

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common MATTHEW BAIRD MANSION

2. Location

street & number 814 N. Broad Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Philadelphia N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Pennsylvania code 42 county Philadelphia code 101

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas Scannapieco

street & number 2005 Wallace Street

city, town Philadelphia N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Hall

street & number Room 153

city, town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	1/14
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Matthew Baird House, located at 814 North Broad Street in North Philadelphia is a four story, five bay brick with brownstone skin, nineteen room urban mansion. Built 1863-64, the building rests on the west side of Broad Street on a lot 40 feet in front and extending west a depth of 160 feet through to Carlisle Street. This complex is made up of the main building, an attached three story brick back building and a two story brick stable at the rear of the property. In June of 1863 the Public Ledger announced: "Several of the mansions to be erected on North Broad Street have commenced. The one for Mr. Baird, ...is Romanesque in style of architecture." Although the structure does have some of the major characteristics of this style, particularly arched window and door openings, enriched corbel table along the eaves and string courses and hood moldings with corbel stops, it is more eclectic in design, displaying distinctive elements of the Second Empire period and the classical Italianate and Renaissance Revival styles.

The Baird mansion was one of the forerunners to elegant in-town residences, built by Philadelphia's nouveau riche industrialists, which lined North Broad Street in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The elegance of the exterior is highlighted by brownstone voussoir lintels above cast iron basement window grates. Simple steps lead to a smooth dressed columned door frame with compound arched pediment and decorative keystone. Double leaf metal and glass doors have replaced the original wooden leaves, although the single light transom sash remains. The building fenestration is regular with four double hung 2/1 attenuated sash on the first floor. Molded brownstone hoods with console stops and brownstone underwindow blind panels finish the sash detailing. The second floor is delineated by a brownstone stringcourse with a pronounced chevron pattern. The second floor is dominated by a center window which mimics the front door in its surround treatment. A round arched, plate tracery window is pierced by a decorative circular window. Below the window is a small balcony which projects out beyond the building plane. The surrounding windows are identical, double hung 2/2 sash with molded brownstone hoods and console stops. A corbeled brownstone string course defines the third floor level. The third floor sash and window finish are same as on the second floor, except these windows are smaller. An elaborate arched corbel table enhances the eaves as do the flanking building consoles. Crowning the building is a slate mansard roof with two single and one center, double, pedimented dormers.

The original interior configuration had a parlor, hall, vestibule, library and dining room with a pyramidal skylight, on the first floor; four chambers, hall and bath on the second and third floor; and one large room, two smaller rooms and a hall at the attic level. Molded archtraves, marble mantels, wood paneling, baseboard and cornice moldings, molded plaster ceiling detailing, and decorative brackets lavishly enhanced the interior, however, due to later alterations and unsympathetic uses, many of the room plans have been altered and much of the detailing removed.

The brick stable fronting on Carlisle Street is Italianate. The predominant feature of this structure is the pedimented gable end with a molded wood, bracketed cornice. The windows on the upper story, paired, double hung 6/6 sash flanking a center, arched 6/6 window appear to be original, while the lower story, 1/1 lights are likely later additions.

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Sandwiched between the main building and the stable is a three story, six bay brick back building with hipped, tin roof. This structure is part of the original complex, although it underwent alteration and re-configuration as the building expanded. According to the Franklin Fire Insurance survey dated October, 1864, this structure was 14 feet 4 inches wide and extended a depth of 73 feet. Housed in the first floor was the breakfast room and the kitchen; on the upper floors were living quarters, presumably for the servants. The kitchen communicated with the dining room, in the main part of the house, through the rear piazza. As recorded in a later insurance survey, dated 1894, the back building was extended 10 feet 6 inches to accommodate a butler's pantry and provision's closet.

8. Significant

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1863-64

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Matthew Baird Mansion represents a significant element in Philadelphia's development as it reflects the varied factors and values which influenced the growth of the industrial city in the nineteenth century. Baird and his house represent a true Horatio Alger success story - a magnificent urban residence located in a conspicuously fashionable section of town owned by a wealthy immigrant who worked his way up to become owner of Baldwin Locomotive Works. Baird's success proved that in the nineteenth century those lucky enough and talented enough, regardless of place of birth, could prosper.

Born in Londonderry, Ireland, Baird's family came to America in 1821. After attending school in Philadelphia he found employment as an apprentice in a brick yard. By the 1830's Baird had moved to the New Castle Manufacturing Co. in Delaware and in 1837 he held the position of Superintendent of the New Castle Railroad. The following year Baird was hired as Superintendent of the boiler division Baldwin Locomotive Co.. This move proved to be the beginning of a major success story culminating with Baird owning and serving as chairman of the board of Baldwin Locomotives.

Mattias Baldwin, founder of the Locomotive works, invented the first American steam engine; in 1832 the Germantown and Norristown Railroad purchased his first locomotive known as "Old Ironsides". These early engines were, however, greatly flawed and not terribly profitable. Matthew Baird is credited with inventing a simple apparatus which consumed the smoke created by coal burning steam engines, which proved to be a major improvement to Baldwin's locomotive. This and other design changes made Baldwin's engines more efficient and helped to build their international reputation.

In the same year as his invention, Matthew Baird was made a partner in the company then known as M.W. Baldwin & Co.. With the on-set of the Civil War in 1861, Baldwin's business grew significantly as the government purchased locomotives to move army troops. By 1865, the year of Baldwin's death, his locomotive manufacturing works, located on 9 acres on Spring Garden Street was the largest in the world. Capable of producing two locomotives a day, the company had designs and patterns for some 500 different types of locomotives. Baldwin had the further distinction of being able to handle every phase of locomotive production at their mammoth plant.

After Baldwin's death, Matthew Baird became sole proprietor and the organization was re-named the Baldwin Locomotive Works, M. Baird & Co.. At the time of Baird's death, eight years later, Baldwin produced some 437 locomotives, annually, and employed 3,000 workers.

Sam Bass Warner, Jr. described the self made man of the early part of the nineteenth century to be more philanthropic than his later counter-parts who tended to be more business minded. Baird seemed, however, to try and bridge this gap by participating in both business and public works. The Who Was Who in America, 1607-1896 lists among

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Baird's achievement: Board of Directors of Central National Bank, director of Texas and Pacific Railroad Company, director of PA. Steel Co., as well as serving on the board of the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts and as manager of the Northern Home for Friendless Children.

Baird died in 1877 and the house passed, by will, to his wife Anna. Her family remained on North Broad Street until 1887.

In the nineteenth century, North Philadelphia became a major center for industrial growth and North Broad Street became the home for many of these nouveau riche factory owners. Considered outcasts in the old money society, these businessmen created their own society which stretched along one of Philadelphia's major thoroughfares. Working with all of the resources available to them, they created great gilded palaces which served as a tribute to their tenacity and success.

Many of these industrialists built their garish residences on Broad Street to be in close proximity to their places of business. This seems to contradict the general trend of moving away from the work place as position and means allowed. Matthew Baird is a perfect example of this apparant contradiction; residing at Tenth and Spring Garden while he rose through the ranks of the company he moved just 3½ blocks away from his factory within a year of taking full ownership. Baird must be considered a pioneer in establishing the North Broad Street nouveau riche society, although within ten to fifteen years his mansion was surrounded by homes of other noted first generation wealthy including P.B. Widner, Elkins, Disston, Kemble, Shoch, Weightman, Charles J. Harrah "Lord of Midvale Steel" and others. Their grand and opulent edifices adorned Broad Street like five and dime costume jewelry.

Matthew Baird embodied all of the values and aspirations of nineteenth century society and his beautiful brownstone residence firmly planted on North Broad Street symbolized the status achieved through hard work and perserverance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

U.S. Census - 1870, 1880
Ward Atlases
Scarf & Westcott
Broad Street Come Alive

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1
Quadrangle name Philadelphia, PA. - N.J.

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

A lot on the west side of Broad Street, 200' north of the north side of Brown Street, extending a depth of 160' to Carlisle Street.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth R. Mintz

organization Elizabeth R. Mintz date _____

street & number 301 Cherry Street telephone (215) 592-0465

city or town Philadelphia state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature
Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/23/83

For HCRS use only:

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

date

Keeper of the National Register

date

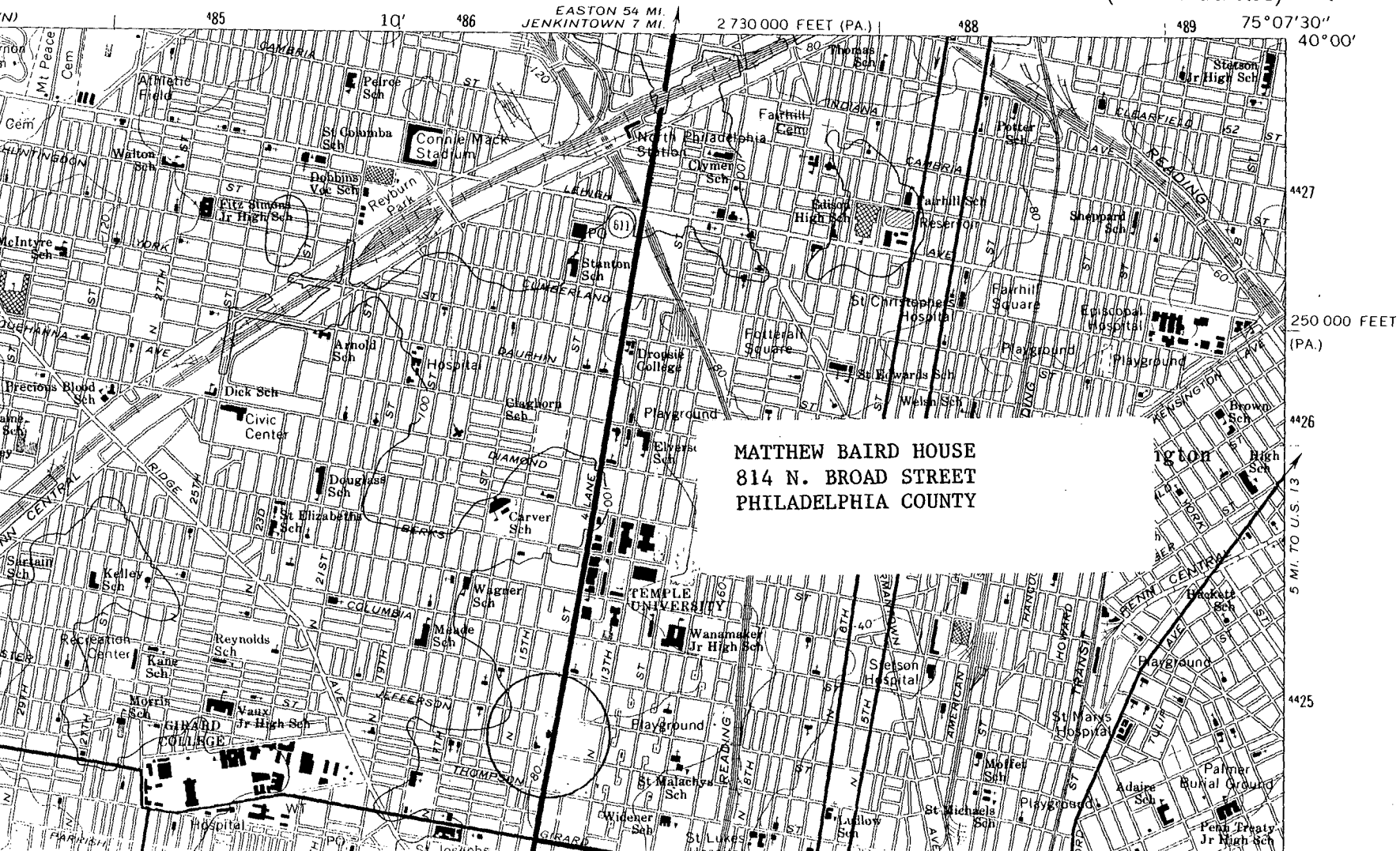
Attest:

Chief of Registration

PHILADELPHIA QUADRANGLE
 PENNSYLVANIA-NEW JERSEY
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5964 11 SE
 (FRANKFORD)

and more
 1000-meter Universal Transverse
 shown in blue
 Red tint indicates areas in which the ground is higher than the mean sea level



MATTHEW BAIRD HOUSE
 814 N. BROAD STREET
 PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

250 000 FEET
 (PA.)

5 MI. TO U.S. 13