



Center City West Commercial Historic District

Philadelphia, PA

CLIENT:

Philadelphia Historic Preservation Corporation/
Central Philadelphia Development Corporation

Philadelphia's commercial core west of Broad Street contains an historically significant group of nineteenth-century Victorian and twentieth-century Neo-classical and Art Deco buildings that reflect that area's growth into the city's fashionable retail center near Rittenhouse Square. To provide this important resource its due recognition and a framework from which property owners and investors can take advantage of tax incentives for historic rehabilitations, KSK was commissioned to prepare a National Register nomination for this district of approximately 250 buildings. This task required thorough field survey to evaluate the type, style, and location of the building, as well as in-depth archival investigation of atlases, building permits, deeds, old photographs, and institutional and commercial histories to interpret the significance of the district. In addition to defining the new historic district in Center City West, KSK identified properties eligible for amendment to the surrounding Rittenhouse, Schuylkill, and Broad Street historic districts. The National Register status of this area is anticipated to encourage new development activity in Center City West.

