

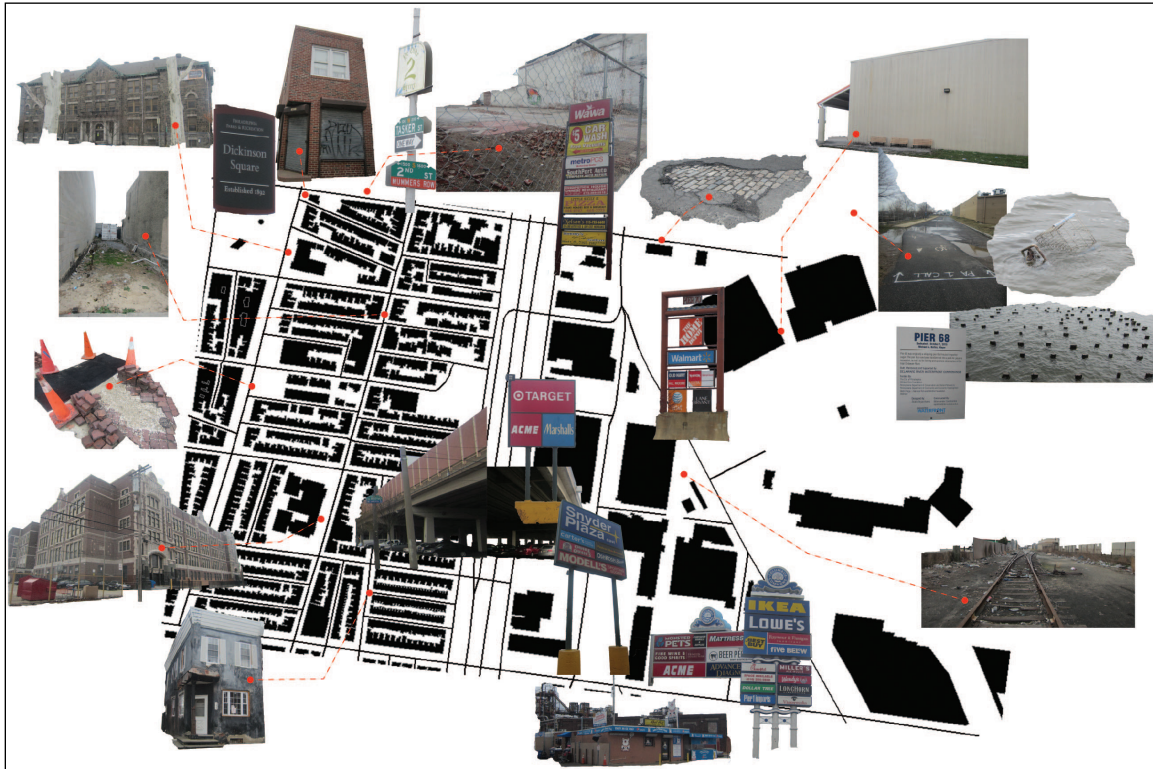
# **Yen Ho**

ARCH 3070 or 9580

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Instructor: Gabriel Kaprielian





Yen Ho

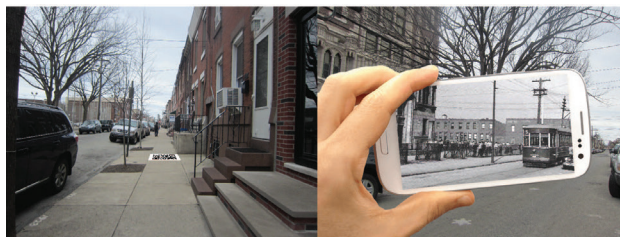
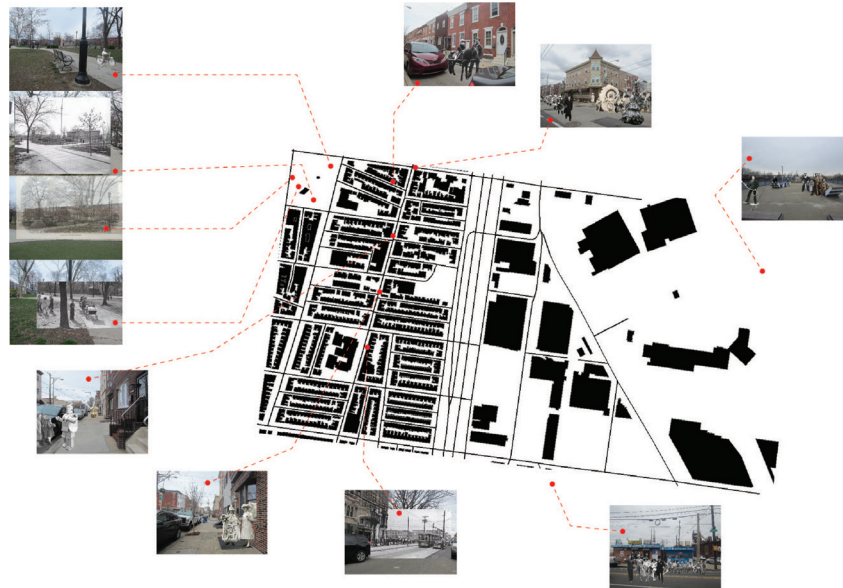
# The Pennsport Diaries

Yen Ho

## Project Concept:

The development of shopping centers and I-95 has lead to a loss of identity in my project site located in the Pennsport neighborhood. It made me think about what life was like back in the 19th and 20th century. I wanted to bring people back in time and learn from the environment people were living in at those times before shopping centers and I-95 were developed. I decided to create a "path" where people would stumble upon a QR code at a certain location. Once they scan it on their phones, it would prompt them to position their phones to a certain spot, and people from the 19th century or 20th century and buildings would appear on their screens, blending in with the current site. Then, a description of the site would appear on their phones. I created a film to demonstrate what it would be like approaching to the current site and looking at a 19th or 20th century photo in your phone.





A gathering of high school boys stands outside the Furness High School in this c. 1950 photograph. The school was built in 1914 and named for the distinguished Shakespearean scholar and brother of architect Frank Furness. The Route 5 trolley is seen running southbound on Second Street.



By the 17th century, Swedish settlers around Philadelphia had reinterpreted the tradition, keeping the costumes as they chanted and shot firearms in hope neighbors would give them dessert and alcohol on Christmas. Even President George Washington got in on the Mummer tradition in Philly, which then took place in the week leading up to New Year's Day.

In the 1800s, mummies were prohibited from shooting firearms during the parade - it's hard to imagine that tradition not wreaking chaos among the crowds on 2 Street today - and for a time, even temporarily banned from masquerading in Philly.

But mummers continued to dress up for — an often boozy — mockery of the year's events. By 1901, New Year's Day became the official day of the Mummers Parade, making it the oldest folk festival in the country. Among some mummers clubs, the drunken and rowdy behavior is has endured, and particularly in recent years, there have been allegations of gross insensitivity levied at some of the parade's participants.



Pier 68 was once a W.J. McCahan raw sugar warehouse. To its south, Pier 70 was once the site of Baugh & Sons, importers and collectors of animal bones ground into fertilizer for nearby farms. Custom-designed wave-shaped benches were inspired by the mustaches worn by Philadelphia sailors in the late 19th century, and were built in collaboration with the Challenge Program in Wilmington, Delaware, a nonprofit that teaches construction skills to at risk youth.

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## Project Narrative:

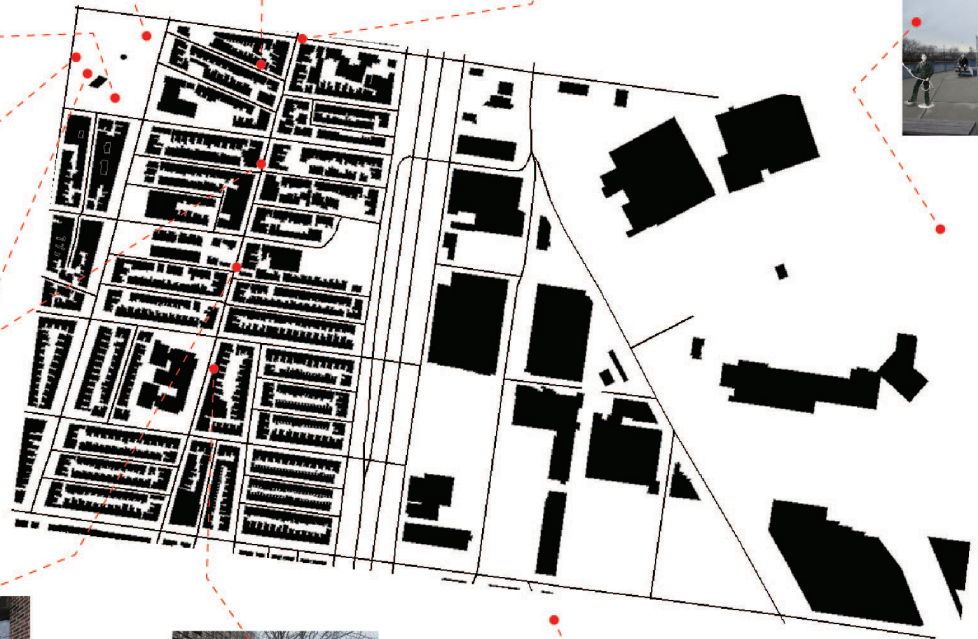
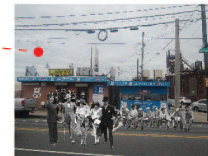
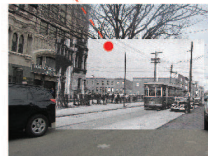
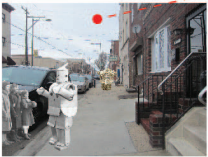
The intention for my project is to bring people back in time so that they can relate their lives to the everyday lives of people that lived in the neighborhood in the past. I was inspired with my site's transformation from an industrial site, to a place for shopping at the shopping centers. I was also inspired by a book "Philadelphia's Old Southwark" where it shows only photos from the 19th and 20th century with everyday people in it at those certain locations on my site, specifically in Pennsport. In this book, it shows exactly what my site was like back then: there were people working in factories, children playing at the park after school, friends and families celebrating at the Mummers parade, etc.

I've noticed how happy people were in those photos. Going around my site in the present was completely different from the photos I've looked at: there weren't a lot of people walking around the neighborhoods, but there were kids playing at the Dickinson Square Park at least. There was a restaurant that has been around since 1930, and it still shows the same purpose as to what the original owner was intended to do. Pier 68 was restored in 2015 as a park for people to do recreational activities like fishing. The pier used to be the site where the sugar refinery company was. The pier was vacant for a long time and it took several months for the pier to be restored due to ships crashing into it. With new, developed areas built nearby the Delaware River, it's like the life of my site started to fade away.

Every time I visit my site, the weather is always gloomy. I'm not sure if that's a coincidence that my site lost its identity, or it's just that I chose the wrong day to come back to my site. It made me think that it's time to bring back life into the community. I decided to create a "path" where whenever someone stumbles upon a certain site, they would use their phones to learn about that site with old photos appearing on their screens. I want to have an interactive activity for people to learn about my site. I thought about Philadelphia's historical plaques and how it tells you about a particular site. I remembered Jena Osman talking to me about "Plaque to the Future" where people would read about something that just happened to this person at this particular site. Its intent is to depict everyday people in Philadelphia today. I wanted to create some kind of "path," and I stumbled upon the "wielrevelt haarzuilens historical path" located in the Netherlands where people experience the landscape between Vleuten and Haarzuilens without

signposts. They think with signposts on the landscape, it would interfere the beauty of that landscape. With gravel, concrete, tree trunks and weathering steel available on the site, shapes were created from them and merged into the surroundings as well as adding in a story and visual element. On them would be historical and poetical texts referring to history that makes the site special.

From the past few weeks, we've read about certain topics like placemaking, defining site, site mapping, and more. Denis Woods' "Everything Sings" inspired me where he would map out his neighborhood in Boylan Heights with jack-o-lanterns, and noticed how there are more of them in rich communities. He wanted to acknowledge lesser-known neighborhoods, and wanted to people to notice the invisible, the overlooked, and the less important ones. The shopping centers are huge, and many noticed them more than the Pennsport community. I want to acknowledge both sides of I-95 equally by uncovering the past that use to have "life." Another reading we read was Guy Debord's "Theory of the Dérive" where there's not limit to where you are when approaching to a site you don't know. You are welcomed to move around and observe your surroundings. I propose to insert QR codes throughout the site that reference geo-spatially referenced images and information from the site's past. They can walk anywhere they want and they can still learn about the site by using their phones. Being aware of your surroundings is important in my project. People can learn from the past through those photographs so they can think about how they can impact Pennsport's future.







Located in a relatively untrafficked area of Philadelphia, John's Roast Pork has long served the area's dock and warehouse workers but it's only been in the last 10 years that the shop has gotten attention from tourists and the media. After critic Craig LaBan declared John's Roast Pork the best cheesesteak in Philadelphia in the Philadelphia Inquirer in 2002, the restaurant's star has continued to rise, and their cheesesteak has helped land John's Roast Pork a spot on the Eater Philly 38.



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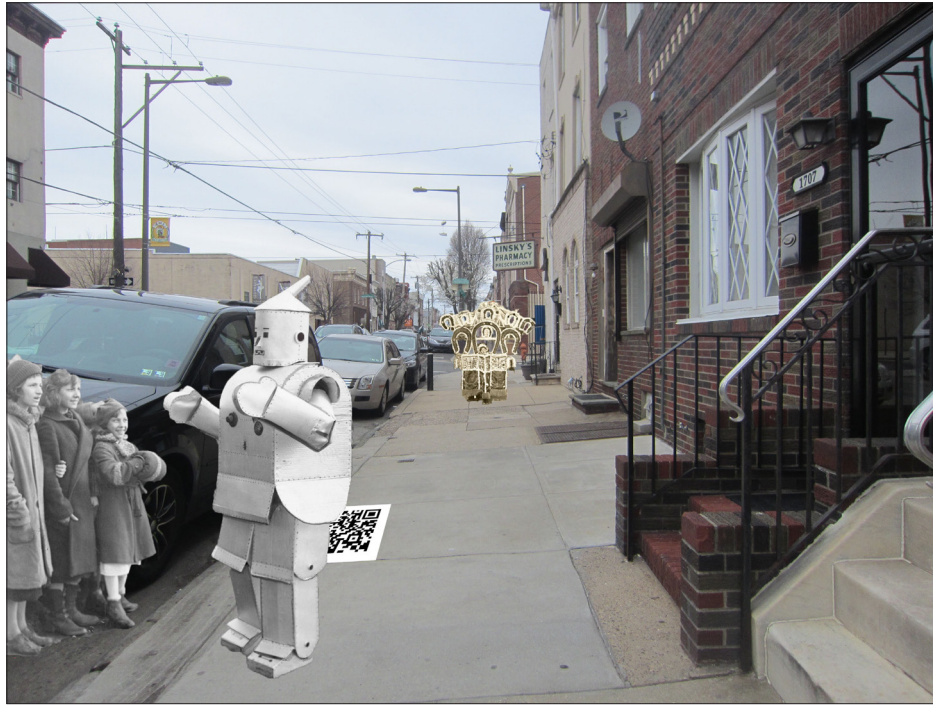






While Mummers can be found throughout the city and suburbs of Philadelphia, the heart of the Mummers is in South Philadelphia, along Second Street and Third Street, in neighborhoods called Pennsport and Whitman. Today's Mummers are men and women from all walks of life, but strong Irish, German, Italian, Polish and Roman Catholic connections exist throughout the Mummers. Many graduated from the same high schools. Some trace their family's involvement back generations. Occupations such as longshoremen and firefighters have solid Mummer ties. Mummery has strong working class roots and symbolism.





Mummers are about celebration, fun, and family. They value tradition and community. Mummers can be musical, satirical or even a little ridiculous, but they are always colorful. In Philadelphia this has developed into the grandest of Mummers traditions, the annual Mummers Parade. Ten thousand participants and hundreds of thousands of parade viewers take to the streets and sidewalks or view on television on New Year's Day.



The old Southwark District offered a number of fun activities for children in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. Residents from those days fondly recall pony rides as well as traveling carnival attractions, such as the Ferris wheel, merry-go-round, and the Whip. In this 1954 photograph, young Tim Oxenford enjoys his first pony ride on Fernon Street. The man at right is unidentified.





Dickinson Square Park offers neighborhood children an open-space alternative to sidewalk and street play. The earliest efforts to develop the former Pascal Iron Works plot were spearheaded by a playground equipment.



Named after former Philadelphia Governor John Dickinson (1732-1808), Dickinson Square Park opened to the public on October 27, 1900, to great fanfare. The event, described in the paper as "one of the greatest celebrations in the southern section of the city," featured an opening prayer and hundreds of local schoolchildren singing patriotic songs. This image was taken 10 years after the parks' opening.





For over a century, children and adults alike have enjoyed walking dogs and strolling along Dickinson Square Park's paths that wind beneath a canopy of trees. In 2012, the park experienced a rebirth after a large renovation project. During the summer months, the park regularly hosts a neighborhood farmers' market, outdoor films, and other public events.



Dickinson Square Park is located on the site of the former Pascal Iron Works, founded in 1821. The Iron Works faced west on 5th Street between what is now Tasker Street and Morris Street and extended to Moyamensing Avenue. From 4th Street to Moyamensing Avenue was the stockyard, which would become the future site of Dickinson Square Park. The Pascal Iron Works manufactured stoves, grates, and machine parts for sugar refineries, and had offices in Philadelphia and New York City. The Pascal Iron Works had 1600 full-time employees that worked in three shifts, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.





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