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Now Water St.

IN THE MATTER OF THE

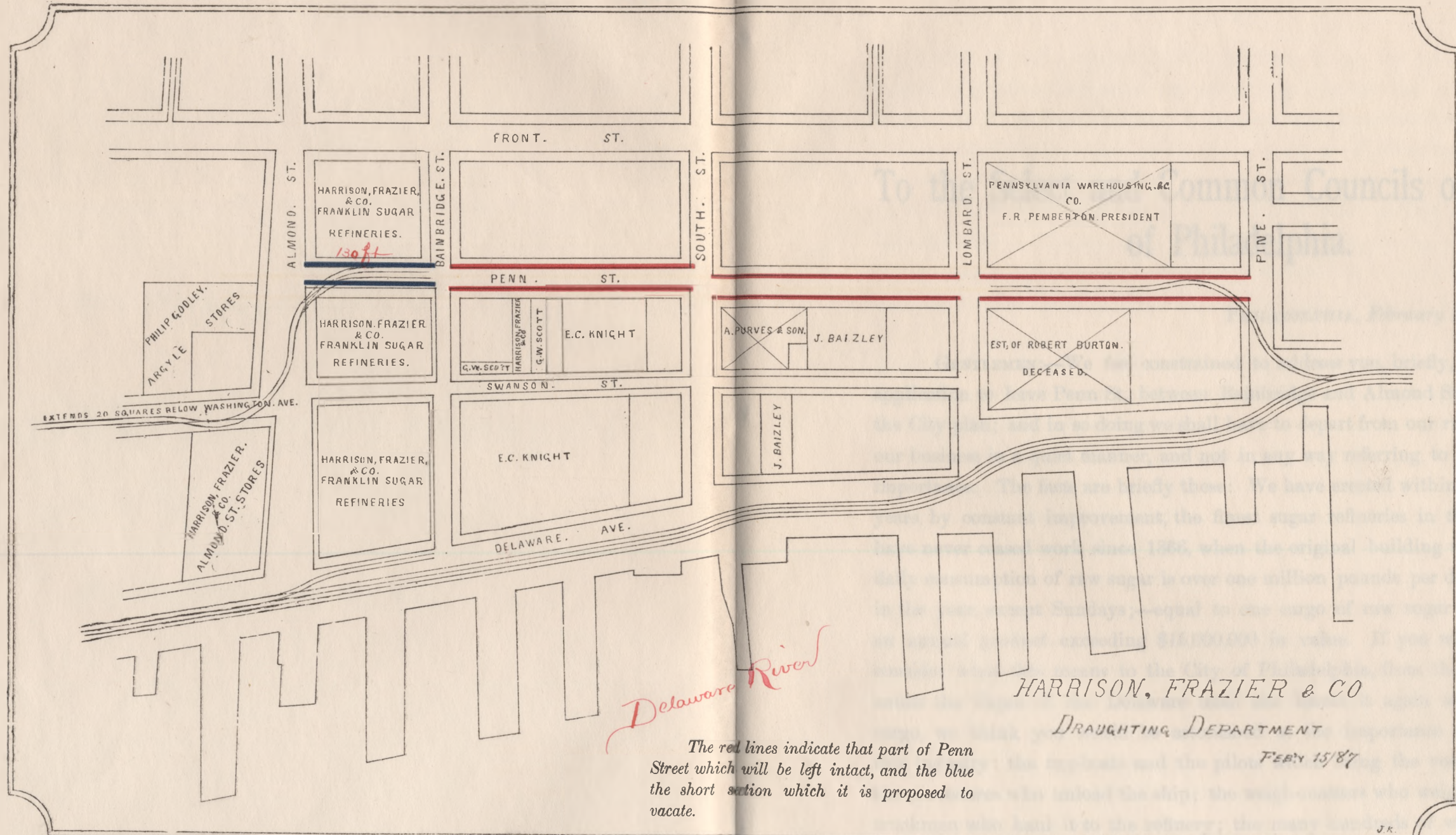
Proposed Vacation of Penn St.,

BETWEEN

ALMOND AND BAINBRIDGE STS.

Memorial of Harrison, Frazier & Co.

West



South

North

Delaware River

East

The red lines indicate that part of Penn Street which will be left intact, and the blue the short section which it is proposed to vacate.

HARRISON, FRAZIER & CO

DRAUGHTING DEPARTMENT

FEBRY 15/87

J.R.



To the

of the

1850

which is proposed to

To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, *February 15th*, 1887.

GENTLEMEN:—We feel constrained to address you, briefly, in regard to our application to have Penn St., between Bainbridge and Almond Sts., stricken from the City plan; and in so doing we shall have to depart from our rule of conducting our business in a quiet manner, and not in any way referring to its magnitude or importance. The facts are briefly these: We have erected within the last twenty years, by constant improvement, the finest sugar refineries in the world. They have never ceased work since 1866, when the original building was started. Our daily consumption of raw sugar is over one million pounds per day, for every day in the year, except Sundays;—equal to one cargo of raw sugar a day, and with an annual product exceeding \$15,000,000 in value. If you will for a moment consider what this means to the City of Philadelphia, from the time the vessel enters the Capes of the Delaware until she leaves it again with her outward cargo, we think you would be astonished at the importance and greatness of this industry: the tug-boats and the pilots which bring the vessel to her dock; the stevedores who unload the ship; the weigh-masters who weigh the cargo; the truckmen who haul it to the refinery; the many hundreds of workmen directly employed in the refinery; the barrel factories and the boneblack factories in this

city engaged all the year round supplying it with material; the 250 tons of coal which it uses every day; the machinery made here for it; the furnishing of supplies to vessels, and the bringing of great numbers of vessels to this Port, furnishing the basis of its export trade for grain, coal, provisions, cooperage stuff, etc., etc., and the thousand and one ways in which, from the raw material to the refined article, the Philadelphia workmen contribute to this enterprise, you would find that many thousands of men are kept constantly employed in the various operations and duties connected with it. Its business pays over 25 per cent. of the total customs revenues of the Port, and brings to Philadelphia 50 per cent. more sugar than the whole State of Louisiana produces.

With the exception of our neighbors, Messrs. E. C. Knight & Co., who are the next largest property owners in this section of the city, and who do not oppose this ordinance, it is the only sugar refinery at work south or west of New York, which City has gradually been absorbing, through superior facilities offered to it, almost the entire sugar refining business of the United States. Of twelve sugar refineries which a few years ago were at work here and in Baltimore, these two alone remain; and our plant, through constant improvement of the most expensive character, is now, as we have said, the finest establishment of the kind in existence.

To enable us to compete with the refiners of New York, we imperatively need easy railroad facilities; and while your Honorable Bodies have granted us the right to connect our refineries by a track on Penn St., with the railroad at Swanson St., the magnitude of our business justifies us in asking that you will give your countenance to the full use of this railroad connection, by directing the Board of Surveys to strike this short and unused section of the street from the City plan. The objection, which has been made by Messrs. Purves & Son and Mr. Geo. Burton, in the memorial presented to you by them, we can best answer by referring you to the communication from Messrs. Godley, as to the facts in regard to the use of Penn St.

Save for the business which we do upon that section of the street, it is absolutely an unused street; and to the members of your Honorable Bodies, from that section of the City we can refer as to the truth of this matter and to the respective interests in this Community. We have not thought it advisable to present to you a petition in favor of this measure from the business men in the neighborhood most interested, but we will call your attention to a fact, which Messrs. Purves et al. have omitted to mention;—that every property holder of importance, who had signed their remonstrance and whose opinion we so valued, as to make it desirable in our minds to explain the exact state of the case to him, has withdrawn his name from the remonstrance originally offered by Messrs. Purves, and has favored the petition we have made to you. We append a list of these names. See Page 8.

We call your special attention to the letter of Mr. Philip Godley and Mr. Henry Godley, two of the largest owners of property directly connected with Penn St., life-long owners there and familiar with the course of daily life in the vicinity. Outside of Messrs. Purves and Son and Mr. Burton, who cannot show a sentimental damage from the proposal we have made to you, we are aware of no actual opposition, with the exception of that of the Penna. Warehousing Co. This Corporation owns warehouses on Delaware Ave., with direct railroad connection, and also a warehouse on the north end of Penn St., corner of Lombard. The map, which we have attached to this memorial, will show the location of their property on Penn St., and the railroad connection by the way of Pine St. to Delaware Ave., which your Honorable Bodies have already granted them by ordinance, and which we are officially notified is practicable and easy. For what reason they should now object to a measure, which, after conference with them, had for several months their earnest co-operation and support, we cannot conceive; but that they should ever expect to throttle our business by running a railroad all the way through Penn St., from the South, is a presumption which we did not believe they could

ever imagine could be realized. To the letter of the Messrs. Field, who are authority upon all matters relating to the Sugar interests of the Port, we ask your attentive notice.

There are but two personal matters to which we desire to refer in conclusion; first, that our proceedings in Court have never been abandoned, and that after your Honorable Bodies shall have directed the street to be stricken from the City plan, we shall in due time go to the Court and ask to have the vacation granted; and secondly, that the parties in opposition have already had every opportunity of being heard, as your Committee on Surveys will report to you, for they had notice of the meeting and attended it in the person of Mr. Burton.

In every step in this matter we have acted in concert with our neighbors, only entering upon the measure so interesting to us after conference with those nearest to us and most interested in it, then taking every step openly, until we appear now before your Honorable Bodies to ask you to sanction an ordinance so vital to this great industry, and judge between those who do not object, being almost that entire section of the city, and the few who strive to hinder, without injury to or advantage to themselves, the progress of by far the most important single industry within the City limits.

We are, Gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your obedient Servants,

HARRISON, FRAZIER & CO.

OFFICE OF THE ARGYLE STORES,
Almond and Swanson Sts.

PHILADELPHIA, *February 15th*, 1887.

MESSRS. HARRISON, FRAZIER & Co.

GENTLEMEN:—We are entirely familiar with the questions arising from the proposed vacation of Penn St. between your refineries, and we are interested as the largest owners of property next to yourselves and Messrs. E. C. Knight & Co. in the immediate neighborhood, viz.: being owners of Almond St. Bonded Stores within 100 feet of Penn and Almond Sts. and of the Argyle Free Stores on Almond St., *fronting Penn St.*, of the value of \$175,000.

We have no objection whatever to the proposed vacation, that part of Penn St. not being a thoroughfare, and the street having been unused for some years except by yourselves. Although more hauling is done to and from our Warehouses than to any other business save your own, we say that Penn St. between Almond and Bainbridge Sts. is not used by ourselves or the neighbors. In our judgment not only can there be no damage to any individual owners of property, but no inconvenience even can result to the public from the closing of this end of Penn St.

A glance at the map will show this and the abundance of thoroughfares for public purposes.

Very respectfully yours,

PHILIP GODLEY,
HENRY GODLEY.

SAMUEL & FRANK FIELD,
MERCHANDISE BROKERS,
142 S. Front St.

PHILADELPHIA, *February 15th*, 1887.

MESSRS. HARRISON, FRAZIER & Co.

DEAR SIRS:— Being familiar with the Sugar interest in this City, and knowing well its great value and importance to the Port, as being almost the last, and certainly the greatest of the branches of business left to us depending upon direct imports of foreign goods here, and knowing the difficulties under which the Sugar Refiners labor in competition with their New York rivals, also understanding the situation in Penn St., and the objections urged against the closing of it as desired by you, we beg to put our opinion clearly and emphatically on record that the measure, as you plan it, is one that will directly and indirectly be of positive benefit to the Commerce of the Port, in giving you facilities for the conduct of a business

in which so many thousand persons are directly and indirectly interested, and, also, that in our opinion no harm or evil can in any way result to others from the adoption of said course of closing the street.

We trust you will be successful in carrying your plan through, feeling, as we do, that it is for the "greatest good to the greatest number."

Respectfully yours,

SAMUEL & FRANK FIELD.

In the Court of Quarter Sessions.

IN THE MATTER OF THE VACATION OF PENN STREET FROM ALMOND TO
BAINBRIDGE.

MESSRS. GENDELL & REEVES.

You are hereby instructed to withdraw our names from the answer filed in the above by you on the 18th day of September, 1886, or if the same cannot be done, we wish this may be filed as a disclaimer on our part of any opposition to the Court granting the prayer of the petition.

The Pennsylvania Company for Insurance on
Lives and Granting Annuities, Executors of the
will of John J. Ridgway, dec'd.

SAM'L. R. SHIPLEY.

SAM'L. R. SHIPLEY, *President*,
Provident Life and Trust Co.

LINDLEY SMYTH, *President*.

DARRAH & ELWELL, 512 and 514 South Delaware Avenue.

GLOUCESTER FERRY COMPANY, William M. Farr, *President*.

JONATHAN MAY & SON, No. 500 and 502 South Delaware Avenue.

D. G. BRINTON, M.D., 115 South Seventh Street (Office).

Z. C. HOWELL, *President* Kaighn's Point Ferry.

EDWIN T. EISENBREY, { 402 and 404 South Delaware Avenue.
403 and 405 Penn Street.

JOHN BAIZLEY, 515 to 519 Penn Street.

COPE & WILER, 721 Swanson Street and Pier 33 South Wharves.

his
JACOB + HAGUE, 619 Penn Street. Witness: GEO. W. SCOTT, 623 Penn Street.
mark.

Appendix.

(We annex, for information of Councils, the communication made to your Committee on Surveys.)

Statement Made to the Committee on Surveys.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SURVEYS OF SELECT AND COMMON COUNCILS:

PHILADELPHIA, *December 20th*, 1886.

GENTLEMEN:—The application of the undersigned Harrison, Frazier & Co. for the vacation of Penn St., between Almond and Bainbridge Sts., is based upon the following grounds:—The topographical conditions of that neighborhood are as follows: Between Delaware Ave., which is a great thoroughfare, and Front St., which is also a through street, there runs Swanson St., which is also, for all purposes of business in the neighborhood, another thoroughfare. Between Swanson and Front Sts. runs Penn St. from Pine to Almond Sts., *terminating at Almond St.*, south of which it does not run; its whole extent being but *three blocks*, exclusive of the short block we desire vacated at the lower end. We are the owners of all the property on both sides of Penn St., between Bainbridge and Almond Sts., this being the section of Penn St. of which we ask you to join in aiding the vacation. There is a railroad at present upon Swanson St., which, under charter, can be carried to South St. Our sugar refineries have been built, so that all the deliveries of refined sugar are made upon Penn St., and Councils have given us per-

mission to connect, with the railroad on Swanson St., our Penn St. delivery. For many years this section of Penn St., between our refineries, has been practically given up to the use of the refineries. It is without other public use than ours or public need, as an examination of the maps of this neighborhood will show. We think that we are quite within the facts in stating that not one vehicle a week upon an average goes through that street. Even if there were some demand for passage through it by the public, as we are the owners of all the property on both sides, and as there is no one to reach in that block excepting ourselves, it would be quite as easy for any vehicle to turn up or down Bainbridge St., as to go a block further and turn up or down Almond St.

From a careful observation which we have made, and from the views of the most prominent property holders in the neighborhood, whose signatures we have, it can be stated as a fact that not only would there be no detriment to the value of the property of any holder, but no inconvenience even would attach to any citizen by granting the petition which we have laid before you. On the contrary, by the increase in our business which would result by our request being granted, the material interests of this neighborhood would be largely developed. Not only has the large and steadily increasing business transacted by us, continuously for twenty years, been of well-known advantage to this whole section of the city, but the main portion of the profits of the business has been regularly reinvested in the plant and its development.

We desire to say to your Committee, who may not know the fact, that of all the refined sugar made in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, one-eighth is manufactured by the Franklin Sugar Refineries and is delivered in this block of Penn St., between Almond and Bainbridge Sts. ; thus using this street almost to its utmost capacity and in the very best way in which it can be used. When you consider that the sugar used by over six million people is delivered upon this

street, which is unnecessary to any one else, and that we desire to avail ourselves of the privilege which you have granted us to lay a railroad track upon this street between our refineries, connecting with the railroad on Swanson St., we feel that further statement on our part will not be called for.

These sugar refineries represent one of the very finest plants in the world. Not only would any community, but any nation would be glad to have them within its borders. They give employment, directly and indirectly, to immense numbers of men. The extent of the interest which Philadelphia has in them can be summed up in the striking fact that more than 25 per cent. of the *total* customs revenues at the Port of Philadelphia is paid on the sugars used in these refineries.

We, are, Gentlemen, very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servants,

HARRISON, FRAZIER & CO.