



A New Use for an Old House

BY CAROL KALOS, PRESIDENT, WISSAHICKON VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The structure at 1002 West Skippack Pike dates to 1872, and it has served many purposes. It now stands as a modern funeral home (run by the same family for 141 years), but it was first a private residence; then it became an eatery in the 1940s. Built in the late Federal style, stucco over masonry, it includes a main core with two chimneys, an older wing at the back, and several additions. It was a Korean restaurant, and before that, in 1972-2002, it was the Johnny Cross American & Italian Restaurant, named after its first owner and known in the neighborhood for its potent drinks, served at its red leather bar.

Carol Kalos is president of the Wissahickon Valley Historical Society, located at the 1895 School on Skippack Pike. It also owns the one-room Franklinville School on Morris Road. Its mission is to preserve the history of Ambler Borough, Whitpain Township, and Lower Gwynedd Township. The group sponsors a monthly speakers' series, free of charge, and the public is welcome. For information, please go to www.WValleyHS.org.



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