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LEGACY RECLAIMED:

# 7<sup>TH</sup> WARD

## TRIBUTE

HONORING THE PAST, ILLUMINATING THE FUTURE.

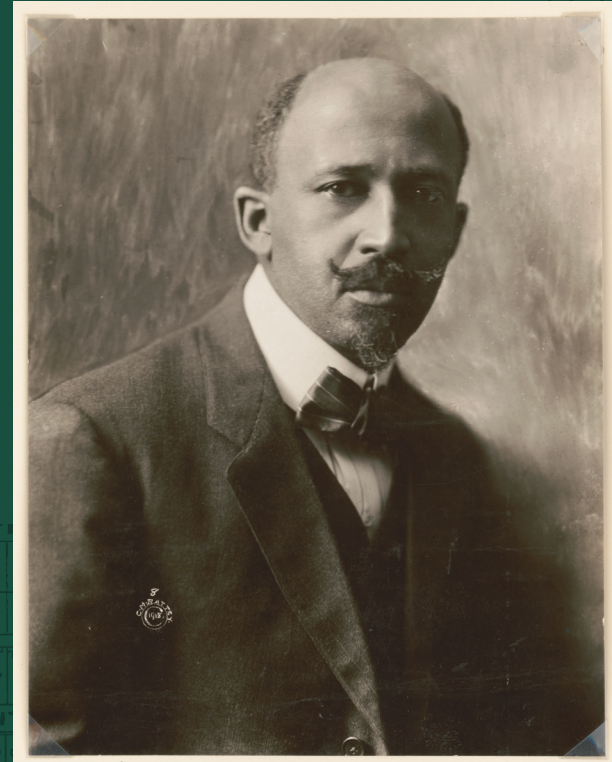
# 7<sup>TH</sup> WARD

## TRIBUTE

*Legacy Reclaimed* honors the lost history of the Seventh Ward.

From Spruce to South Street, and 7th Street to the Schuylkill River, this area was a vibrant epicenter for Black Americans in the 19th century. But cultural shifts and political moves in the mid-20th century had a bleaching effect, erasing many of their relics and hallmarks. Today, only 7% of the area's population is Black.

In tribute to the Black City Makers who built this vital hub, we invite you to celebrate the Seventh Ward and consider its impact on our collective future.

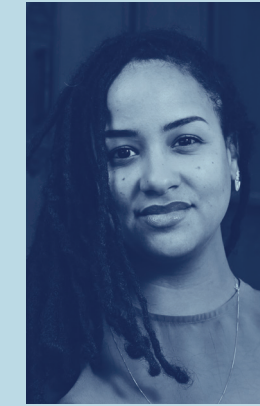


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# TRIBUTE ARTISTS



### BETH NAOMI LEWIS

Beth is a Philadelphia-based educator and artist. Her illustrations have been published in children's books, magazines, and websites. Holding a Master's in Fine Arts from The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts with a focus on Studio Art and Art History, she has dedicated twelve years to teaching and instructing at various Pennsylvania art centers and institutions. Notable affiliations include the Please Touch Museum, Taller Puertorriqueño, Bartram's Garden, Bloomsburg University, and more recently, the Jubilee School, where she continued her youth-focused art instruction. Beth's personal artistic exploration revolves around the human form, investigating its ties to identity, place, and imagination.



### LI SUMPTER, PH.D.

Li is a mythologist and multidisciplinary artist who applies strategies of worldbuilding and mythic design toward building better, more resilient communities of the future. Li's creative research and collaborative design initiatives engage the art of survival and sustainability through diverse ecologies and immersive stories of change. She is a cultural producer and eco-arts activist working through MythMedia Studios and the Escape Artist Initiative while remaining actively engaged in interdisciplinary projects with Monument Lab, Painted Bride Art Center, and the Village of Arts and Humanities.



### AMELIA CARTER

Amelia is a multidisciplinary artist and producer from Philadelphia. She is a self-taught filmmaker who directed and produced the films, "Until and Unless: Decriminalizing Queer India" and "Testimony: 52nd St. and the Invisible Violence of UPenn" (winner of the 2021 Blackstar Film Festival Shine Award). Amelia has 10 years of community organizing experience in Philadelphia, where she most recently founded and directed the grassroots organization Penn Community for Justice and Philly Human Rights Appeal. Currently, Amelia is the Managing Director of the art and history organization, Monument Lab. In 2022 Amelia was granted the Leeway Transformation Award for her years of service in art for social change.

# WELCOME TO THE 7<sup>TH</sup> WARD

The heart of Black Philadelphia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Each landmark is an important part of the community, or home to a prominent local who is working relentlessly to uplift the Seventh Ward—people like Octavius Catto, Fanny Jackson Coppin, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

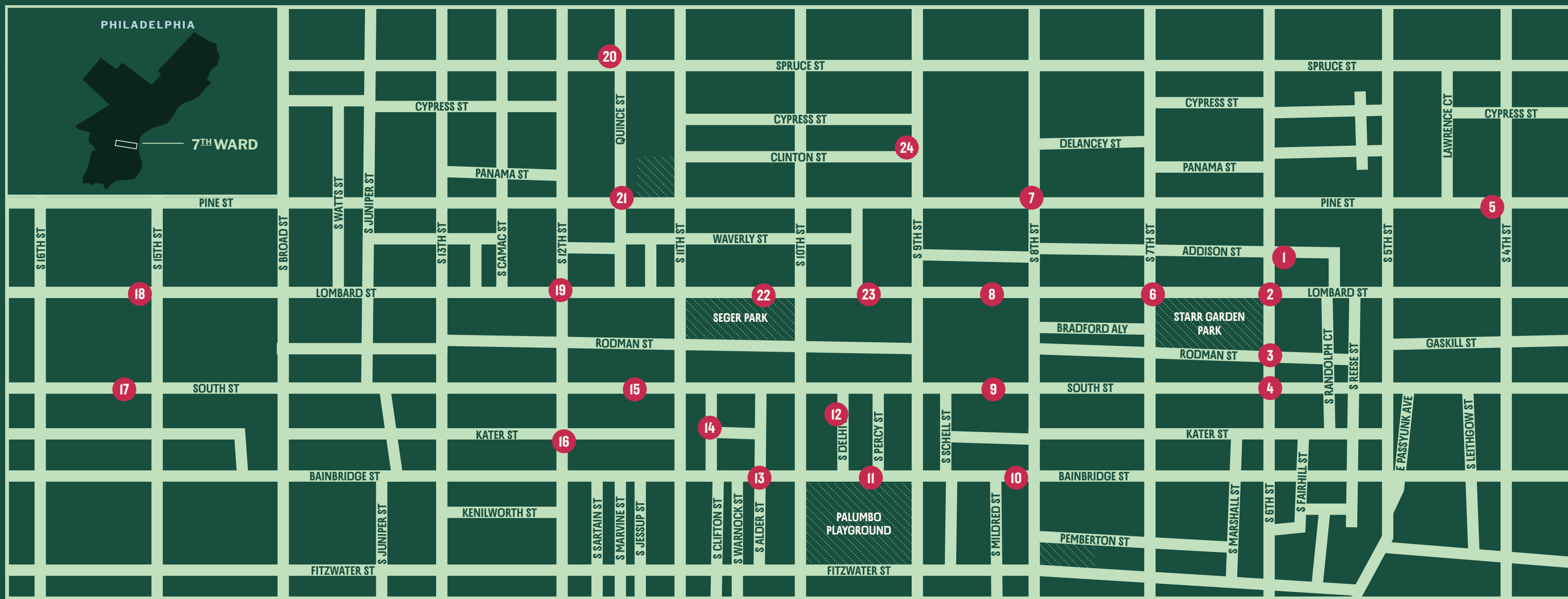
The area has undergone dramatic racial and economic change over the past 125 years.

As you follow in their footsteps today, consider:


**Whose neighborhood is this?**

**Who gets to shape and tell its stories?**

**What is your connection to this history?**



## LEGEND

-  **Church**
-  **City Maker**
-  **School**
-  **Arts**
-  **Healthcare**
-  **Other Institution**

### 1 MOTHER BETHEL

In 1794, Richard Allen founded Mother Bethel as the first African Methodist Episcopal (AME) church in the country. It stands on the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by African Americans in the United States.

### 2 STARR PLAYGROUND, STARR ASSOCIATION

Beginning in 1878, retailer and philanthropist Theodore Starr organized a series of charitable organizations to benefit the poor, immigrant and African American populations of this neighborhood.

### 3 WEB DU BOIS

Du Bois lived in the 7th Ward while he was a professor at the University of Pennsylvania from 1896 to 1897. While here, he conducted groundbreaking sociological research: *The Philadelphia Negro* was one of the earliest and most comprehensive sociological studies of urban Black life.

### 4 ENGINE COMPANY NO. 11

Engine Company 11 was established in 1871 when Philadelphia organized its first Municipal Fire Department. In 1886, Philadelphia hired its first African American firefighter, Isaac Jacobs, who was stationed at Engine Company 11.

### 4 MAPPING COURAGE MURAL

Willis Humphrey designed and painted *Mapping Courage*, honoring the men of Fire Engine Company 11 as protectors of the Ward. To the left, Du Bois looks out onto the 7th Ward.

### 5 OLD PINE STREET PRESBYTERIAN

Established in 1768, Old Pine Street Presbyterian Church was connected to the Underground Railroad. It provided assistance to escaped slaves and contributed to the Abolitionist movement.

### 6 LOMBARD STREET COLORED SCHOOL (Forten School)

Sarah Mapps Douglass, Robert Purvis, and other African American leaders in Philadelphia established this school in 1835. It was a pioneering institution that offered quality education to African American students.

### 6 PHIPPS INSTITUTE/HOSPITAL

This pioneering medical institution was established in the late 19th century for the research and treatment of tuberculosis.

### 7 PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL

This hospital admitted African American patients, including enslaved and free individuals. Founded in 1751, it also employed notable Black physicians like James Durham.

### 8 LOMBARD CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN

Founded in 1842, this vital institution offered both spiritual refuge and a focal point for social and community activities in the 7th Ward.

### 9 OCTAVIUS CATTO

Catto was a Black educator, intellectual and civil rights activist who is remembered as one of Philadelphia's most politically active African Americans of the 19th century.

### 9 WILLIAM ADGER

Adger owned and operated a successful coal and wood yard in the 19th century. His business contributed to the economic stability and growth of the African American community in the 7th Ward.

### 10 CHURCH OF THE CRUCIFIXION

This church was established in 1879 under the leadership of Bishop Daniel Payne. A prominent figure in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, he advocated for the educational and spiritual upliftment of African Americans.

### 11 INSTITUTE FOR COLORED YOUTH

In 1837, Richard Humphreys, a wealthy Quaker, gave an endowment to establish a school that would train Black teachers. Before it relocated to 9th and Bainbridge, the Institute for Colored Youth sat on a farm outside of the city.

### 12 WILLIAM STILL

Still played a pivotal role in the Underground Railroad as an abolitionist, author, and stationmaster. He helped hundreds of escaped slaves achieve freedom in the 19th century.

### 13 FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER

Harper was a well-known antislavery activist and supporter of Black suffrage. She played an active role in Philadelphia's Underground Railroad.

### 14 WATERS MEMORIAL AME CHURCH

Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, later established Waters Memorial, in 1816.

### 15 STANDARD THEATER

This theater hosted legendary African American performers like jazz and blues musicians Ethel Waters, Bessie Smith, and Fats Waller.

### 16 ALICE LIPSCOMB HOMES

Alice Lipscomb Homes provided affordable housing for African American residents in the mid-20th century. Owned and operated by the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA), it addressed critical housing needs.

### 17 ROYAL THEATER

This historic African American theater hosted the likes of Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald in its heyday, contributing to the cultural legacy of Philadelphia and the 7th Ward.

### 18 DOUGLASS HOSPITAL

The Frederick Douglass Memorial Hospital and Training School was founded in 1895 by Dr. Nathan Mossell, the first Black person to earn a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

### 18 ST. PETER CLAVER

In the late 19th century, Philadelphia's Black Catholics weren't welcome in the city's Catholic churches. In many cases, they were required to worship separately from the white congregation. As a result, they formed the St. Peter Claver Union in 1886.

### 20 HELEN PARRISH

Parrish was a pioneering 20th century African American educator, known for her dedication to providing quality education and advocating for equal opportunities in Philadelphia.

### 21 JS RAMSEY SCHOOL

This school provided grammar and secondary schooling to both the Black and white populations of the 7th Ward. Built in 1850, it now houses the Kahn Place Park apartments.

### 22 JACOB C. WHITE

White was a leading figure in the Underground Railroad. He fought for civil rights, advocating for African American freedom and equality in the 19th century.

### 23 WILLIAM WHIPPER

Whipper was a prominent 19th-century Black abolitionist and businessman in Philadelphia. He played a vital role in the Underground Railroad, advocating for racial equality and economic empowerment.

### 24 SUSAN WHARTON

Wharton was a wealthy Quaker and President of the College Settlement Association. She advocated for low cost, clean housing and better living conditions for the 7th Ward's Black residents.