

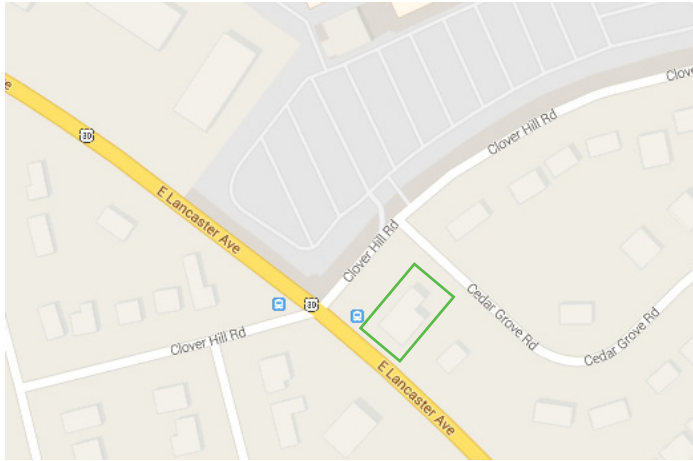
# The William Penn Inn Fact Sheet

## What is it?

The William Penn Inn was built by Joseph Price in 1799. Since 1947, it has served as a 5-unit apartment building.

## Where is it?

527-533 E. Lancaster Avenue at the corner of Clover Hill Road in Wynnewood Ward 7.

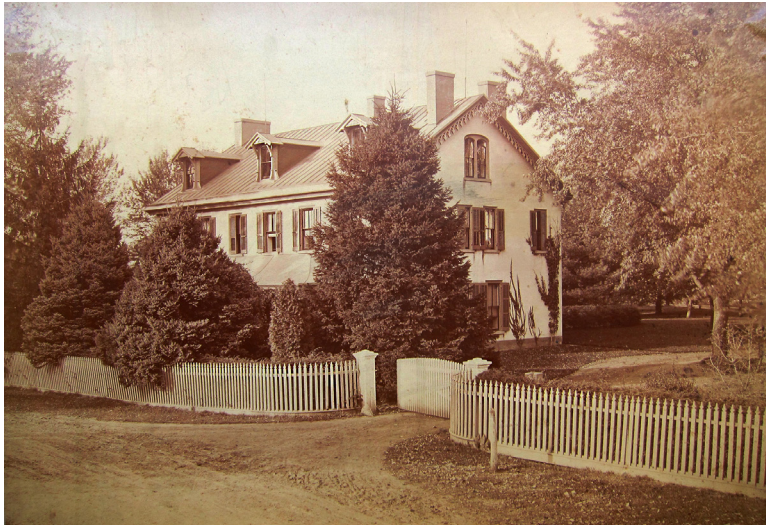


## What is the issue?

There is an application before the Lower Merion Township Board of Commissioners to **demolish** the existing historic building and replace it with **five new, single-family houses**.

## What can be done?

The William Penn Inn is a Class II historic resource on Lower Merion Township's Historic Resource Inventory. As such, the Board of Commissioners can delay demolition for up to 90 days. The Historical Commission recommended that they do so. The **90-day delay** allows for the community, preservation-minded individuals, and the developers to work together to find a solution that preserves the building.



or regret. **There are alternatives** to the proposed project that allow for the preservation of the William Penn Inn as well as suitable new development. The 90-day delay of demolition allows for those alternatives to be fully explored.

## What can I do?

Show your support by attending the **October 6th** Planning Commission meeting at 6:30PM and the Building and Planning Committee meeting on **October 8th** and urge them to also recommend the 90-day delay. Be there for the **October 15th** Board of Commissioners meeting at 7:00PM to see the vote. If you cannot make it, let your Commissioner know what you think!

## What is its history?

The Inn is one of the Township's oldest historic resources. The builder, Joseph Price, was a fourth generation Lower Merion resident and a true renaissance man: Quaker farmer, innkeeper, undertaker, militiaman, diarist, mill operator, milestone installer, carpenter, and turnpike operator - to name a few. The William Penn Inn served as a resting place for people traveling in and out of Philadelphia on the Lancaster Turnpike. As the first long-distance paved road in the United States, the Turnpike was an incredibly important route in early America. After a century as an inn, it was adapted by prominent Philadelphia architect Addison Hutton, and served as the estate home of Nathan Parker Shortridge, Director of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The family owned it until the mid-20th century. It was then sold and converted to multi-family housing

## Why preserve it?

The William Penn Inn **contributes to the character** of Lower Merion in many ways. Its continued use for 215 years is a testament to its **sound construction and adaptability**. The Inn contributes not only to our community's history and culture, but also to its economic well being, as viable, functioning residences. Preserving and adapting the building for a new use would be a truly "green" solution, as such projects **save 50-80% in infrastructure costs** compared to new suburban development. Finally, once this early historic resource is lost, it is lost to us forever; it is a nonrenewable resource. In preservation, there is never retrospective controversy