

John, - As I recall, this is a bronze, about 12' to 15' high, and once stood in front of Wanamaker's, from which Mr. Frank got it as part payment for some work done.

June 19, 1950

Mr. C.J. Frank
Voight Company
1649 North Broad Street
Philadelphia 22, Pa.

My dear Mr. Frank,

Following our recent telephone conversation regarding the Manger sculpture of William Penn, now in possession of the Voight Company, I have suggested to members of the 18th Ward Council's Historic Sites and Parks Committee, of which I am chairman, that they view the statue at your plant. As a mutually satisfactory date for a visit seems difficult, I have left it to them to call at their individual convenience.

I agree with you that a figure of this nature would be most fitting in Penn Treaty Park, and your enthusiasm for this location is greatly appreciated. I am sure that you will be interested to know that restoration of the Park has been the chief over-all effort of the Council. We seem to have staved off its conversion into a playground, and members of the Fairmount Park Commission have indicated a willingness to accept its transfer from the Bureau of Recreation, to which it was transferred from the Bureau of City Property in 1949. Perhaps that transfer will have been accomplished by October, and a more suitable setting provided.

Meanwhile, Penn Treaty Park, under whatever administration, belongs to the whole City, and its significance is to the whole Commonwealth, and beyond. We hope that interest in the Park, with its magnificent view of the River, in addition to its symbolism, can be more general. It would not be unreasonable, therefore, to consider contributions for this effort from beyond this immediate neighborhood.

If the statue is still available at the time of our next general meeting, in October, I shall be more than glad to bring it to the attention of the 18th Ward Council for definite action. I should appreciate several copies of your leaflet, if possible.

Sincerely,



George Baker, chairman,
Historic Sites and Parks Committee,
18th Ward Council

1331 East Palmer Street
Philadelphia 25, Pa.

cc: Wm. Rowen Grant, president, 18th Ward Council ✓

Penn Treaty Park Tercentenary Committee

330 E. GIRARD AVE. • PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19125 • (215) 426-7757

April 1, 1981

Councilman Jim Tayoun
City Hall
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Councilman Tayoun:

Your immediate help is needed to resolve difficulties that are slowing down the completion of Penn Treaty Park. As you know this long standing commitment on your part has been influential in getting the project started. However, problems today appear to threaten the eventual completion by 1982.

There does not appear to be a project coordinator committed to completion of the Park. Responsibility has not been delegated to anyone in particular or any agency i.e., Fairmont Park, City Planning, etc.

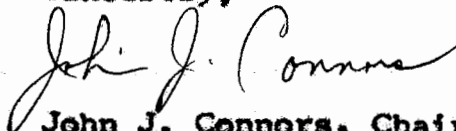
As of today no architect has been contracted. Appraisals for the Penn Atlantic building have been received by the Dept. of Public Property but no concerted effort has been made to negotiate for the purchase of this property. The Philadelphia Electric Company needs guidance on the style of wall that they have agreed to build. A bandshell that is federally funded needs a spot selected. The Society of Red Men are interested in putting an Indian statue in the Park. And possible relocation of the Lutricia Penn house has to be discussed.

As you can see, much remains to be done. People would rather see completion of this project before the city again emphasizes Society Hill waterfront development.

Penn Treaty Park will be the largest recreational site along the inner city waterfront. Certainly it is the most historically significant site along the waterfront. The Tercentenary is quickly approaching and Penn Treaty Park cannot play any role in the celebration unless progress is made now.

We urge you to help us arrange a meeting with Wilson Goode, Fred Stein, and Pete Haskin. Thank you for your immediate attention in helping get this project moving forward once again.

Sincerely,



John J. Connors, Chairperson
Penn Treaty Park Tercentenary
Committee

cc: Dot Sobotka
Henry Kriess



CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

AL PEARLMAN
ROOM 562, CITY HALL
MU 6-3420-3421

COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE

28 August 1981

COMMITTEES
CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
VICE-CHAIRMAN
LABOR AND CIVIL SERVICE
MEMBER
STREETS AND SERVICES
LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS
COMMERCE, TRANSPORTATION AND
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Ms. Elaine Peden
5264 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19124

Dear Ms. Peden:

I am in receipt of your recent correspondence concerning the proposed placement of the statue of William Penn in the Penn Treaty Park and I can assure you that I will do everything I can to persuade Mr. Dixon to grant this request of the Daughters of the American Colonist.

I agree that you should have some input as to the location of this statue as the Community residents would be the very people most affected by this decision.

Please be assured of my continued interest in your Community and you may be assured that I will do my utmost to assist you.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely,

AL PEARLMAN

AP:emm



John Conner

NATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN COLONISTS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
MRS. JOHN CARL FOSTER, JR.
WYNDHAM DRIVE
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17403

September 2, 1981

Honorable William J. Green, Mayor,
City of Philadelphia,
City Hall,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19107

Re: Proposed Statue of William Penn
Penn Treaty Park

Dear Mr. Green:

I am the National President of the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, with 11,000 members in 51 State Societies. As my National Project, I elected to erect a Statue of William Penn in Penn Treaty Park to Commemorate the 300th Anniversary of his Founding of Pennsylvania, and dedicate it in April of 1982. The National Society enthusiastically backed this project and voluntarily contributed the necessary funds for the statue, a 7'4" standing figure on a 4' pedestal, to be made of grey granite.

Permission was granted by the Fairmount Park Commission for placement of the statue, and later the location was approved. The sketch and photographs, submitted by Mr. Frank Gaylord, the Sculptor, from Barre, Vermont, were approved by the Commission on February 11, 1981; subject to approval of the Philadelphia Art Commission.

Mr. F. Eugene Dixon personally assisted in arranging for the first review on April 14, 1981. Present at this review were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaylord, of Vermont; Mrs. Eugene H. Martin, of Lancaster, Pa. and my husband, Attorney John Carl Foster, Jr., and myself. Mr. Gaylord exhibited his scale model, sketches, and photographs. Only one change was suggested to be made and photographs to be sent for the next review on April 28th. Since then, another review on July 14th, and now nothing but delaying action. It is quite apparent Mr. Joe Brown, a member of the Commission, is the real objector, and, with his recent adverse publicity, how can he judiciously review the submission of another sculptor?

I am making a personal request, on behalf of the National Society, for your assistance in securing approval of our statue. It will be a gift to the City of Philadelphia, it is beautifully designed, and it will be a real addition to Penn Treaty Park. Many members from many states are planning to attend the dedication. Unlike 1976, why not make 1982 a Memorable Year for Philadelphia!

This project has the support of the following: Dr. Richard Tyler; Dr. James E. Mooney; Mr. Robert Crawford; Mr. Dick Nicolai; Mrs. Elaine Peden; Councilwoman Beatrice K. Chernock; Mrs. Alfred Novella; Mr. Robert Alotta; the Philadelphia Boosters Association; and the Fishtown Civic Association, Inc.

I will appreciate an answer to my request as soon as possible. I can also arrange for a personal interview, if you desire to discuss the entire matter.

Very Sincerely,

Mary Helen Foster

Mrs. John Carl Foster, Jr.



SEP 9 1981

PC: D. Felsher
J. Connor ✓

NATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN COLONISTS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
MRS. JOHN CARL FOSTER, JR.
WYNDHAM DRIVE
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17403

September 6, 1981

Mr. George Baker,
1507 Woodland Avenue,
Folcroft, Pa. 19032

Dear Mr. Baker:

Our friend, Mrs. Elaine Peden, sent me a copy of your letter of July 23rd to Ms Beverly Volk of the Philadelphia Art Commission. I appreciate very much your personal interest and I agree with your comments regarding Mr. Brown.

She also sent me a copy of the letter which Mr. F. Eugene Dixon, Jr., wrote to Mr. James J. Tayoun, Councilman, First District, with copies to Mr. Daniel Felsher, The Honorable Joseph R. Smith, and to you, wherein Mr. Dixon made an incorrect quote and unjustified accusations.

In my letter to Mrs. McKenna regarding the review scheduled for July 14th, which I could not attend because of commitments for the National Society, I said, "Since you have received Mr. Gaylord's letter of June 4th and the photographs of the changes which were suggested and which he has made, I am requesting the Art Commission to come to a decision at this review. Three months have passed and all suggested changes have been made. It is necessary to go ahead with our project, preferably in Philadelphia, since time is now of the essence." No mention was made of Pittsburgh, not in my letter nor to anyone.

My only appearance before the Art Commission was for the first review on April 14, 1981, with my husband, Attorney John Carl Foster, Jr., Mrs. Eugene H. Martin, Lancaster, Pa., and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaylord, the sculptor and his wife, from Barre, Vermont, at which time Mr. Gaylord exhibited his half-scale model, his sketch, and photographs.

Both of us have cooperated in every way. After the second review, Mr. Gaylord, wanting to know exactly what changes should be made, called Mr. Brown, whom he knew personally, and inquired, and then made them.

I, personally, had no discussion of any kind with any member of the Commission, only correspondence.

The members of the National Society have contributed the money for this project, they are looking forward to the dedication scheduled for April 24, 1982, and I am going to leave no stone unturned to gain approval for its being placed in Penn Treaty Park. I have sent a request to Mayor William J. Green and I will seek legal counsel, if necessary, because of the inequity involved in this situation.

With the backing of friends like you, it can be done!

cc: Mr. James J. Tayoun
Mr. Daniel Felsher
Honorable Joseph R. Smith
Mrs. Elaine Peden

Very Sincerely,

Mary Helen Foster

Mrs. John Carl Foster, Jr.
National President



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

ART COMMISSION
1329 City Hall Annex, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107
BEVERLY T. VOLK, Executive Secretary
Municipal 6-4470 - 4463

F. EUGENE DIXON, JR., President
JOSEPH W. BROWN, Commissioner of Public Property
FREDRIC R. MANN
CHARLES MADDEN
ROSEMARY CRUMLISH
THOMAS J. MANGAN
JOSEPH ORSATTI
JOSEPH BROWN
MEYER P. POTAMKIN

October 28, 1981

The Honorable Joseph F. Smith
Member of Congress
1630 Longworth Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Joe:

In response to your letter of October 21, I am happy to inform you that on October 13 at a meeting of the Art Commission the placing of the statue of William Penn in Penn Treaty Park, as requested by Mrs. John Carl Foster, Jr., was approved.

I would like to reiterate that at no time was there any objection on the part of any member of the Commission with regard to the idea of a statue in this particular location. The Commission was concerned with regard to the quality of the piece.

After much soul searching and reviewing of the piece, it was agreed by the Commission to permit its placement and the donors were so notified immediately following the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

F. Eugene Dixon, Jr.
President

FED:ejc

cc: Mrs. Elaine Peden
Daniel Felsher
Councilman Al Pearlman
Councilman James J. Tayoun
Councilman Harry P. Jannotti

This is where the statue was going if Penn Treaty Park was not approved.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA ■ 34 SOUTH 11TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA. 19107 ■ 972-7000



Phone - 1-717-854-7569

October 30, 1981

Mrs. John Carl Foster, Jr.
National President, NSDAC
Wyndham Drive
York, Pennsylvania 17403

Dear Mrs. Foster:

Mr. Jerry Sellers of the Vincent Kling architectural firm recently advised me that Frank C. Gaylord has been commissioned by the NSDAC to create a statue of William Penn. Mr. Sellers has made a suggestion, about which I am enthusiastic, that the National Society be encouraged to place the monument to Penn in the Rotunda of the old U.S. Mint Building which is at the heart of the permanent campus of Community College of Philadelphia.

My enthusiasm is based on personal and institutional reasons. As a member of the Society of Friends I am mindful of the aspirations which Penn had for the City of Philadelphia. I am founding President of the Community College, the only public college which the City of Philadelphia has ever sponsored. After operating in rental facilities for 16 yrs, we will move in 1982 to a new and complete campus constructed at and adjacent to the old U.S. Mint Building at 16th and Spring Garden Streets. Our cornerstone ceremonies for the campus will be conducted on or about April 1, 1982 in conjunction with the observance of the 300th Anniversary of the Founding of Philadelphia. We would hope to unveil the monument to William Penn on that occasion.

It is my understanding that you will be in Philadelphia on Thursday, November 5, 1981 to discuss various locations for the placement of the statue. I hope that it will be possible for you to visit our new campus. If you will telephone me at 215-972-7027 prior to November 5, I'll arrange my schedule and that of our Administrator for Business Affairs so that one or both of us can take you on a tour of the new campus.

With kind regards,

Cordially,

Allen T. Bonnell
President

jdg

cc: Mr. Jack Lee
Mr. Jerry Sellers
Ms. Elaine Peden

September 17, 1981

Councilman James Tayoun
Room 404
City Hall
Philadelphia, Penna. 19107

Re: Proposed Statue of William Penn

Dear Councilman:

As Chairman of the Penn Treaty Park Committee of Fishtown Civic Association I recently held a meeting with the Executive Board Members of Fishtown Civic Association and General Membership to discuss a matter that is of deep concern to all of Fishtown.

Time and time again we meet to reaffirm the directions and plans we have for Penn Treaty Park which is a vital part of and which is one of the most valuable assets we have situated along the waterfront of this neighborhood.

Despite the very difficult years we have spent in this endeavour we are now beginning to see "the light at the end of the tunnel". Things are beginning to shape up and we see the beginning of beautiful things. However, we were informed of an incident that we think should be looked into and which we ask your wholehearted support.

The National Daughters of the American Colonists took on a National Project. They elected to erect a Statue of William Penn in Penn Treaty Park to commemorate the 300th Anniversary of his founding of Pennsylvania.

This Society donated \$30,000 for this proposed statue (a very generous sum to say the least). A sculptor, Mr. Frank Gaylord was commissioned to do the work. It appears that the Philadelphia Art Commission is objecting to the statue. As it is necessary for approval from the Art Commission to place anything of this type in City Parks we are now in jeopardy of losing this valuable piece of art. The statue could possibly be placed somewhere else where the Art Commission's approval is not necessary.

The Executive Board and Members of Fishtown Civic Association are determined to see the re-birth of Fishtown in it's entirety and have pledged themselves to see a beautiful Penn Treaty Park. We want this statue of William Penn to help enhance this Park and what spot is more deserving of it.

We ask that you join us in our efforts and precious goals by bringing our message to your associates in City Council who we are sure will appreciate our wishes.

We are assured that our cause will be your cause.

Thanking you for your help, I am

Very truly yours,

John Connors
Chairman - Penn Treaty Park Committee

JC/coc

cc: Joseph Torre-Pres. FCA

Penn Treaty Park Tercentenary Committee

330 E. GIRARD AVE. • PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19125 • (215) 426-7757

November 27, 1981

Mrs. John Carl Foster, Jr.
National President
National Society Daughters of the American Colonists
Wyndham Drive
York, Pennsylvania 17403

Dear Mrs. Foster:

Recent events have caused me to share my concerns with you regarding the resting place of the William Penn statue. I believe that no other place in Pennsylvania is as appropriate as Penn Treaty Park. Certainly no spot has as fascinating a history concerning the placement of a monument to honor the founder of our state.

Efforts to have a statue placed at the site of William Penn's Treaty with the Indians have been going on for many years. The history of a monument coincided with efforts to establish a park. In 1827 the Penn Society placed the existing marble monument, on private property, to mark the spot of the Great Elm which fell in 1810. They had hoped to place a larger monument at the site in the future. Serious efforts to establish a park and acquire the land started in 1849 when the Pennsylvania Legislature approved a resolution to purchase the land. However, the actual purchase did not take place until after 1852.

There was much interest in the late 1860's in placing a statue of William Penn at the site of the proposed park. One interesting letter from Mr. George F. Gordon dated, August 27, 1868 and written to the editors of Sloan's Architectural Review and Builders Journal states, "The public spirited citizens of Philadelphia are indebted to you, for once more taking the initiative in the matter of a monument to Pennsylvania's Founder William Penn ... Is it not high time that the architectural wisdom and commercial pride of our citizens should mark the spot so "beautiful for situation" on the banks of the Delaware; and enclose the very site of the Elm Tree in a river square as a breathing spot, for all time; from whose center will rise memorial beauty with all the graces of architecture clustering around it, the Monument of William Penn?"

Mr. Gordon was instrumental in raising funds for the first statue placed in Philadelphia, that of George Washington. Mr. Gordon's letter was in response to a lengthy article concerning The Penn Treaty ground and a Monument to William Penn. This lengthy and detailed article contains much information, a portion of which I have enclosed.

As you can see, interest in placing a monument or statue of William Penn has existed since 1827. This achievement of a dream would never have occurred without your efforts and the efforts of the Daughters of the American

Penn Treaty Park Tercentenary Committee

330 E. GIRARD AVE. • PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19125 • (215) 426-7757

Page 2.

Colonists. I believe that this could be a high point of the 1982 Celebration here in Philadelphia.

I am putting the finishing touches on a historical pamphlet of Penn Treaty Park and I would like to add some information on the statue, (pamphlet to follow).

I and many, many others are interested in Penn Treaty Park and the decision by the Daughters to place it here is anxiously awaited by many both past and present.

Sincerely,

*John J. Connors
FISHTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Chairman of Penn Treaty Park Tercentenary Committee*

cc: George Baker

Enclosure



DEC 31 1981

NATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN COLONISTS

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
MRS. JOHN CARL FOSTER, JR.
WYNDHAM DRIVE
YORK, PENNSYLVANIA 17403

December 28, 1981

Fishtown Civic Association, Inc.,
330 E. Girard Avenue,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19125

Attention: Mr. John J. Connors, Chairman
Penn Treaty Park Tercentenary Committee

Dear Mr. Connors:

Thank you for your very nice letter of November 27th and your kindness to my husband and me when we were in Philadelphia on December 9th.

I said at that time that I had made a commitment not to make a final decision until around the first of the year. That time has now arrived and the decision I have made is to honor my original commitment and place the statue in Penn Treaty Park. The statue of William Penn holding the treaty was my idea, designed and carried out by our sculptor, Mr. Frank Gaylord, of Barre, Vermont and Penn Treaty Park is the logical place for it to be placed.

As to the location of the statue, the location, as per the drawing, places the statue approximately in the center of the area of the original park and the newly acquired land for expansion.

I will agree to place it, as designated, if the surrounding area will be in reasonably good shape by April 24th, the date set for the dedication, and an entry is available from Delaware Avenue. All these details can now be finalized.

I can be reached by telephone at (717) 854-7569 for any needed information and I will plan to come to Philadelphia as the need arises.

In closing, I would like to say that I enjoyed reading the copy of your planned brochure on the History of Penn Treaty Park, which I found very interesting.

Best regards and Best Wishes for a Very Happy New Year.

Very Sincerely,

Mrs. John Carl Foster, Jr.
National President



NATIONAL SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN COLONISTS

MRS. JOHN CARL FOSTER, JR., NATIONAL PRESIDENT

HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND MEMORIALS

MRS. ROBERT W. CULLY

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

1308 SOUTHGATE COURT

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA 46806

May 16, 1982

Mrs. Sandy Salzman
Fishtown Civic Association, Inc.
330 E. Girard Avenue
Philadelphia, Pa., 19125

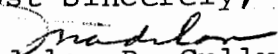
Dear Sandy:

Thank you so very much for the lovely set of newscoverage on the marking that our Society held there last month. I truly am grateful for it and shall be placing it in our National Book that will be placed at the National Headquarters of the D.A.C. in Washington, D.C. just as soon as I can get it all finished and put together and sent there.

As National Chairman of Historic Landmarks, it was an honor and a great privilege to be a part of this wonderful day and I and my husband, coming from Fort Wayne, Indiana, thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing. It is so seldom that a community weaves itself so tightly together as yours has apparently done and it was such a pleasure to see so many local people taking part in the occasion. I wouldn't have missed it for anything. You, and your Civic Association, and yes, your whole neighborhoods, should be very proud of yourselves. Your efforts and your extreme friendliness helped to make it a wonderful and memorable day. I took many pictures, or I should say, three people were using cameras for me, since I was on the platform, and we managed all kinds of pictures. I assume that you too, had many pictures of your own on that day. My pictures and a few others, will be made into a slide program and used all over the fifty states by chapters of D.A.C. Thus, America will see our William Penn and all you wonderful people that helped make it possible.

There are so many to thank that it would take me a long time to do it. So would you be kind enough to convey my thanks to all those taking part and giving every effort to make it the success it was. We enjoyed the lovely music and I must admit that I surely could have listened to a lot more - but then that was my kind of music. (Sort of dates me doesn't it.) At any rate, thank you for everything and for the news coverage and if by any chance, there is anything further, please do send it on. I can use the original newspaper coverage and you won't have to make copies. Thanks again to everyone and some day I'll come back and see your park, all extended and fixed as you expect to fix it. Then I'll take some more pictures. I wish you much success in the future and hope that you enjoy having the statue as much as we enjoyed giving it to you.

Most Sincerely,


Madelon R. Cully (Mrs. R.W.)

Fishtown's Premier Community Newsweekly

May 13, 2004

Vol. 21, No. 18 \$74

Remembering the struggle of a statue

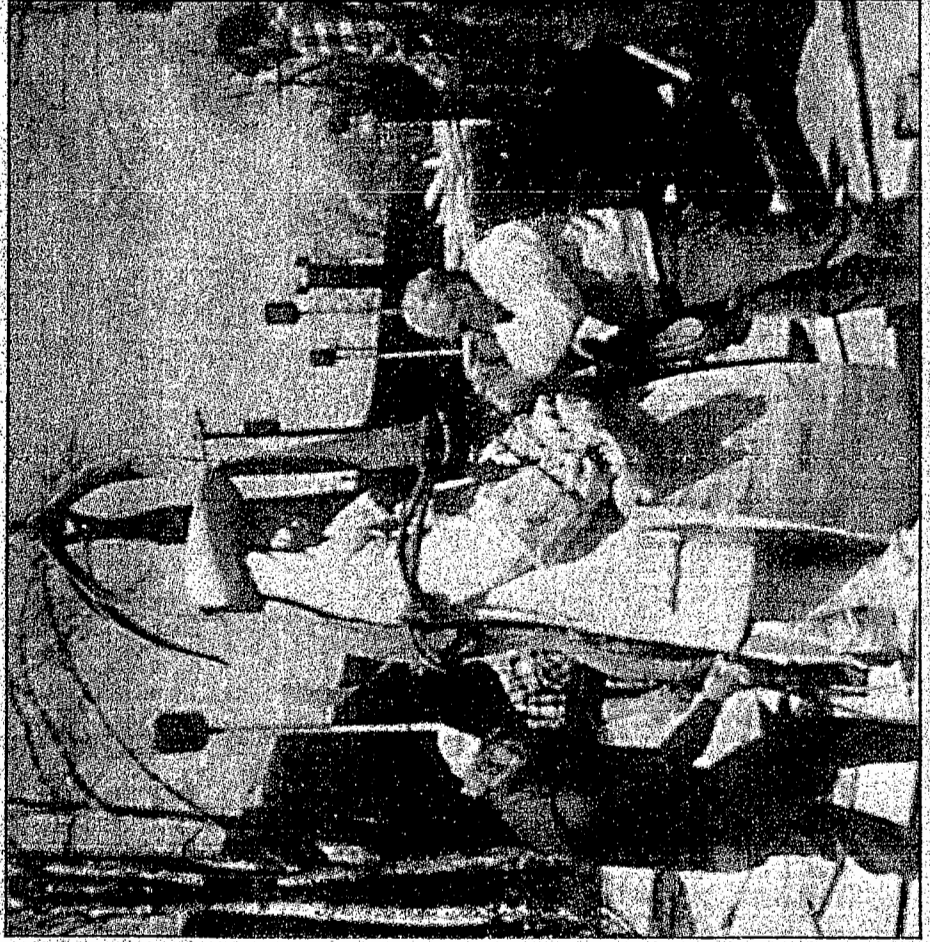
► In 1981, city politics almost kept one of Fishtown's most beloved attractions from coming to fruition. Then Elaine Peden stepped in.

By Ryan Smith
Star Staff Writer

Fishtown has seen its fair share of changes over the past two decades. However, there has remained one constant. The statue of William Penn that sits in Penn Treaty Park.

In fact, it now seems hard to imagine a time when the statue of our state's founding father did not stare back at us from the land on which Penn signed a treaty with the Native Americans so many years ago. Fishtown residents, as well as anyone else who enjoys Penn Treaty Park, have Elaine Peden to thank for that.

In the summer of 1981, the Daughters of the National Society of American Colonists came to the Philadelphia Art Commission with a proposal to erect a statue of William Penn, created by Vermont sculptor Frank C. Gaylord. Penn Treaty Park was the only spot that the Daughters saw fit to erect the monument. On July 16, 1981, The Philadelphia



Frank Gaylord's William Penn Statue was installed in Penn Treaty Park in 1983. It has been a staple of the Fishtown commu-

Commission's rejection of the Daughters' proposal.

"The head (of the statue) doesn't have room for a brain in it," Commission member Joe Brown was quoted as saying in the article. "It's not a well-designed head."

Brown went on to say that the sleeves of Penn's coat looked strangely empty compared with the statue's oversized calves. Another commissioner questioned whether the model's heavy-lidded, deep-set eyes and high cheekbones accurately depicted Penn.

Huh?

While it is not unusual to receive strange explanations from the city government in Philadelphia, this obscure reaction from the Art Commission was just a bit too much for Elaine Peden, our city's foremost William Penn historian.

Peden has been a student of Penn for many years. She has visited his grave in England and has acquired a large collection of Penn memorabilia.

She thought something smelled fishy in Fishtown.

She immediately contacted the Daughters of the National Society of American Colonists' Pennsylvania Chapter President, Mary Foster, telling her that she was anxious to see what the statue looked like because there was no photo with the article.



Frank Christiansen, who helped transport the statue to the city, holds onto its head

Persistence brings gift to city

By Edgar Williams
Inquirer Staff Writer

The girl's name is Dawn, and you could see that she found this a bit of a puzzlement.

First, she looked at the statue, and then she looked at the long-haired man in 17th-century finery, complete with lacy jabot on the shirtfront.

"Is that," she asked the man, "you?"

"Well, yes," was the reply. "It's a statue of me in my younger days."

"Hey," the girl said, "I heard about you, William Penn. You were a good man."

This was yesterday at Penn Treaty Park, East Columbia Avenue and Beach Street in the city's Fishtown section, where a good man was being put on a pedestal. A 7½-foot granite statue of William Penn was being set in place, and to lend a touch of color to the occasion there was Carl Gatter,

one of Philadelphia's best-known impersonators of Penn.

The statue is a 300th birthday gift to the city from the Daughters of the American Colonists (DAC), an 11,000-member national organization of women descended from colonists who were here prior to 1775. The statue will be dedicated tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. in a special Century IV celebration ceremony. "And there couldn't be a more fitting site," said Mary Helen Foster of York, Pa., national president of the DAC.

It was at this site that Penn is said to have made the famous treaty with the Indians in November 1682.

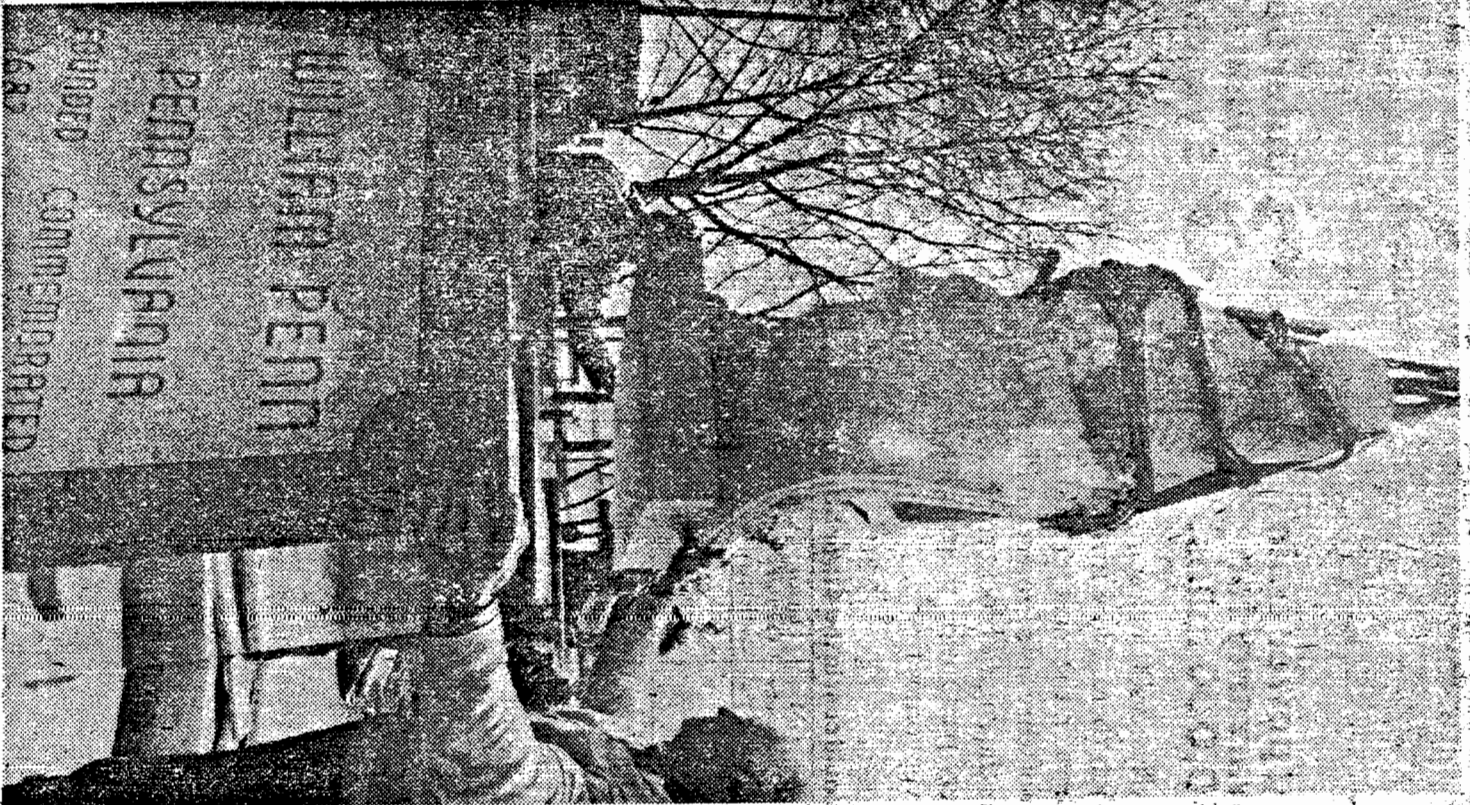
The present Penn Treaty Park has existed since 1893. In 1979, spurred by the Fishtown Civic Association, there was formed the Penn Treaty Park Tertiary Committee, which got a city-backed improvement program that by next year is to have increased the area of the park from slightly more than one acre to seven

acres.

The statue of Penn represents something of a bonus. In 1960, beginning her term as head of the DAC, Mrs. Foster decided that as her "president's project" she would seek to have the organization present a statue of Penn to Philadelphia. Sculptor Frank Gaylord of Barre, Vt., was commissioned to do the piece.

But when the DAC offered the statue through the Fairmount Park Commission, it was declined. Some members of the Art Commission questioned the quality of the piece. At this point, Elaine Peden of Frankford entered the picture.

"I asked the Penn Treaty Park people whether they'd like the statue," she said. "They said yes. I got in touch with Mrs. Foster. She said the DAC would be happy to have the statue in Penn Treaty Park. So then I talked with a few people in City Hall and in Washington, and last October the Art Commission ran up the white flag."



Philadelphia Inquirer / DIXIE D. VEREEN
4½-ton statue of Penn being positioned at a park in Fishtown



Her love affair
with the
founder of
Pennsylvania
went
beyond simple
obsession.

Elaine Peden in front of the
statue of her fixation, William
Penn, at Penn Treaty Park.

Citizen Penn

By Mike Capuzzo