

Sower House
(Trinity Lutheran Church House)
5300 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia (Germantown)
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1717

HABS
PA
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PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

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SI - Germantown
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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE PENNSYLVANIA		COUNTY PHILADELPHIA	TOWN OR VICINITY PHILADELPHIA
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) SOWER HOUSE			HABS NO. PA-1717
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Trinity Lutheran Church House			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 5300 Germantown Avenue			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) Rear ell (SW corner), ca. 1723; front section, ca. 1755; both sections joined 1795		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Although originally comprised of two separate structures, this building is a typical example of 18th century Germantown architecture. It is the site of the first permanent foundry that operated from 1772 to 1773 by Jacob Bay and Christopher Sower, Jr., and it was here that the first American printing type was cast.			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Stuccoed rubble.			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Approx. 40' (five-bay front) X 25' with two-story rear wing and ell; two-and-a-half stories.			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Gable roof; dormers (probably additions); recessed entrance with paneled jambs and stoop; common double-hung windows.			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Central hall floor plan.			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Stuccoed brick rear wing (NW corner) built 1870; interior altered 1917; house renovated 1950.			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The house has been owned by the Trinity Lutheran Church since 1836, and has been used as a church house since 1950.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Webster, Richard J. <u>Philadelphia Preserved</u> . Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1976.			
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Susan McCown, HABS Architectural Historian			DATE June 12, 1985