

Potts House
3905 Spruce Street
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1638

HABS
PA
51-PHILA,
581-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA	COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) POTTS HOUSE		HABS NO. PA-1638
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 3905 Spruce Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1850	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Joseph M. Wilson, architect	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Important residential work of Joseph M. Wilson, an innovative 19th century architect of commercial and railroad structures.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick with tile trim		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Approx. 46' (five-bay front) X 38' with rectangular rear corner tower and two-story rear ell; three-and-a-half stories.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Hipped roof with fancy railing; corbeled chimneys with tile trim; segmental pointed-arch windows.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Large rooms with high ceilings and decorated with hand-carved woodwork, hand-painted tiles and marble; marble fireplaces and wood fireplaces with hand-painted tiles.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1875- additions built on east and rear walls (front faces south), Joseph M. Wilson, architect. 1943- Front porch removed.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE In use as a University of Pennsylvania building.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University, 1976. Unpublished brochure entitled "Brief Historical Facts on the Joseph D. Potts House, 3905 Spruce Street, Phila., 4, Penna.", by University of Pennsylvania.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, Historic American Buildings Survey	DATE July 25, 1984	