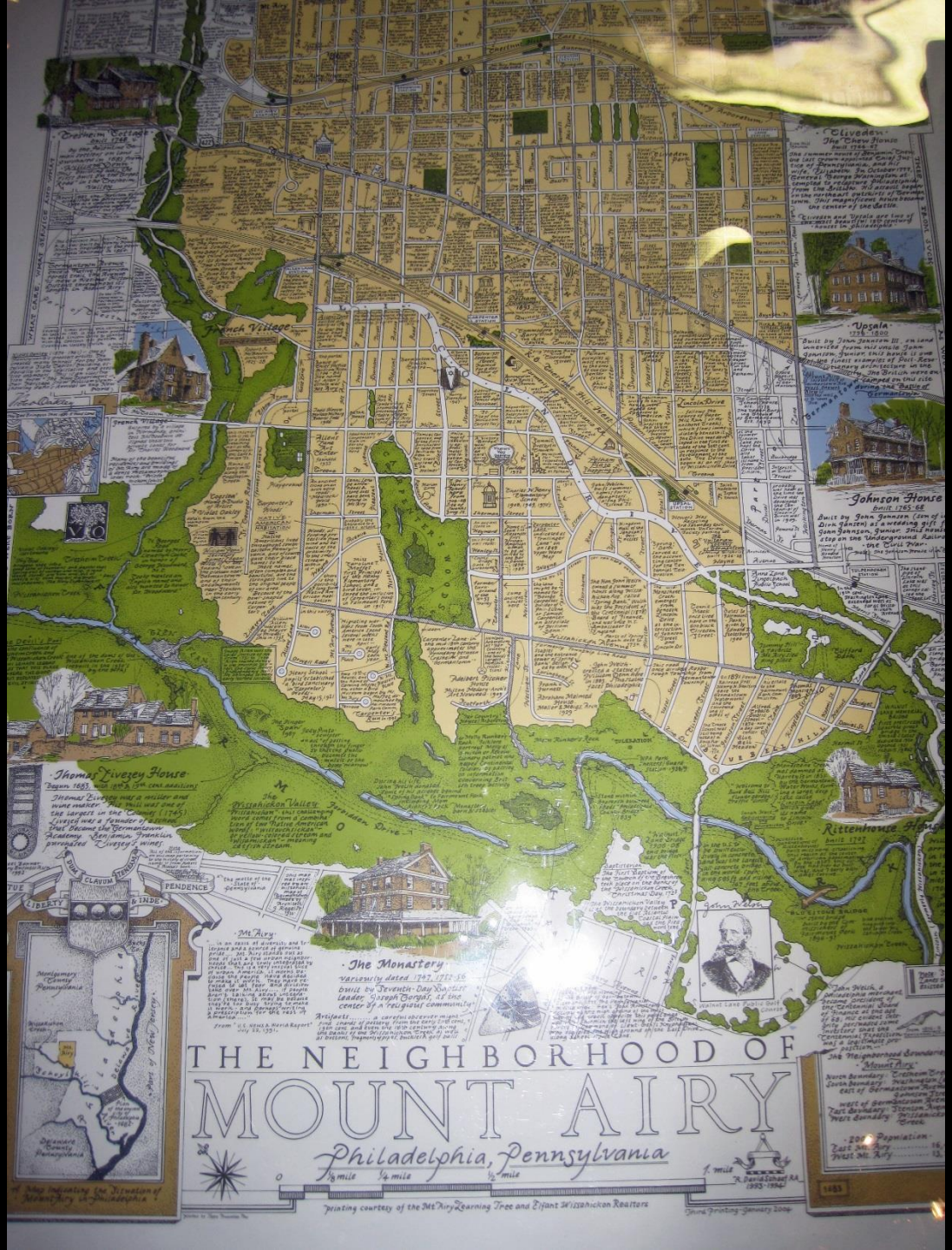
- 2010 Population:
  - 46,000
    - 73% African American
    - 7% Asian
    - 24% below poverty line
- 49 community groups
- 11 Community Development Corps.
- 90 churches, 3 mosques
- 15 historic sites/museums
- 10,000 homes over 75 years old



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


HISTORIC GERMANTOWN
Freedom's Backyard
MT. PLEASANT AVE.
UPSAL STREET
Upper Burying Ground
LANE
WASHINGTON
TULPEHOCKEN
STREET
LANE
WALNUT
AVENUE
GREENE
CLIVEDEN
JOHNSON HOUSE
GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MAXWELL MANSION
200 TULPEHOCKEN STREET
TO RITTENHOUSE TOWN
WYCK
HISTORIC RITTENHOUSE TOWN
206 LINCOLN DRIVE
COLONIAL GERMANTOWN
HISTORIC DISTRICT
HAS BEEN DESIGNATED A
REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARK
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE
HISTORIC SITES ACT OF AUGUST 21, 1935
THIS SITE POSSESSES EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
IN COMMEMORATING OR ILLUSTRATING
THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1968
STENTON
REVOLUTIONARY GERMANTOWN


THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF
MOUNT AIRY
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Thomas Livezey House
The Monastery
Johnson House
Upsala
Rittenhouse House
French Village
Mt Airy
Printing courtesy of the Mt Airy Learning Tree and Elfant Wissahickon Realtors

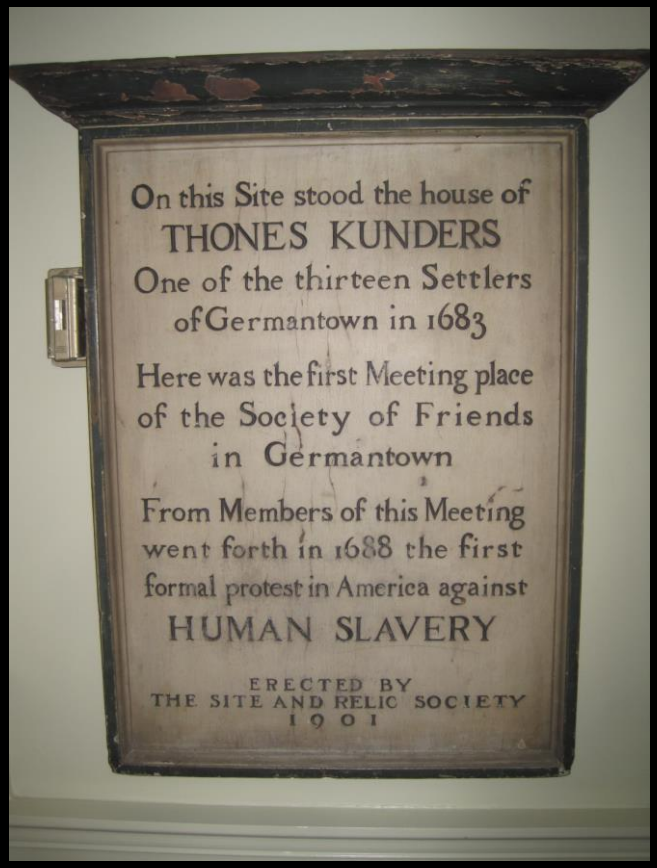
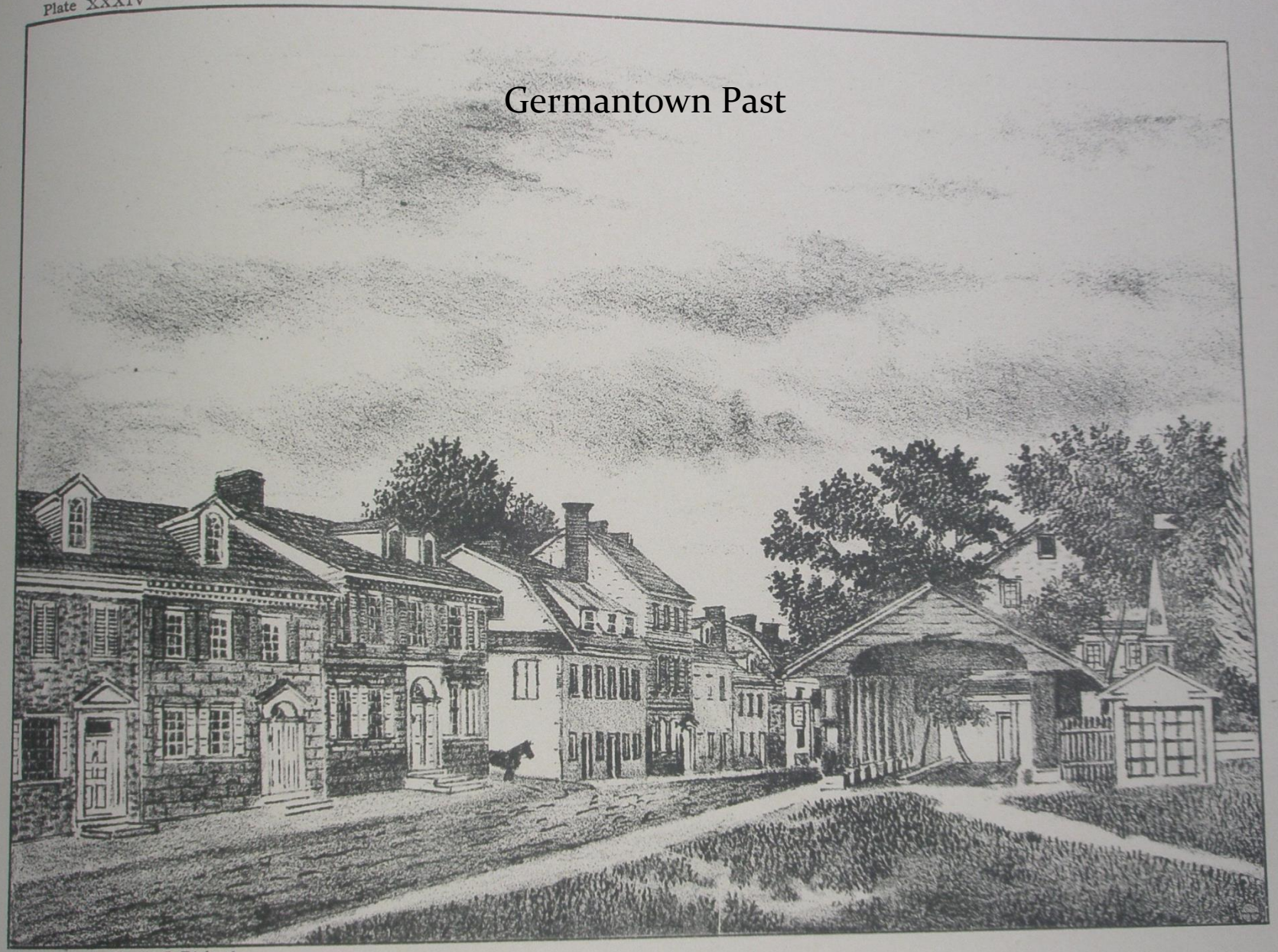

On this Site stood the house of
THONES KUNDERS
One of the thirteen Settlers
of Germantown in 1683
Here was the first Meeting place
of the Society of Friends
in Germantown
From Members of this Meeting
went forth in 1688 the first
formal protest in America against
HUMAN SLAVERY
ERECTED BY
THE SITE AND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

Plate XXXIV

Germantown Past



Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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?