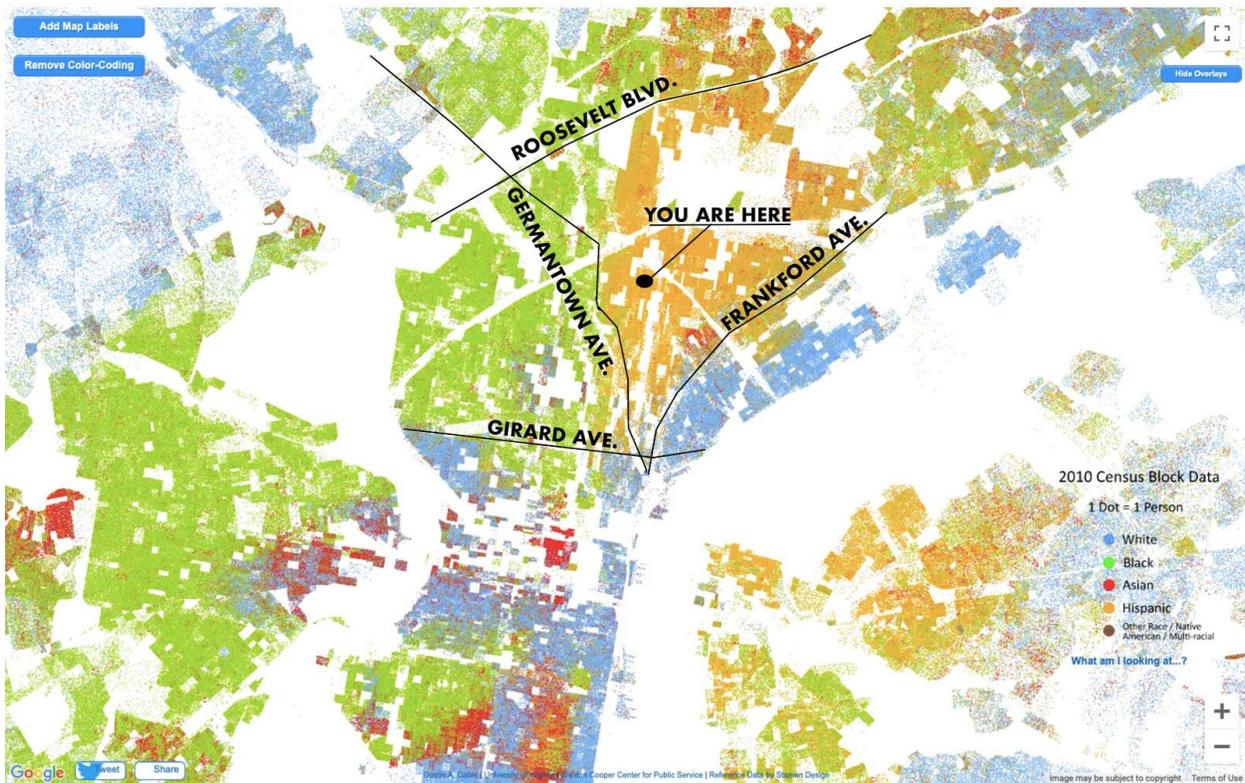


Stop #1--The Puerto Rican Neighborhoods of North Philadelphia

Philadelphia's Puerto Rican population is the second largest in the United States, trailing only New York City. The vast majority of Puerto Ricans live in North Philadelphia in an extensive area shaped like an upside down triangle. It is bounded by Germantown Avenue to the west, Roosevelt Boulevard to the north, Frankford Avenue to the east and Girard Avenue to the south. The intersection of Fifth and Lehigh is on the border between Fairhill and West Kensington, with 5th Street the dividing line. Other predominantly Puerto Rican neighborhoods include Norris Square, Hunting Park, Juniata Park and Feltonville.

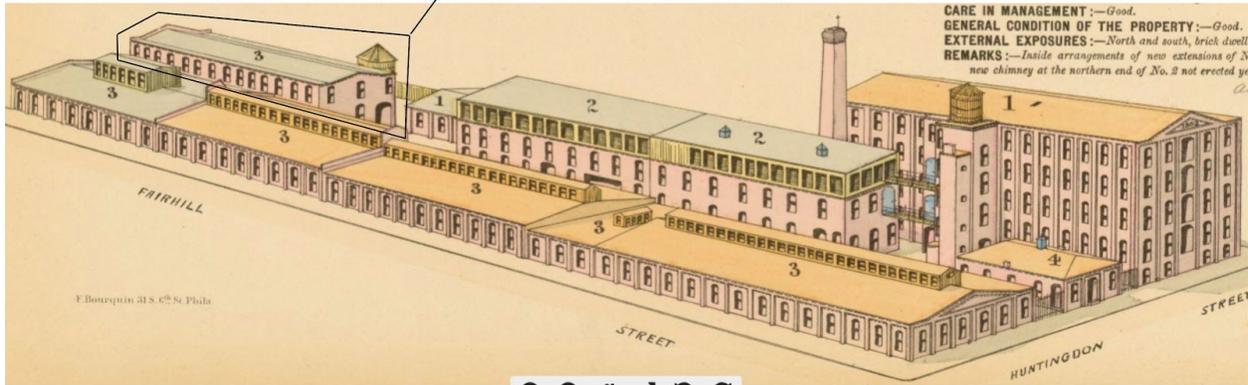
Migration to the mainland United States from Puerto Rico was extremely limited until the Immigration Act of 1924 cut off the supply of immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. Farms in South Jersey and factories in Philadelphia recruited Puerto Ricans to take the place of these lower wage workers, however the Puerto Rican population didn't expand rapidly until after World War II. Although the Philadelphia's textile industry's long decline was underway by then, there were still enough jobs working in the area's mills to make Philadelphia an attractive destination for Puerto Rican migrants. Many manufacturers closed their doors in the 1970s, however a few large companies such as Botany 500 and Quaker Lace remained in business through the late 80s and early 90s. Residents of the neighborhood struggled to find replacements for the jobs that were lost, and the area remains one of Philadelphia's most impoverished.



Stop #2--Stinson Brothers Carpets, 2610 N. Reese St.

In 1900 Philadelphia was the nation's largest textile producer, with the bulk of the factories concentrated in Kensington. All types of textiles, from hosiery to suits to lace was made there, however the Lehigh Avenue corridor was known especially for its concentration of firms manufacturing carpets. Among them was Stinson Brothers, which produced Wilton carpets, the highest grade of machine-made carpets. The company erected a substantial complex of factory buildings starting in 1880, but eventually went out of business in the 1930s. A producer of glazed kid moved in soon after, and remained there into the 1960s. Glazed kid is an especially thin, soft and supple type of leather that is often used in making women's gloves, hence the phrase "handle with kid gloves," a metaphor for careful handling. Most of the factory buildings were torn down, probably in the 1970s, however one structure, now vacant, remains standing.

EXISTING BUILDING



Stop #3--Steel Palm Trees

The steel palm trees lining 5th Street on either side of Lehigh Avenue are an immediately recognizable symbol of the neighborhood's identity as the hub of Puerto Rican and Dominican life and culture in Philadelphia. The handcrafted sculptures, all signed by artist Wendell Turner and individually numbered, were created in 2011 as part of a \$3.8 million streetscape improvement project. New lighting was also installed, and the sidewalks were paved with a glittering band of gold that hearkened back to the area's days as a hub for jewelry stores (and the source of its "Calle de Oro" nickname).



Stop #4--Taller Puertorriqueño, 2600 N. 5th St.

Founded in 1974, Taller Puertorriqueño is known as El Corazón Cultural del Barrio (The Cultural Heart of Latino Philadelphia). In 2016, the organization moved into its new home, the El Corazon Cultural Center. The striking building, designed by the architecture firm WRT, houses an art gallery, performance spaces, classrooms, offices and a gift shop. Taller is also home to the Eugenio María de Hostos Archives, a repository of books, periodicals, articles, recordings, and research, focusing on Puerto Rican and Latino history in Philadelphia and across the

country.



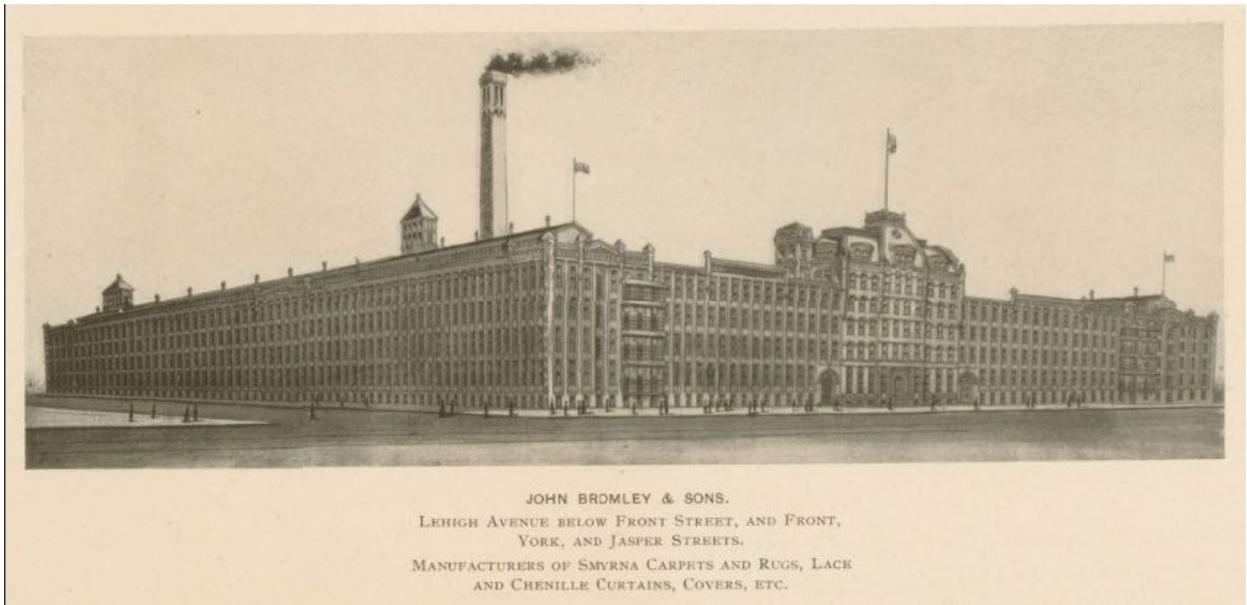
Stop #5 St. Christopher's Hospital/Lehigh Park Apartments, 2600 N. Lawrence St.

St. Christopher's Hospital is a superb example of the adaptive reuse of a historic building to meet the neighborhood's present-day needs. Founded in 1875 for the working class residents in Kensington, St. Christopher's moved into the building that still stands on the corner of N. Lawrence and Huntingdon in 1890. The hospital expanded in 1938 and again in the 1960s. When the hospital moved to a new location at Front Street and Erie Avenue in 1990, the Canus Corporation converted the buildings into low-income housing. HACE purchased the buildings in 2001.



Stop #6 Quaker Lace/Julia de Burgos Elementary School, 401 W. Lehigh Ave.

The Quaker Lace Factory that once stood at 4th and Lehigh was built in 1894 by the Bromley family. The company was famous for its lace curtains and tablecloths, which were even used at the White House during the Eisenhower administration. The company went bankrupt in 1992, leaving behind a complex of especially handsome industrial buildings. Unfortunately, three teenagers torched the vacant factory at the behest of a local drug dealer because police were using it for surveillance. The location is now home to the Julia de Burgos Elementary School.



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