

- 2006 Year-End Easements Donated to the Preservation Alliance -

The end of the calendar year often brings the donation of several preservation easements to the Preservation Alliance by property owners taking advantage of charitable-gift tax deductions which result from such easement donations.

Last year was no exception as four historic structures in Philadelphia were placed under preservation easement protection at the end of 2006: The Marine Barracks in the old Philadelphia Naval Yard, 431 Fairmount Avenue, 503 Pine Street, and 17 West Willow Grove Avenue. Earlier in the year easements were donated on the Marine Club (South Broad Street at Washington Avenue) and 266 Pearl Street, the one-time electric company headquarters in Hartford, CT, converted to condominiums by developers Philadelphia Management.

The Marine Barracks (a.k.a., Building #100) is prominently sited in the heart of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard Historic District and faces the southern terminus of Broad Street across a large, open grassy area which once served as a parade ground and athletic field for the Naval Yard.



Originally serving as barracks for Marines stationed at the Naval Yard, the property was built in 1901 according to the Romanesque-style design of Chicago-based architect Henry Ives Cobb. The building is being converted to offices by P&A Associates as part of the redevelopment of what is now known as the Philadelphia Naval Business Center.



Originally known as The Zimmerman Slaughterhouse and Meat Packing Building, 431 Fairmount Avenue is situated in the Northern Liberties National Register District. It was built by Daniel B. Zimmerman (1863 - 1928) when he was at the height of his success in the cattle industry. He owned hundreds of thousands of acres from the Dakotas to California upon which grazed cattle bearing the 'Z' brand. The Zimmerman ranches routinely shipped 40,000 cattle to market each year.



Zimmerman built his Slaughterhouse and Meat Packing Building in 1911 in the thriving German enclave in Northern Liberties. Adorning the top of the building are four terracotta steer heads and a globe with the letter "Z" superimposed. Now known as "Fairmount Quarters", the property is being developed as condominiums.

Easements on two residential properties were donated by their homeowners. Situated in the Chestnut Hill National Register Historic District is 17 West Willow Grove, a late Victorian twin house; 503 Pine is a Society Hill townhouse built in 1800 and remodeled in 1890 in the Classical Revival style.



17 W. Willow Grove



503 Pine