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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Joe Frazier's Gym

other names/site number Cloverlay Gym

2. Location

street & number 2917 N. Broad Street | N/A | not for publication

city or town Philadelphia | N/A | vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Philadelphia code 101 zip code 19132

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination __ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets __ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X **national** __ **statewide** __ **local**

Andrea L. MacDonald — March 4, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property __ meets __ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

__ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register

__ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:)

Patrick Andrus — 4/30/2013
Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
0		sites
0		structures
0		objects
1	0	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / sports facility
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ industrial storage
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ manufacturing

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/ specialty store
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ manufacturing

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation:
walls: Brick
Limestone
roof: Synthetic
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The three-story brick building that was home to heavyweight boxer Joe Frazier's gym was constructed c.1895 in a Classical Revival style along the major north-south artery of North Broad Street in Philadelphia. The building originally served as a window sash and blind warehouse, and was located adjacent to the railroad tracks in North Philadelphia, an area of the city that was largely developed in the late nineteenth century. The building was partially altered in the later-twentieth century to serve as a gym, training center, and apartment for champion heavyweight boxer Joe Frazier. The first and second floors are divided into a front and rear section, most-recently with a furniture store occupying the first floor front portion and a light industrial manufacturing use in the rear. The second floor combines vacant offices in the front section with warehousing in the rear. A vacant apartment, which was home to Joe Frazier, occupies the third floor and its loft space. The building retains the general layout, features, and finishes that characterize the period of Joe Frazier's occupation of the building. The building is adjacent to a gas station along busy North Broad Street; a small building located on the gas station property, outside the boundary, is immediately adjacent to the south wall of the nominated building. The integrity of the building is largely intact and reflects the period of Frazier's occupancy and use (1968-2008).

Narrative Description

Joe Frazier's Gym is located in a commercial district of North Philadelphia. The surrounding neighborhood is comprised of predominantly residential buildings that are three stories in height and were constructed in the late nineteenth century. The subject building occupies half of an irregular city block that is bounded by N. Broad Street to the west, W. Glenwood Avenue to the south, an undeveloped lot to the east (and northeast), and the raised passenger rail tracks to the north. Its immediate neighbors are a gas station (to the south), a modern shopping center (across Broad Street, to the west), and railroad tracks (to the north), and undeveloped grass-covered lot to the east.

The building faces west and is located on the east side of North Broad Street, separated from the street by a sidewalk. It is located north of W. Glenwood Avenue, and is separated from Glenwood by a Hess gas station that abuts the gym building on its south elevation. The rear of the building faces east, and is bordered by an overgrown, undeveloped lot of land with shrubs and other undergrowth. The northern edge of the site is bordered by Amtrak and SEPTA's rail tracks, which run east-west through North Philadelphia.

The building is located on a 0.31-acre site on the east side of N. Broad Street, north of W. Glenwood Avenue. Concrete sidewalks separate the building from N. Broad Street on its west elevation. The north elevation faces the raised Amtrak and SEPTA tracks, which edge the site's north side in a southwest-northeast angled perimeter. The triangular portion of the site between the subject building and the railroad tracks is comprised of a slope up to the tracks, which is covered in low growth and limited trees. The rear,

east elevation is bordered by an undeveloped overgrown lot. The rear section of the site includes a driveway and loading ramp that offer access to the rear of the building's first and second floors.

Joe Frazier's Gym is constructed of heavy timber-frame structure with load-bearing masonry perimeter walls. The building is constructed on concrete slab with no basement and is three stories in height on the west end, and two stories on the east end. The building assumes a rectangular footprint, with the ground floor occupying the entire footprint of the site.

The main (west) elevation has a tripartite arrangement, with a wide central bay flanked by narrower bays on each end of the façade. This elevation is three stories in height. Its ground floor is occupied by a modern aluminum-framed storefront, and its two upper floors feature one window opening in each of the three bays. The second floor's windows contain rectangular openings with fixed frameless glass within the openings. The third floor's openings are arched and have been infilled with stucco. Each of the six window openings on these two floors features a keystone detail set into the surrounding brick frames. On the main, west elevation, the ground floor of the building contains a storefront, with five broad plate glass windows spanning the central bay. Each of the elevation's side bays (north and south) features a single glazed door flanked by plate glass windows and a transom window. This ground floor portion of the façade is faced in stucco and limestone panels, while the two upper floors are faced with a curtain wall of brick. The stucco and limestone facade on the ground floor is separated from the brick upper floors by a limestone cornice. The center bay of this cornice has "JOE FRAZIER'S GYM" carved into the central band in bold capital letters. This center bay of the cornice is separated from the cornice on each side bay by the corbelled footing of a brick pilaster that extends from the second to the third floor.

The west elevation of the exterior is capped by a pressed metal frieze and cornice on each of the three bays. The central bay features a false parapet (screening the gabled roof behind), with the pressed metal frieze and cornice occupying the upper portion of the parapet. The narrower, flanking bays on this elevation also feature a pressed metal frieze, but they are each capped by a pressed metal pediment, rather than the cornice of the central section. The pilasters that separate the three bays are each capped by a pressed metal capital.

A billboard is attached to the roof and faces southwest, overlooking the intersection of N. Broad Street and Glenwood Avenue.

The south elevation of the exterior is three stories at the west end, and two stories at the east end (the rear) of the building. This incorporates both the upward slope of the site, as well as the difference in floor plan between the front and rear of the building. This elevation is constructed of brick laid in a common bond, although the bottom half of this elevation has been painted yellow. The three-story front section of the building (on the western half of this elevation) features one glass double-sliding door set into an arched opening on the third floor. (The door leads nowhere, with no stairs or porch on this elevation). The third floor in this section of the elevation also features five window openings, but they have all been covered by painted plywood. The lower two floors in this section of the building do not feature any windows, doors, or openings. The rear section of this elevation—which is two stories tall—includes an irregular configuration of seven arched window openings in the second floor. Most are infilled or covered with plywood today, although one window opening features a modern pair of vinyl, double-hung sash set into

the arched opening. The ground floor features another irregular configuration of seven arched window and door openings. All but two of the openings are infilled or covered with plywood.

The rear, east elevation of the building is divided into a tripartite arrangement, with each of the three bays projecting progressively closer to the site's perimeter. The north section projects the furthest toward the rear of the site, and overhead door (with a chain link gate in front) offers the only access on this elevation to the first floor interior. The central bay includes a concrete ramp and loading dock, with an open wooden staircase, which offers access to the second floor through a single door. The southernmost bay is recessed from the other two sections of the east elevation. As with the central bay, the concrete ramp obscures the first floor and leads to the second floor on this elevation. Unlike the central bay, however, there is no loading dock on this portion of the elevation, and the large opening to the second floor has been infilled. This entire south elevation is constructed of brick, with several sections of wood and stucco infill.

The north elevation, which faces the railroad tracks, is unfenestrated and features brick construction with stucco infill.

Interior: Joe Frazier's Gym is three stories in height in the front section of the building, and two stories in height in the rear. The ground floor is divided to accommodate two tenants; a retail furniture store occupies the front portion of the first floor, with a laminate manufacturers' shop and offices occupying the rear. The second floor features offices and open storage space, and the third floor (and its loft space) contains a vacant apartment where Joe Frazier resided.

First Floor
The first floor is divided between the retail spaces at the front of the building and a manufacturing shop and offices at the rear. These two functions are completely bifurcated by a CMU wall that divides the ground floor plan in half. There is no internal access between the front and rear sections of the first floor, which feature separate entrances.

The front (western) section of the first floor is accessed through two modern glazed single-leaf doors—one on each side (north and south) of the front elevation. Within the retail space, the exterior walls are painted brick (on the front, west-facing elevation) and the interior partition walls are gypsum board. The retail space is split into two levels, incorporating the slope of the site with a stair from the lower retail space along the west elevation to the elevated retail space in the center of the building. These two spaces are separated by a gypsum board wall, although a window with fixed glass is set into the partition wall north of the staircase in the area that once functioned as Joe Frazier's office. The retail space features carpeted flooring throughout, and has modern drop ceilings.

The open floor space on both levels is interrupted by a grid of painted wood columns that support the second floor structure. At the rear of the lower level of retail space, three large anchors are installed in the ceiling between the supporting columns. These metal fixtures once served as the anchors for the punching bags in Frazier's gym.

The rear (eastern) section of the first floor is completely separated from the front section. It is accessed from the rear of the building through a large overhead door (with a chain-link fence across the opening.) This portion of the ground floor is occupied by a laminate manufacturer's shop and offices. It features the

same grid of support columns as the front section of the floor, but the wood columns in this rear section are unpainted. The floor is a combination of concrete and wood construction. The perimeter and interior partitions walls are painted brick.

Second Floor
The second floor is divided between the office and conference spaces at the front (west end) of the building and the open storage at the rear (east end). The entire second floor is accessible from the first floor by one stair, which is located along the north wall. This staircase has wood tread risers and features plaster walls and a pressed tin ceiling.

In the front section of the second floor, the stair opens into an open hallway area, off of which four different offices open. Three offices span the front of the building, with large offices in the northwest and southwest corners that flank a third, smaller office. The fourth office is along the south wall of the building. All four offices are carpeted and are separated with drywall partition walls. They feature unornamented plaster ceilings. In the offices located along the north and south exterior walls, the exterior walls are painted brick and feature partial wooden baseboards.

The rear open storage section of the second floor occupies most of the floor's area, extending from the offices at the front of the building to the large storage rooms at the rear. The interior walls separating the storage area from the offices are drywall; the exterior walls are painted brick. In the westernmost portion of the storage area, the floors are plywood. The rest of the floor in the storage area is of finished wood construction.

The open-plan storage area features a 10'x10' grid of columns that supports the third floor structure, as well as an exposed wooden truss system in the back half of the floor. Two large monitors are inserted into the ridge of the roof in the center of the building's floor plan. Along the north wall and near the rear of the storage area, a large metal flywheel is suspended above the floor in a mechanical system of heavy wooden beams that measure approximately twenty feet.

The rear (easternmost) portion of the second floor is occupied by smaller storage spaces, separated by interior partition walls. This section of the second floor features modern paneled drop ceilings that are lower than the trusses in the larger, open storage area. As with the rest of the second floor, the exterior walls in this rear portion of the building are painted brick. A flush steel door opens from this storage/receiving area to the loading dock on the east end of the site.

Third Floor
The third floor is accessed by two different stairs from the second floor: one (with wood treads and risers) in the southwest corner of the building and a second along the north wall that is currently inaccessible. The third floor is outfitted as an apartment that dates to the renovations undertaken by Joe Frazier in the 1970s and 1980s. The third floor's apartment consists of an open plan that is loosely divided into different residential spaces by full-length curtains. The kitchen area is located along the southern wall of the floor, separated from the rest of the floor by cabinets and countertops. It abuts the bathroom, which is located in the southeast corner of the third floor. The bathroom is enclosed with gypsum board walls, which are the only full partition walls on the third floor (including the loft area). The floor is carpeted throughout the third floor. The third floor's open plan is intersected by a grid of unpainted, exposed wood columns that

supports the loft area, as well as a grid of unpainted wood columns that supports the roof structure. The perimeter walls are unpainted brick, with unpainted and exposed wood framing members.

There are no windows in the perimeter walls of the third floor (or loft area). There is a glazed sliding double door in the southwest corner, at the top of the stair to the second floor. These doors overlook the site's neighboring parking lot and gas station, but do not open onto any porch, stair, or other structure. The only exterior light on this floor (and the loft above) is from the glazed sliding doors and from the eight skylights that are cut into the roof.

Loft
The loft space above the third floor covers three-quarters of the third floor area—open in one section to the third floor below—and is supported by a grid of timber frame members on the third floor. It is accessed by two open wooden staircases along the west and east walls of the third floor. The western half of the loft is bounded by a short wall that is approximately four feet high. The eastern half of the loft is not walled in at all. The wooden floor features tongue-and-groove construction, and the ceiling is insulated board. The walls are unpainted brick.

The loft is inserted under gym's gabled roof, which slopes to the north and south sides of the building. This roof is supported by heavy timber trusses and columns, which interrupt the open plan of the loft. The loft area is also intersected by a metal flywheel, similar to the one featured in the second floor storage space, that is approximately five feet high and is part of a large wooden mechanism along the south side of the loft.

Integrity Assessment: Joe Frazier's Gym retains the architectural integrity and appearance of the building during the period of significance. No major alterations have taken place, and the only minor alterations consist of minimal removal of fixtures. In particular, the first floor's gym and office space, as well as the third floor apartment, retains the volume of space, and most finishes, materials, and character from Frazier's association with, and occupation of, the building. In regard to each of the seven aspects of integrity:

- Location: Joe Frazier's Gym retains integrity with regard to location. The building remains in its original location.
- Design: The building retains integrity with regards to design. The building retains the site plan and site features associated with the period of significance. The design of the building's exterior and interior reflects the alterations that Cloverlay and Joe Frazier implemented after their purchase of the building in 1968. These features of the design include: the replacement of some windows, the interior partitioning of the first floor, the construction of a concrete ramp on the rear of the building, and the installation of the cornice inscription of "JOE FRAZIER'S GYM."
- Setting: The subject building retains its siting and other physical features of its setting, including its shared boundaries with N. Broad Street and the Amtrak tracks. These features of the building's setting contribute to the urban, commercial context associated with the site's period of significance.
- Materials: The exterior of the subject building retains the materials associated with the period of significance, including: the stucco storefront cornice (with inscription) on the N. Broad Street

elevation; the scored storefront panels on the ground floor; pressed metal cornice retained by Joe Frazier; and the concrete ramp on the rear of the building. The interior of the building retains many of the character-defining materials associated with the period of significance, including the metal anchors in the ceiling which held the weight training bags; the paneled walls in the former main training room; the interior drywall partitions installed on the first floor by Cloverlay and Joe Frazier; and the interior columns, partitions, finishes and features erected by Joe Frazier in his third floor apartment.

- Workmanship: The subject building's workmanship relates to its modern use and alterations as a boxing training facility, with its scored façade, cornice inscription, and pressed metal cornice crafted to announce the function of the building on its main façade. The other elevations also indicate the new use of the building under Cloverlay and Joe Frazier, with minor exterior alterations that reflect the utilitarian function of the building as a gym.
- Feeling: The subject building retains its "modern" feeling, with alterations undertaken by Cloverlay and Joe Frazier that evoke a feeling of the building's adaptability to modern use as a boxing training facility.
- Association: The subject building retains integrity of association. The cornice above the first floor on the main elevation still bears the inscription of "JOE FRAZIER'S GYM" that was installed soon after Frazier took over the ownership and operation of the gym in the early 1970s. On the interior of the building, the anchors for Joe Frazier's weight training bags are still suspended from the ceiling, and the apartment on the third floor retains the finishes, furniture, and fixtures from the era that Frazier lived in the building.

Joe Frazier's Gym
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [x] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [x] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance
1968-2008

Significant Dates
1971
1975

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Frazier, Joe

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance is defined according to the building's active use as Joe Frazier's training gym, from the time of its purchase by Cloverlay, Inc. in 1968 to its sale by Smokin' Joe Frazier, Inc. in 2008.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
The property achieved significance within the past fifty years through its association with Joe Frazier's career from 1968 to 2008. While less than fifty years has passed since Frazier's major career milestones, sufficient time has elapsed that his position in boxing history, and the role of this building in his life, can be understood.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Built c.1895 as a window sash and blind warehouse, Joe Frazier's Gym is significant under Criterion B for its association with the career and life of Joe Frazier, the Olympic and Heavyweight Champion boxer who defeated Muhammad Ali in the "Fight of the Century" in 1971. The resource is significant in the Area of Entertainment/Recreation for its association with Frazier and its use as a training facility for several of the twentieth century's highest-profile boxing matches. Located in a mixed residential and industrial neighborhood in north Philadelphia, PA, the gym (originally named Cloverlay Gym, by Frazier's group of investors) served as Frazier's training center for his highest-profile fights, including his world championship bouts with Ali, George Foreman, and others. After Frazier's retirement from boxing in 1975, he bought the gym from the investment group and changed its name, reopening it to the public as Joe Frazier's Gym. Over the next 25 years, Frazier invested most of his time and prize money in the gym, where he trained the next generation of boxers (including National Golden Gloves Heavyweight Champion Duane Bobick and Olympic medalist Terrance Cauthen) and offered local inner-city youth opportunities away from the distractions and dangers of the streets. As Frazier's wealth and health declined late in his life, the gym also became his home, as he lived in the apartment above the training space. Plagued by debt and back taxes, he closed the gym in 2008, just a few years before his death from liver cancer in November, 2011. Joe Frazier's Gym is an important building associated with Frazier's life and productive career, and serves as a powerful representation of both African-American and boxing history in twentieth-century Philadelphia. Joe Frazier's Gym meets Criterion Consideration G, as though his accomplishments and active career may have taken place within the last fifty years, it is clear that Frazier is an important figure in late 20th century boxing history, this building best reflects his success and lasting impact within the sport, and this building is very important within the city of Philadelphia's African American sports resources. The period of significance represents the duration of Joe Frazier's involvement with the building, from 1968 to 2008.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

History of the Building

The site of the building that became Joe Frazier's Gym—between Glenwood Avenue and the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks—was a hub of north Philadelphia in the late nineteenth century. Maps in 1888 denoted the property's use as a coalyard for the railroad, with nearby mills, manufactories, and lumberyards contributing to north Philadelphia's industrial character and architecture.[1] Within this context of manufacturing and shipping, the building at 2917 N. Broad Street was constructed between 1888 and 1895 to serve as a sash and blind (window and shutter) warehouse. The building's timber-frame structure and brick exterior corresponded to the surrounding industrial and residential neighborhood, which capitalized on the proximity of both the railroad and Broad Street (Philadelphia's main north-south thoroughfare) for the easy shipment of goods.

In the first half-century after its construction, the warehouse continued to serve a range of industrial functions, transitioning to use as a millwork factory by 1925.[2] Over the next few decades, various

[1] George William Baist, *Baist's Property Atlas of the City of Philadelphia, Penna, Complete in One Volume* (Philadelphia: G. Wm. Baist, 1888).
[2] George W. and Walter S. Bromley, *Atlas of the City of Philadelphia (North Phila.), Wards 25, 33, 37, 38, 43, and 45* (Philadelphia:

corporations (such as the Benson Manufacturing Company and the Air Craft Plastics Company) were listed at the address, which remained in industrial use until 1968, when Cloverlay, Inc.—the investor group that sponsored Joe Frazier—purchased the building and converted it to a gym.[3]

For eight years, the gym hosted Joe Frazier's training sessions for his matches with Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, and others. When Frazier retired in 1975, he purchased the building from Cloverlay, Inc., transitioning its boxing ring from his own personal boxing use to a training center for boxers and local youth in north Philadelphia.

Criterion B: Significance and Association with Joe Frazier

The nominated resource is significant under Criterion B in the Area of Entertainment/Recreation for its association with Olympic and Undisputed Heavyweight Champion Joe Frazier. Boxing has a centuries-old history of popularity and prominence in Philadelphia, reaching its peak in the twentieth-century with Joe Frazier's rise to the top of the sport. The significance of Joe Frazier's Gym is tied to that narrative of entertainment and recreation in the city of Philadelphia and in the sport of boxing. As host to Frazier's training sessions, and later to the training sessions of his boxing mentees, Joe Frazier's Gym played a critical role in the development, promotion and popularity of the sport in Philadelphia.

African-Americans and Boxing in Philadelphia

Although team sports, including baseball and football, grew popular in Philadelphia in the mid-nineteenth century, these organized sports' exclusive leagues and expensive equipment often precluded African-Americans from participating at the same levels as white athletes. In contrast, boxing was a largely democratic sport, in economic terms if not racial ones (since, as with other sports, white boxers could choose not to fight or train with their black counterparts). It entailed little more equipment than a pair of gloves and was popular, therefore, in the poor immigrant and African-American neighborhoods of Philadelphia from the late-eighteenth century on.[4] Two hundred years later, and drawn to the sport throughout the twentieth century, African-American boxers in Philadelphia usually trained in places such as the black Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) or at the Police Athletic League (PAL) gyms, as a young Joe Frazier did in the early 1960s.[5]

Given the popularity of the sport in Philadelphia, the city was known for its boxing rivalries in the 1960s and 1970s. Fiercely competitive with each other, the city's gyms competed to train—and its arenas sought to book—Philadelphia's local boxing champions.[6] Although Philadelphia was his adopted hometown, no local legend was more prominent in the late 1960s than rising star "Smokin' Joe" Frazier.

Biographical Overview

"Smokin' Joe" Joseph William Frazier was born on January 15, 1944, in Beaufort, South Carolina. The second-youngest of thirteen children, he joined his siblings and father in picking crops for Beaufort's

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G. W. Bromley and Co., 1925).

[3] Deed of Sale from Greenberg and Bucks Goff to Cloverlay, Inc., November 4, 1968, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book JRS 255, page 591. Philadelphia City Archives, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

[4] Robert Gregg, "Personal Calvaries: Sports in Philadelphia's African-American Communities, 1920—1960," in *Sport, Identity and Ethnicity*, edited by Jeremy MacClancy (Oxford, England: Berg Publishers,1996): 90—1.

[5] Ibid 95.

[6] Bill Lyon, "Frazier and Philly Embraced Each Other," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (November 8, 2011).

wealthy landowners. Frazier, together with his parents and his twelve brothers and sisters, lived in a six-room house with a tin roof and no running water.[7] They joined their neighbors for televised boxing matches, which inspired Frazier as a young boy to create his own punching bag in order to emulate boxers like Joe Louis.[8] At the age of eight, Frazier stuffed a bag with bricks, rags, corncobs and moss and hung it from a tree, practicing his punches and teaching himself to box.[9]

By the age of 15, Frazier had dropped out of high school and was eager to leave Beaufort. Following the path of his older brother, he caught a bus to New York in 1958, where he supported himself by selling stolen cars to a scrapdealer's yard.[10] In 1960, he decided to move to Philadelphia. There, he got a job in a slaughterhouse, where he practiced his punches on the hanging sides of beef.[11] When he was not working, Frazier began spending time at the 23rd Police Athletic League Gym (at 22nd Street and Columbia Avenue in Philadelphia, less than two miles from the site of his later gym). He took up boxing to lose weight, but Frazier's natural skills and powerful left hook earned him a reputation as "The Slaughterhouse Kid." He caught the attention of Yancey ("Yank") Durham, who soon became his trainer and manager for his amateur career and later, after he turned pro in 1964, for his heavyweight bouts as well.[12]

In 1960, Frazier's girlfriend, Florence Smith, gave birth to their son, Marvis. The couple—who met when he was 14 and she was 16—later married in 1962, when Frazier was 18. Together, they had four more children (all daughters) before divorcing in 1985.[13] Frazier later had six other children while in other relationships.

In his fifteen-year career, Frazier claimed victories over 29 different boxers. His legacy, however, was inextricably linked to his record with just one: archrival Muhammad Ali. The two faced off three different times in the ring, but their animosity seethed outside the arena and was a fixture of the sports world for four decades, even after Joe Frazier left boxing in 1975.

After his retirement in 1975, Frazier lived in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania (a suburb of Philadelphia). He was the lead singer of a short-lived band, known as Smokin' Joe and the Knockouts, but devoted most of his time for three decades to training local youth in the gym that now bore his name. Diagnosed with liver cancer in September 2011, he died just two months later on November 7, 2011. His adopted hometown of Philadelphia mourned the passing of a local icon, and even Muhammad Ali paid tribute at his funeral, lamenting that "the world has lost a great champion."[14]

Joe Frazier's Boxing Career

Joe Frazier's career began as a promising amateur, with wins at the Golden Gloves championships in 1962, 1963, and again in 1964. That same year, Frazier faced off against Buster Mathis in the Olympic Trials for the 1964 games in Tokyo. Although he lost the match, he traveled to Tokyo as an alternate and eventually

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[7] Adam Higginbotham, "Joe Frazier: Still Smokin' After All These Years," *The Telegraph* (November 9, 2008).
[8] Joe Frazier and Marvis Frazier, "Life Champions," in *Shadow Boxers: Sweat, Sacrifice, and the Will to Survive in American Boxing Gyms,* ed. John Gattuso (Milford, NJ: Stone Creek Publications, 2005): 15.
[9] Don Steinberg, "Final Bell for Philly Legend," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (November 8, 2011).
[10] Gavin Evans, *Kings of the Ring: The History of Heavyweight Boxing* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 2005): 157.
[11] Richard Goldstein, "Joe Frazier, Ex-Heavyweight Champ, Dies at 67," *New York Times* (November 7, 2011).
[12] Nathan Aaseng, "Frazier, Joe," *African-American Athletes* (New York: Infobase Publishing, 2003): 75.
"Civic Group Handles Frazier: 40 Pledged to Promote Ex-Olympian," *Chicago Defender* (Jan. 22, 1966): 17.
[13] Steinberg, "Final Bell for Philly Legend."
[14] Bob Velin, "Courage, Grace, Toughness: Tributes Pour In for 'Smokin' Joe'," *USA Today* (November 8, 2011).

competed in the heavyweight division when Mathis injured his hand. (Frazier himself injured his thumb during the Olympic Games, but he concealed the injury in order to continue competing.)[15] Frazier's subsequent heavyweight gold medal at that Tokyo games solidified his status and his place in boxing's top ranks in the 1960s.[16]

In spite of his early success—winning 37 of 40 amateur fights by knockout (a definitive win in which the opponent cannot recover within a ten-second count)—Frazier still struggled financially to support his training schedule and regimen.[17] In order to ease this financial burden, Durham gathered together forty local Philadelphia investors to support Frazier's career. The men pooled their money, forming Cloverlay, Inc. to finance Frazier's campaign for the world heavyweight title.[18] Cloverlay's financial backing was a crucial launch pad for Frazier's fledgling career, bolstering Frazier's bid to turn professional in August 1965. He quickly racked up wins, including knockout victories in his first eleven fights. Frazier earned a 21-0 record by the fall of 1968, when Cloverlay purchased the building at 2917 North Broad Street, where he trained for the next seven years.[19]

The Cloverlay arrangement and the gym proved immediately productive for both Frazier and his Cloverlay investors. His first four fights after the purchase of the gym, including two that were fought in Madison Square Garden, were all wins by knockout or total knockout. The fights capitalized on Frazier's growing status and popularity within the sport, as evidenced by his first cover story appearance in *Ring Magazine* in 1967.[20] That same year, he won a rematch against his old Olympic foe Buster Mathis, claiming the New York State Athletic Commission (NYSAC)'s vacant World Heavyweight Championship—a title that was stripped from Muhammad Ali in 1967 when he refused to serve in Vietnam. Frazier defended that title in four subsequent matches in 1969 and 1970, propelling him to a fight with Jimmy Ellis that would determine the new Heavyweight Champion for not only NYSAC, but also the World Boxing Council and the World Boxing Association.

The Frazier-Ellis bout, which was the first boxing match in the newly-constructed Madison Square Garden, was not without its controversy.[21] Like the 1968 match with Mathis, the 1970 fight was organized in order to crown a champion to replace Muhammad Ali's vacated titles. Under the cloud of that controversy, the fight was viewed by many of Ali's supporters as an illegitimate title match. When Ali returned to the sport later that year, the public clamored for a Frazier-Ali match—the first time ever that two undefeated heavyweight champions had met for the title.[22]

The Fight of the Century

The resultant bout—scheduled for March 8, 1971—was dubbed The Fight of the Century by magazines and newspapers around the country, which covered the lead-up to the fight as intensively as the bout itself. The boxers' gyms became hubs of reporter activity, and in Frazier's case, the months of training drew other

[15] Joe Hand and Stan Hochman, "Joe Frazier: His Life, Career, and the City of Brotherly Love," Interview with Marty Moss-Coane, *Radio Times on WHYY* (September 13, 2012).
[16] Claude Harrison, "Making of a World's Champion: 'Champ' Frazier Had Plenty of Help Climbing to Top," *Philadelphia Tribune* (March 13, 1971).
[17] Steinberg, "Final Bell for Philly Legend."
[18] "Civic Group Handles Frazier," 17.
[19] Goldstein, "Joe Frazier, Ex-Heavyweight Champ, Dies at 67."
[20] "Does Garden Have Another Marciano?" *The Ring* 46, no. 9 (October 1967).
[21] Steinberg, "Final Bell for Philly Legend."
[22] Sean Gregory, "Joe Frazier, Former Heavyweight Boxing Champ, Dies at 67," *Time Magazine* (November 8, 2011).

famous faces to Cloverlay Gym as well. A *New York Times* article in February highlighted a visit to the gym by movie star Burt Lancaster, who later served as television host for the fight.[23] Just three days before the title match, another newspaper (this time from Chicago) noted the "strenuous workout" that Frazier was maintaining at Cloverlay, including completing 196 sparring rounds in preparation for the fight.[24]

The bout was laden with social symbolism in addition to its boxing significance, with the two men cast in polarized roles in the debates of 1960s American society. Ali—who was both praised and reviled for his refusal to enter the military draft—was adept at self-promotion, linking himself with the anti-establishment voices in Vietnam-era America. Frazier, in contrast, was not as deft with the media, and—taunted by Ali—he became a symbol of the war's supporters and was decried by Ali as a pawn of the Great White Hope.[25] The lead-up to the fight was contentious, establishing a rivalry that rankled both men until the final years of Frazier's life.

After months of speculation and antagonism between the two men, the Fight of the Century was unprecedented by nearly every measure. As the first head-to-head matchup of two undefeated champions, the fight garnered a record-breaking worldwide television audience of an estimated 300 million people.[26] Frazier and Ali each pocketed $2.5 million for the fight—an unparalleled sum in contemporary boxing terms. In the end, Frazier's months of intensive sparring practice at Cloverlay training paid off: after 15 rounds, he knocked Ali down and won with a unanimous decision, earning both the WBC and the WBA Heavyweight titles and improving his professional record to 27-0.[27]

Later Career

It was not until two years later that Joe Frazier lost a bout in the ring. In their Kingston, Jamaica, fight on January 22, 1973, George Foreman knocked Frazier out, claiming Frazier's WBC and WBA titles with the victory. The loss was Frazier's first in eight years of professional boxing matches, making his record 29-1.

A year later, after one more win over British boxer Joe Bugner that brought his record to 30-1, Frazier was ready for a rematch with Muhammad Ali. No major titles were at stake in this bout, which was scheduled for January 28, 1974. Nevertheless, the high profile of both boxers, as well as their still-potent rivalry, earned them a place once again in Madison Square Garden, and—as with the Fight of the Century—it racked up record-breaking television audiences. Unlike the first fight between the two men, however, Ali won this bout, claiming a unanimous decision victory in the 12th round.

Frazier and Ali met one more time in the boxing ring: a third and final match that they fought nearly two years later in the Philippines on October 1, 1975. This last bout between the two rivals was nicknamed "The Thrilla in Manila," and was notable for both its intense conditions (100°F heat) and the astronomical audience that the two men once again drew: an estimated 700 million people from 65 countries watched the event on closed-circuit and television. Commentators remarked on the match's brutality for both Frazier

[23] Dave Anderson, "Lancaster Turns Down Sparring Role: Instead, Actor Drills at Frazier's Camp for His TV Stint," *New York Times* (February 23, 1971).
[24] Cooper Rollow, "Frazier Just Can't Stop Smoking in 'Tapering Off' Drill," *Chicago Tribune* (March 5, 1971).
[25] Goldstein, "Joe Frazier, Ex-Heavyweight Champ, Dies at 67."
[26] Steinberg, "Final Bell for Philly Legend."
[27] Ibid.

and Ali, taking a toll on both boxers for fourteen rounds before Frazier finally surrendered. In post-fight interviews, Frazier and Ali each expressed respect for his rival.[28]

After the Thrilla in Manila, which brought his record to 32-3, Frazier moved towards retirement. Following a return from his 1975 retirement, he lost another bout to George Foreman in 1976, and fought to a draw with Floyd Cummings in 1981 in a brief attempt at a comeback.

In his professional career from 1964 to 1981, Smokin' Joe Frazier's final boxing record comprised 32 wins, 4 losses, and 1 draw. He claimed 27 wins by knockout, as well as 5 wins by decision. He is an inductee of both the International Boxing Hall of Fame and the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Joe Frazier's Gym

Frazier's boxing success was unquestionably dependent on his training regimen at the Cloverlay Gym (later known as Joe Frazier's Gym), which the Cloverlay investors purchased for $87,500 in 1968.[29] The group put up an additional $85,000 to outfit the space, including installing a new boxing ring on the first floor, as well as an office and locker, shower, and sauna rooms. The changes also included the installation of the three punching bag anchors that remain in the space today, as well as the removal of windows and the installation of insulated metal panels that are still evident on the Broad Street elevation.[30]

Frazier finally had a training space that allowed him to establish a consistent routine and schedule. As one of his Cloverlay investors put it, "[The gym] was great, and it was good for the business, for the Cloverlay people. We knew where Joe was all the time, and we kind of knew what he was doing."[31] In the first two years of Cloverlay Gym, Frazier parlayed his new training routine into four wins—all knockouts or total knockouts.

In 1975, as his boxing career wound down, Frazier's Smokin' Joe, Inc. purchased the gym building from Cloverlay and reopened it as a training gym for local youth who could not afford gym dues, training them to be the next generation of boxers and offering them an alternative to the streets.[32] For the next thirty years, Joe Frazier and his son Marvis (who had his own boxing career) managed the gym and trained local youth, equipping them with boxing skills that they hoped would translate to their daily lives. Joe Frazier articulated his mission in a 1975 interview: "This [Philadelphia] is my home, I want to clean it up and make a better life for the kids."[33] Over three decades, several of Joe Frazier's young protégées went on to success in the boxing world, including National Golden Gloves Heavyweight Champion Duane Bobick. Joe Frazier's Gym was also responsible for training Terrance Cauthen, who at the age of 18 was the 132-pound National Amateur Champion in 1995, and later won a bronze medal at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996.[34]

In the last decade of his life, Joe Frazier's Gym was one of the few assets that the prize-winning fighter could still claim. As various business deals fell through and his finances dwindled, the gym assumed an

[28] Gregory, "Joe Frazier, Former Heavyweight Boxing Champ, Dies at 67."
[29] Deed of Sale from Greenberg and Bucks Goff to Cloverlay, Inc., November 4, 1968.
[30] *Application for Zoning Permit and/or Use Registration Permit: 2917 N. Broad Street,* Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspections (May 13, 1969).
[31] Hand and Hochman, "Joe Frazier: His Life, Career, and the City of Brotherly Love," interview with Marty Moss-Coane.
[32] Ray Rivera, "Joe Frazier Wins Belated Embrace as Philadelphia Starts a Fight," *New York Times* (September 4, 2012).
[33] John Rhodes, "Joe Frazier Forms Corp.; Signs Pact to Manage Bobbick," *Philadelphia Tribune* (February 4, 1975).
[34] Samuel Davis, "Product of Frazier's Gym Wins 132-Pound U.S. Title," *Philadelphia Tribune* (April 14, 1995).

even larger role in Frazier's investments, career, and life. By the mid-2000s, he was divorced and living alone in the apartment on the building's upper floors.

In 2003, Frazier and his former archrival Muhammad Ali met at the gym in a photo shoot for *Sports* Illustrated, posing in the same space where Frazier had once trained for their first bout. By 2006, both Smokin' Joe, Inc. and Joe Frazier's residence were registered at 2917 N. Broad Street—a fact reinforced by an interview that year in which Frazier told a reporter, "This is my primary residence."[35] Two years later, however, Frazier's debts and back taxes forced him to close the gym and sell the building, and he spent the last three years of his life living in hotels and other temporary residences.[36]

Contemporary Philadelphia Gyms

Although the training ring is not currently in place, Joe Frazier's Gym is among the few surviving buildings that retain evidence of boxing's twentieth-century heyday in Philadelphia. As the sport surged in popularity beginning in the 1920s, a network of gyms cropped up to cultivate, train and promote local fighters. Their utilitarian use and design needs, however, meant that most facilities were adapted from other building typologies, such as warehouses (e.g. Joe Frazier's Gym) and rowhouses (e.g. Shuler Memorial Gym, 750 N. Brooklyn St.; Harrowgate Boxing Club, 1920 E. Venango St.; Passyunk Gym, now closed).

Unlike their more glamorous counterparts of boxing arenas (including Philadelphia's former Blue Horizon and the Alhambra), boxing gyms were notably unvarnished, gritty places that were associated more with sweat than style. Moreover, because these boxing gyms had few space constraints—requiring little more than an open floor plan for training equipment—they often occupied the basements or upper floors of buildings that retained other uses on their main floors (e.g. Front Street Gym, 2076 E. Clearfield St.; Johnny Madison Gym, now closed). Many boxing training centers, including the famed Champs Gym (various addresses), migrated through several locations, packing up their minimal equipment and moving to the next low-rent space in the neighborhood. The few boxing facilities in Philadelphia that were purpose-built and survive as gyms are nearly all mid-century modern buildings that were built by the city. Examples of this type of gym include the Rivera (3201 N. 5th St.), Martin Luther King (2101 Cecil B. Moore Ave.) and Marian Anderson (740 S. 17th St.) Rec Centers.

In recent decades, waning interest in the sport of boxing, as well as the lack of capital investment for most of the city's gyms, has precipitated the closure and demolition of most of Philadelphia's most prominent training facilities. Neighborhoods all over the city have witnessed the destruction of their gyms, including the Arcadia in Center City and the Chris Perry Gym in North Philadelphia. Those that survive, including the Joe Hand Gym (1229 N. Howard St.), often occupy inexpensive modern facilities.

Joe Frazier's Gym fits into this pattern of adaptive use and utilitarian design (with minimal physical intervention or imprint). Its building is among the oldest of those that hosted gyms (including those that still operate), and it is a rare Philadelphia example of a training facility maintained—with sizeable investment—by private, rather than public, support. Moreover, unlike so many other properties where the gym was a secondary (or tertiary) tenant, it is one of the only surviving buildings that was fully occupied by its gym and associated uses. Finally, it is the only known case in Philadelphia of a gym's star fighter becoming its owner and lead trainer.

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[35] Vincent M. Mallozzi, "Smokin' to Ashes, But the Fire Still Burns," *New York Times* (October 18, 2006).
[36] Rivera, "Joe Frazier Wins Belated Embrace as Philadelphia Starts a Fight."

Conclusion

Originally constructed in the nineteenth century as an industrial warehouse, Joe Frazier's Gym acquired a new function and unique significance in the second half of the twentieth century as it played an outsized role in the life and career of champion boxer Joe Frazier.

Beginning with its purchase by the Cloverlay investor group in 1968, the building was associated with every era of Frazier's career. It served as the training ground for his early professional matches (in which he earned an undefeated record), as well as his landmark title fights with Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, and others. The building was also the site most associated with Frazier's later career mentoring local youths, after his retirement from the sport. As Frazier transitioned from fighting to training, Joe Frazier's Gym became the hub of Frazier's professional life; when he moved into the apartment above the gym in his last few years, it became the center of his personal life as well.

Joe Frazier's Gym is an important resource for its association with the life and career of internationally acclaimed boxer Joe Frazier.

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Rivera, Ray. "Joe Frazier Wins Belated Embrace as Philadelphia Starts a Fight." *New York Times.* September 4, 2012.

Rollow, Cooper. "Frazier Just Can't Stop Smoking in 'Tapering Off' Drill." *Chicago Tribune*. March 5, 1971.

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Velin, Bob. "Courage, Grace, Toughness: Tributes Pour In for 'Smokin' Joe'." *USA Today*. November 8, 2011.

Joe Frazier's Gym
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	0486897	4427458	3			
2				4			

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: NA
Latitude: 39.997515 Longitude: -75.153153

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary for Joe Frazier's Gym is Philadelphia County Parcel number 372288800 as shown in Figure 12. The deed is held at the Philadelphia County Department of Records, City Hall, Room 154, Philadelphia, PA 19107. The bulk of the parcel consists of the building footprint, with a small amount of additional area primarily at the rear (east) end of the building containing a parking area and loading dock.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Joe Frazier's Gym. No other associated resources have been excluded from the boundary. A small building that is part of the neighboring gas station property abuts the south wall of the Gym, but is not included within the boundary and has no relationship to the nominated resource.

11. Form Prepared By

Name: Molly Lester
Organization: Heritage Consulting Group
Street address: 15 W. Highland Avenue
City or town: Philadelphia
Email: mlester@heritage-consulting.com
Date: November 1, 2012
Phone: 215-248-1260
State: PA
Zip: 19118

Joe Frazier's Gym
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  A **Sketch map**
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: JOE FRAZIER'S GYM
City or Vicinity: PHILADELPHIA
County: PHILADELPHIA State: PENNSYLVANIA
Photographer: CINDY HAMILTON, HERITAGE CONSULTING GROUP
Date Photographed: AUGUST 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo # and View

1. West Elevation, Looking East
2. Southwest Corner, Looking Northeast
3. South Elevation, Looking Northwest
4. East Elevation, Looking West
5. Northeast Corner, Looking West
6. 1st Floor, Retail Space, Looking East
7. 1st Floor, Retail Space, Looking Up
8. 1st Floor, Office, Looking West
9. 1st Floor, Woodshop, Looking West
10. 1st Floor, Woodshop, Looking South
11. 2nd Floor, Office, Looking West
12. 2nd Floor, Looking East
13. 2nd Floor, Looking South
14. 3rd Floor, Apartment, Looking South
15. 3rd Floor, Apartment, Looking South
16. 3rd Floor, Kitchen Area, Looking East
17. 3rd Floor, Apartment, Looking West
18. 3rd Floor, Apartment, Looking Southeast
19. Loft, Looking West

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Figure 1. Joe Frazier outside his gym (1996); Photo by Walter Iooss, Jr. (*Sports Illustrated*, via Getty Images) from *New York Times* (Sep. 4, 2012)[37]

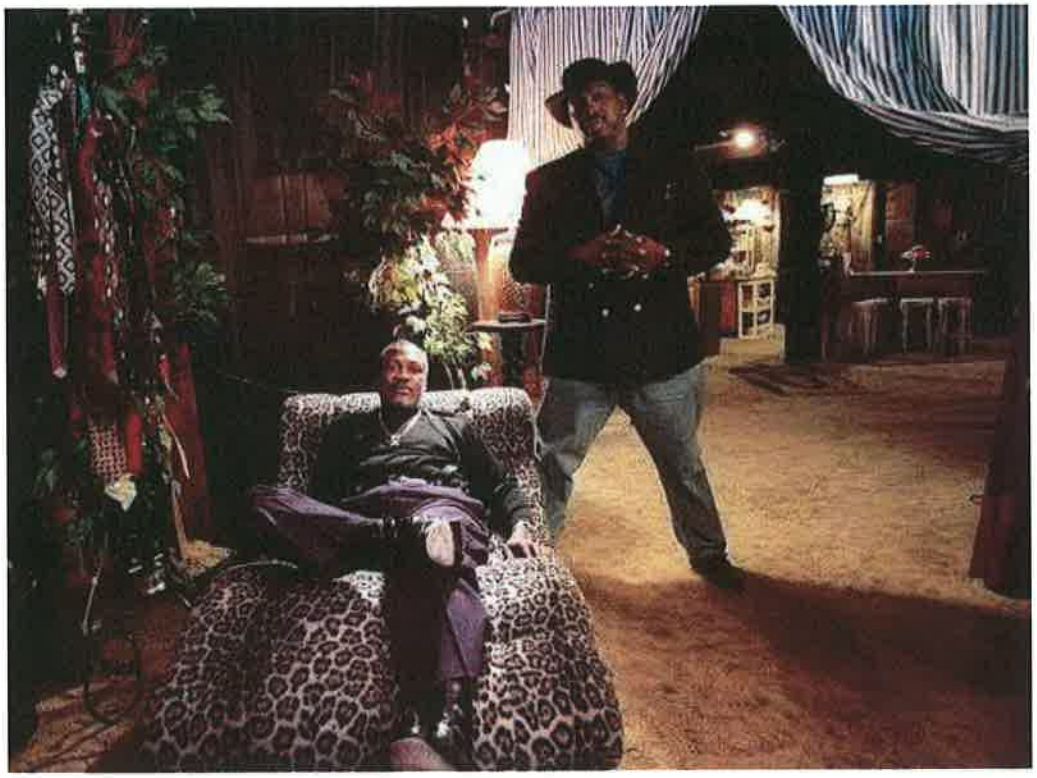


Figure 2. Frazier in his apartment above the gym (1998); From Philly.com (Nov. 7, 2012)[38]

[37] http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/05/us/saving-joe-fraziers-gym-and-his-philadelphia-legacy.html?_r=0 (Accessed October 5, 2012).

[38] http://www.philly.com/philly/photos/sports_photos/Joe_Frazier_retrospective_photos.html?showSelectedUserGalFirst=y&c=y#photoNumber=16 (Accessed October 5, 2012).

Figure 3. Joe Frazier in his gym (date unknown); Photo by Pete Marovich (Zuma Press); from *The Wall Street Journal* (Nov. 8, 2011)[39]

Figure 4. Joe Frazier in his gym, 2006; Photo by Earl Wilson (*New York Times*); from *New York Times* (November 8, 2011)[40]

[39] http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190704577025261059060818.html#slide/23 (Accessed October 5, 2012).
[40] http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2011/11/08/sports/20111108_FRAZIER-9.html (Accessed October 5, 2012).

Figure 5. Frazier in gym (date unknown); Photo by Commercial Appeal/Landov, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation[41]

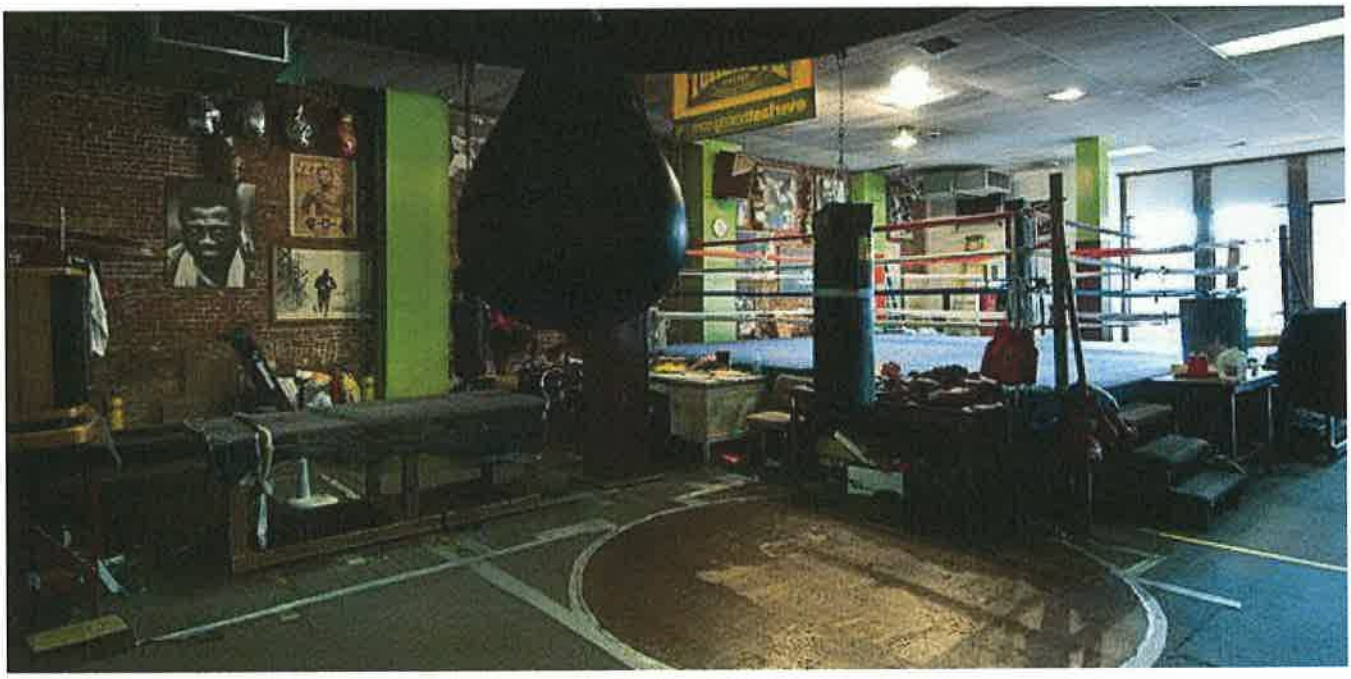
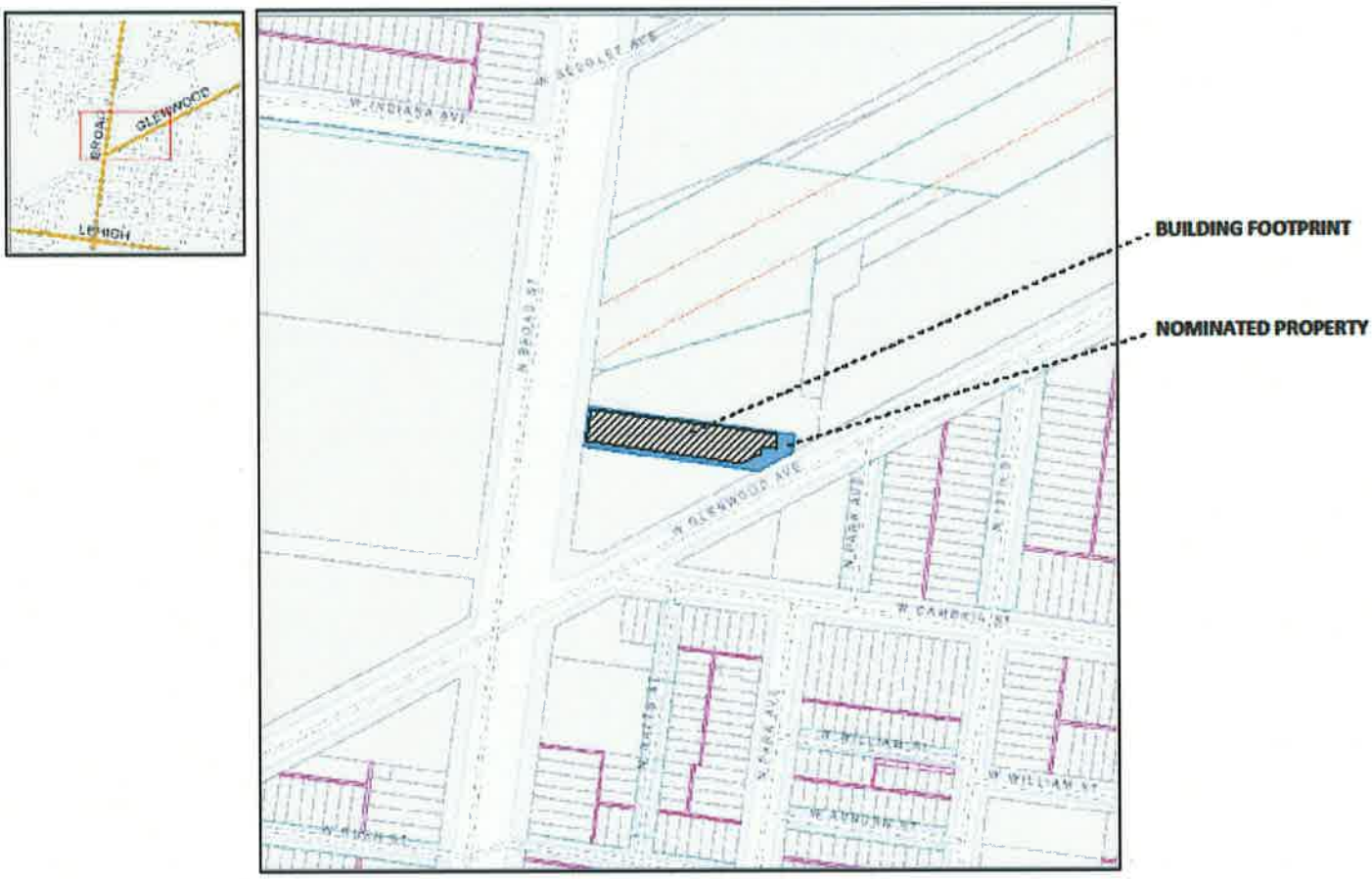


Figure 6. Joe Frazier's Gym, interior and ring space (date unknown); Photo by Pete Marovich, from the National Trust for Historic Preservation[42]

[41] http://savingplaces.org/treasures/joe-fraziers-gym (Accessed October 5, 2012).
[42] Ibid.



Joe Frazier's Gym, Philadelphia County, Philadelphia
2917 N. Broad Street
Source: City of Philadelphia Office of Property Assessment (2012)
November 1, 2012

Figure 12: Site plan, showing nominated property (shaded) and building footprint.

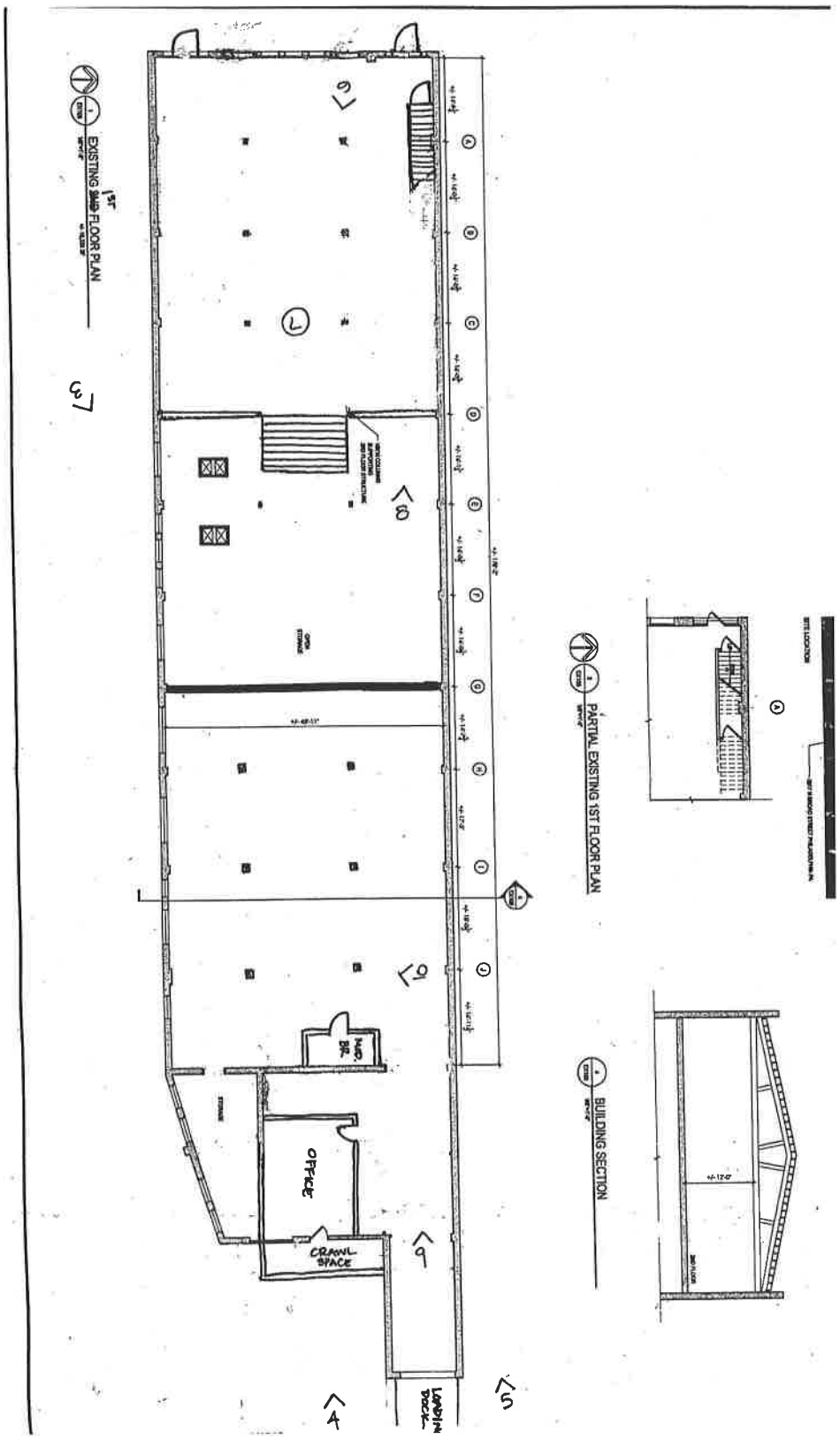


Figure 13: First floor plan/photo key. Exterior photos 1 and 2 taken from west side of building, across Broad Street (top of page).

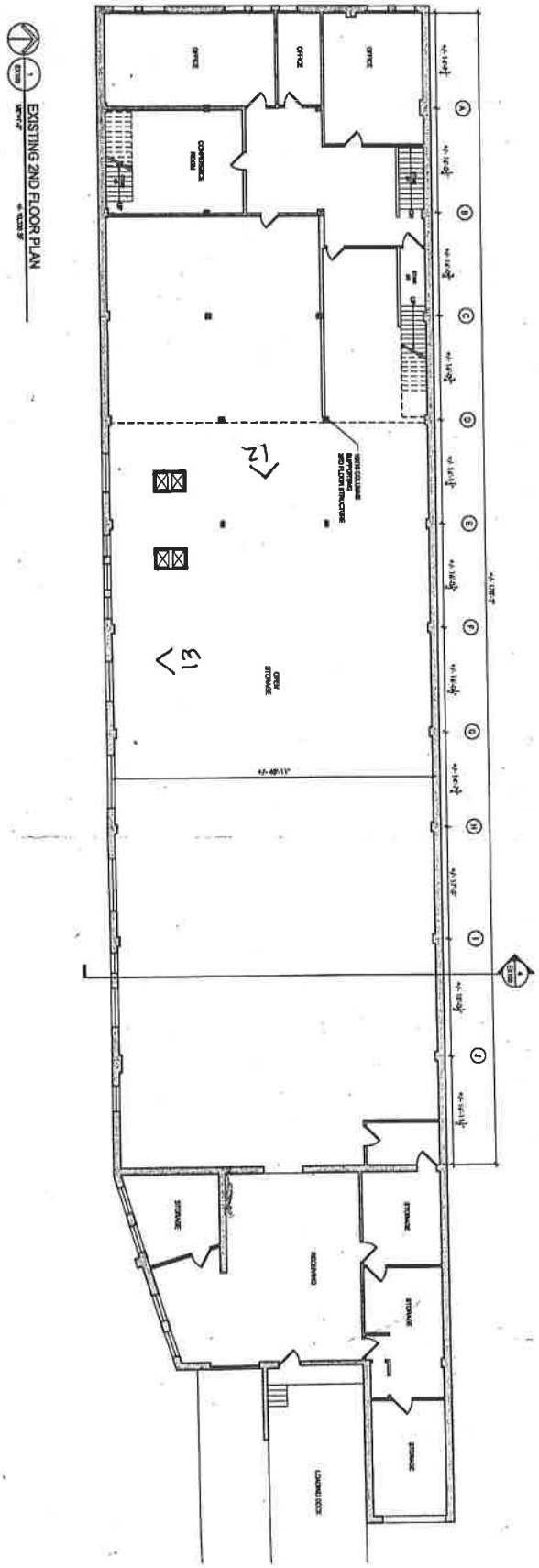


Figure 14: Second floor plan/photo key.

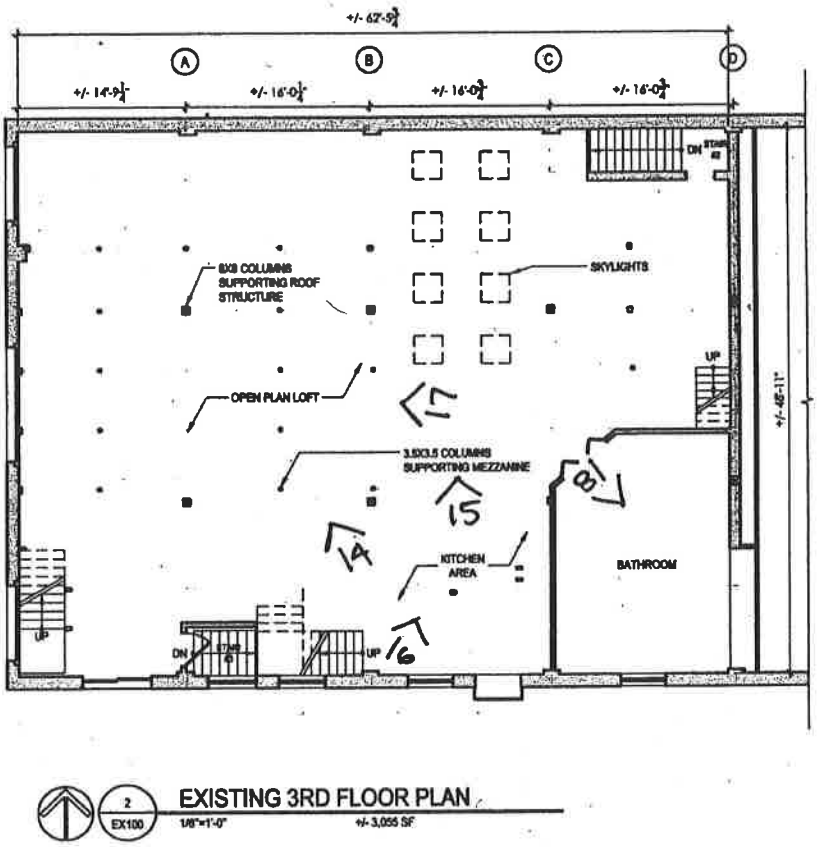


Figure 15: Third floor plan/photo key.

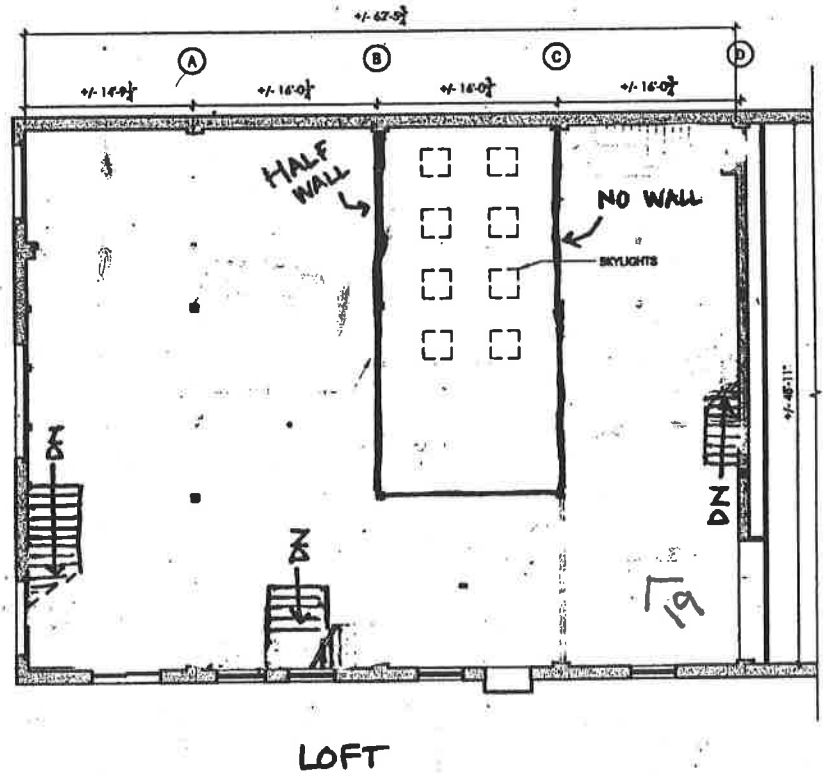


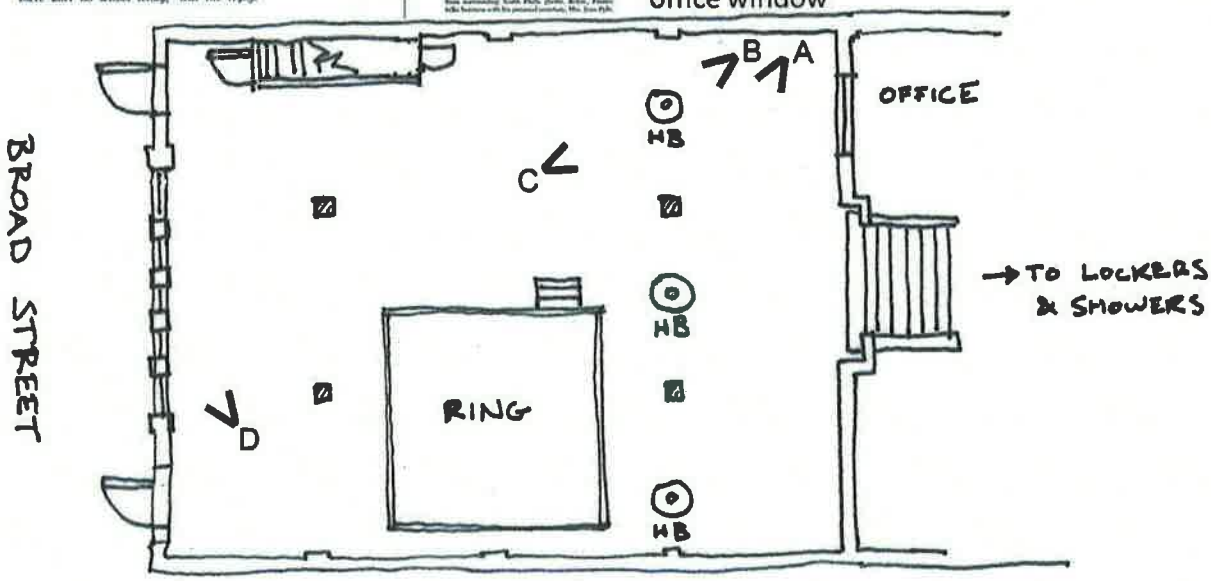
Figure 16: Loft floor plan/photo key.

D—Frazier talking to boys, Broad Street and bridge visible through entrance/windows

Expressions on faces of three boys, who stopped by gym and demanded to see the champ, leave no doubt as to who in their book is the greatest. "How come you cats ain't in school," the champ wanted to know. "Cause there ain't no school today," was the reply.

B—from corner under office window looking across center of gym; Frazier working a heavy bag (anchor remains in the ceiling)

C—from center of gym to corner under office window



A—from corner under office window toward the ring, center of gym

Figure 17: Approximate historic floor plan of the main gym area, and related historic images. (Photo sources: A=Pete Marovich, undated, from National Trust for Historic Preservation website, accessed 10/5/2012; B= *Ebony* Magazine, March 1971; C= Temple Urban Archives, date unknown; D=provided by Preservation Alliance for Greater Philadelphia, source unidentified at this time.

USGS science for a changing world

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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHIC AND GEOLOGIC SURVEY

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

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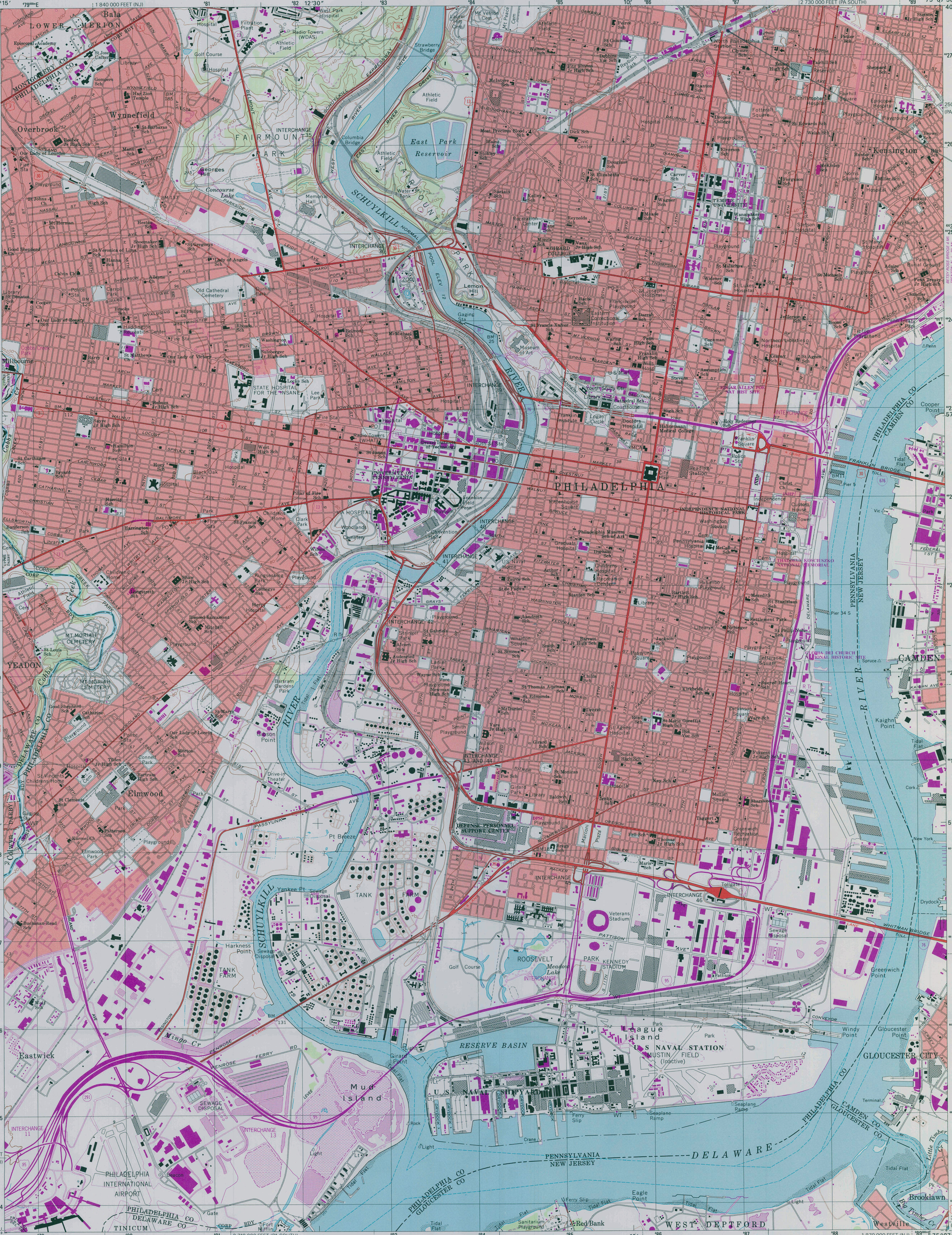
JOE FRAZIER'S GYM
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, PA
UTM Reference: 18/0486897/4427458



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1990 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery dated 1995; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1967. Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1999

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)
Projection: Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
10 000-foot ticks: Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone and New Jersey coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

MN GN 12° 213 MILS 0° 07' 2 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1999 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

SCALE 1:24 000

KILOMETERS 1 0.5 0 1 2
METERS 1000 0 1000 2000
MILES 1 0.5 0 1
FEET 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

PENNSYLVANIA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Norristown
2 Germantown
3 Frankford
4 Lansdowne
5 Camden
6 Bridgeport
7 Woodbury
8 Runnemede

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1999

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface ....
Secondary highway hard surface ....
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ......
Unimproved road ......
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

PHILADELPHIA, PA-NJ
1995
NIMA 5963 I NW-SERIES V831

ISBN 0-607-92392-X

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Frazier's, Joe, Gym

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia

DATE RECEIVED: 3/22/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/15/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/30/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/08/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000257

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Property most importantly associated with the nationally significant life and career of Joe Frazier. Exceptionally important.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 4/30/2013

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

RECEIVED 2280
MAR 22 2013
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

March 18, 2013

Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following nominations are being submitted for your review:

Idlewild, Delaware County
Joe Frazier's Gym, Philadelphia
John Wilde & Brother Mill, Philadelphia

The proposed action is "listing" in the National Register. If you have any questions about these nominations, please contact me at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of these Pennsylvania nominations.

Sincerely,

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region

enc.

Historic Preservation Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120–0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us
The Commonwealth's Official History Agency