

PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES

FOR PHC USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1. NAME

HISTORIC

Woodside

AND/OR COMMON

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER

3001 Schoolhouse Lane

3. CLASSIFICATION

- | CATEGORY | | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

STREET AND NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

ZIPCODE

5. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1885

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward Steel estate, "Woodside", 3001 Schoolhouse Lane in Germantown, consists of three buildings; a main house, a carriage house, and a garden house all set back from the street on several tree lined acres. A circular driveway leads through the iron fence, under the porte-cochere of the main house and back out to the street through another opening. A branch of the driveway leads to the carriage house.

The main house, an irregularly shaped two and one half story building with a three story tower, results from the agglomeration over time of vernacular and architect designed building elements. The original mid-19th Century house cannot be made out in the mass of substantial additions. The facades of the house, composed of numerous planes and asymmetrical design elements, have no apparent rational plan. However, the whole presents a remarkably harmonious and picturesque image due to the varied but consistent use of similar designs, colors, and materials. The house sits on a foundation of deep brown random coursed stone, exposed to varying heights depending on the grade level at any given location. A layer of smooth brown stucco covers the stone walls. The roof, composed of numerous cross gables with gabled dormers is covered largely with a red standing-seam metal roof, except for the tower and front porch, shingled with slate. Decorative elements such as brightly painted wooden millwork and half timbering also help to unify the building.

The front facade of the house like each of the other sides is made up of several planes. On the left side a two and one half story wing juts out toward the street with a two story three sided bay of windows providing fenestration. These windows like the vast majority in the house have simple 1/1 wooden sash. The third floor gable end, decorated with half timbering, contains a pair of sash windows. The center of the front facade is dominated by a three and one half story square tower. On the first floor this tower houses the entrance way with double leaf glass and panelled doors. On the second and third floors the tower is lit by two 1/1 sash per floor, one window facing north and the other west. The tower is capped by an unusual hipped roof with a smaller gable roof section extending up from the center. This roof overhangs the tower by several feet, and is supported by wooden brackets, which in turn rest on a decorative half timbered skirt, surrounding the top of the tower. The right side of the front facade contains a pair of windows on the first and second floors and a single gabled dormer in the attic story. The gable end of the dormer is decorated with sawtoothed woodwork. An elaborate L shaped single story wooden porch/porte-cochere projects from the front facade. The porch has millwork posts and cornice and a flat roof decorated by a slate false mansard and iron cresting. The west facade also consists of three sections, on the left side a two and one half story gable end, in the center a two story flat roofed section, and on the right, to the rear of the house, a single story hipped roof wing. The gable end is highly decorated on the first and attic

7. DESCRIPTION - continued
3001 Schoolhouse Lane

stories with half timbering infilled by vertical wooden siding. Fenestration is provided on the first floor by one large central three sided window, and on the second by two smaller three sided bay windows. The two other sections of the west facade have plain stucco walls and symmetrically arranged sash windows. A brick chimney projects up from the central section.

The east facade of the house is L shaped, composed of the walls of several projection wings. The most important feature of this facade is the single story green house conservatory with a glass hipped roof.

The rear of the house is dominated by a single story wooden porch extending across most of the width of the building. The open porch has extraordinary turned and milled decorative details. The east end of the porch consists of an attached pergola with a decorative metal bell curve hipped roof topped by a finial.

Although the house could not be entered at this time, it is known to contain a variety of elaborate Victorian spaces.

The carriage house is itself more elaborate than many houses. Built entirely of rubble stone, the two story carriage house is an L shaped structure with an unusual cross gable/hipped roof. A large open shed extends across the front supported by four simple wooden posts. Wide panelled wooden doors provide access to the first floor open stable. The building has living quarters upstairs, lit by sets of two and three 2/4 sash windows. The building is topped by two airvent cupolas. These, one tall and one short, are decorated by brass pinnacles and a weather-vane.

This ornate and colorful complex of buildings fully retains its architectural and structural integrity, as well as its harmonious tree shaded setting.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1601-1700
- 1701-1800
- 1801-1850
- 1851-1900
- 1901-1950
- 1951-
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (Specify) Architecture

SPECIFIC DATES

1875

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Addison Hutton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodside, located at 3001 Schoolhouse Lane, possesses significance as a fine picturesque country house designed by the important Philadelphia architect Addison Hutton; as home to two prominent Philadelphians, Edward T. Steele and Francis R. Strawbridge, and finally as one of the few remaining large estates on Schoolhouse Lane in Germantown, a street which developed as a community for the very wealthy in the late 19th Century.

Addison Hutton who was the architect for the numerous additions that transformed a small stone house into the spectacular picturesque mansion it is today, is well known as one of Philadelphia's finest architects of both public buildings and country estates. Mr. Hutton was born into a religious quaker family on a farm in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in 1834. Addison, though the son of a carpenter, was largely self taught in the ways of architecture until through chance he was brought to the attention of the prominent Philadelphian architect Samuel Sloan. It was in Sloan's office that Hutton first came to design country houses. In 1863 he began his own architectural firm, and recieved commissions for many important buildings still standing in Philadelphia. The most famous of these include the PSFS building on Walnut Street, The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Arch Street Methodist Church. Hutton being a Quaker himself was commissioned by many of the old Quaker families of Philadelphia to design country house estates. These families began moving from the center of the city out to more suburban settings with the advent of the commuter railroads, and sought large houses designed in the popular picturesque styles including gothic revival, tudor, queen anne, and stick style. Addison Hutton used an amalgam of all of these styles to create his own unique interpretation of the country house. In 1875, near the middle of his career, Hutton designed the extensive renovations to Woodside. It is possible to see in this house many of the design elements that were used in his more famous later houses including Ballytore for Isaac Clothier and Torworth for Justus Strawbridge both of 1885.

The architecture of Woodside is truely a mixture of styles falling under the design philosophy of the picturesque house, made famous by the books of the architect Jackson Downing. This philosophy held that a house should blend into the wooded setting of nature through the use of asymmetrical design, natural colors, and natural materials. Woodside with its off center tower, numerous chimneys, irregular plan, and use of stone, stucco, and vertical wooden siding is a fine example of picturesque house design. Design elements taken from

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Randal Baron/Forrest Snyder

ORGANIZATION

Philadelphia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER

1313 City Hall Annex

CITY OR TOWN

Philadelphia

DATE

Dec. 1, 1984

TELEPHONE

686-4543

STATE

Pa.

8. SIGNIFICANCE - continued
3001 Schoolhouse Lane

specific styles include the stick style half timbering of the gable ends, several Queen Anne lattice windows, and the italianate bracketed cornice of the tower. The building though drawing inspiration from a number of sources is truly a unique creation of its architect.

Edward T. Steel, who hired Hutton to create Woodside as his residence in 1875, was a Quaker, a self made man, and an important Philadelphia citizen. Mr. Steel, born in Philadelphia in 1835, descended from a Quaker family that arrived to settle the city in 1683. Having just finished high school in 1849, Steel got a job in a small store, and there received his business training. Several years later Steel started a wholesale cloth business situated at the corner of 6th and Market Streets. Due to Mr. Steel's drive and good judgement the business became the largest of its kind in the city during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. By 1874 Edward Steel was one of the leading citizens of Philadelphia, and was elected a member of the Centennial Board of Finance in which position he labored to promote the success of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. In 1879, he was elected president of the Board of Education of Philadelphia, and instituted many progressive reforms in the public schools. He resigned from the position only in the year of his death, 1892.

When in 1874 Edward Steel bought a small stone house along Schoolhouse Lane in Germantown he was one of the first of the wealthy Philadelphians who were to settle and build on that street in the late 19th Century. In 1885, Justus Strawbridge, co-founder of Strawbridge and Clothier, and leading Philadelphia citizen, moved to the corner of Schoolhouse Lane and Wissahickon Avenue. Strawbridge commissioned Addison Hutton to design his house, Torworth, in 1885, in a style similar to Woodside. Francis Strawbridge, son of Justus, bought Woodside from the Steele estate in 1917, and the property has remained in the Strawbridge family since that time. In the intervening years all of the surrounding estates have been torn down, and Torworth burned in 1979. Woodside remains as the last of the country estates in this section of Germantown.

Woodside is significant as a handsome example of a picturesque house designed by Addison Hutton, as the house of leading Philadelphian Edward T. Steel and as one of the last estates in this section of Germantown.



“Woodsticker” at 4001 School House Lane / back porch and carriage house

